

Gender Identity and Expression



How is it different across various cultures?

DEFINITIONS:



GENDER

“has various dimensions (both individual and societal) that interact and influence one another. This includes (but is not limited to) an individual’s gender identity and gender expression, along with a given society’s constructed gender norms, roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes.”

(Trans Care B.C., 2021)

GENDER IDENTITY

“Our deeply held, internal sense of self as male, female, a blend of both, or neither; who we internally know ourselves to be.”

(Trans Care B.C., 2021)

- **Cisgender:** “people who feel their gender identity matches their assigned sex at birth”
- **Transgender:** “your gender identity doesn’t match up with the sex you were assigned at birth.”
- **Agender:** “someone who identifies as having no gender or being without a gender identity”
- **Bigender:** “gender identity of having two full genders which the individual can move between”
- **Gender Fluid:** “ someone who identifies as having no gender or being without a gender identity.”
- **Gender Non-conforming, genderqueer:** “someone who do not conform to society’s expectations for their gender roles or gender expression”

(Trans Care B.C., 2021)

GENDER EXPRESSION

“is how one outwardly shows gender; including through name and pronoun choice, style of dress, voice modulation”

(Trans Care B.C., 2021)



LGBTQ2S+



- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual** = sexual orientations
- **Transgender** = “gender identity or gender expression is different from the sex you were given at birth”
- **Queer** = “is used by some people who identify as a sexual or gender-sexual minority”
- **Questioning** = “ is used for a person who’s exploring or not sure of their sexual orientation or gender identity”
- **Two-Spirit** = “is a cultural term used by some Indigenous people to describe having a male and female spirit. This may relate to their spirituality, sexual orientation, and gender identity”

(Diversity and Inclusion, 2020, Pruden & Salway, 2020)

Differences across cultures



INDIGENOUS

- **Two Spirit**
 - a community organizing strategy or tool for Indigenous peoples who embody diverse sexualities, gender identities, roles and/or expressions (Pruden & Salway, 2020)



THAILAND

- **Kathoey**
 - “third gender; neither male nor female but inhabit the space between genders”
 - extremely broad, encompassing. To effeminate gay males, on one end, and post-operative transsexuals on the other (Independent Lens, 2015)



MAORI CULTURE (NEW ZEALAND)

- **Takatāpui**
 - “used to describe people who might otherwise describe themselves as gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual or intersexual”
 - “acknowledges both the sexual and cultural aspects of one’s identity, and has both contemporary and traditional connections with the Māori community” (New Zealand Ministry for Culture and Heritage Te Manatu Taonga, 2021)



SAMOA

- **Fa’afafine and Fa’afatama**
 - “four recognized cultural genders: Female, male, fa’afafine, and fa’afatama”
 - “Fa’afafine and fa’afatama are fluid gender roles that move between male and female worlds. Some fa’afafine live their lives as women, while others choose to live as men with feminine attributes” (Natural History Museum, n.d. & Tan, 2016)



CHILE & ARGENTINA

- **Machi**
 - Mapuche shamans or healers and considered religious leaders
 - eMachi gender determined by their identity and spirituality, not by sex assigned at birth. Their fluidity allows them to interact with the spiritual realm (Independent Lens, 2015)

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References

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