

2SLGBTQ+ ACRONYM

2S

Two-Spirit: An English term to describe the ancient teachings of First Nations people who embodied the spirits of male and female. Two-Spirit people were “looked upon as a third gender in many cases and in almost all cultures they were honored and revered. [Two-Spirit] people were often the visionaries, the healers and medicine people.” Colonization reinforced homophobia amongst many tribes and tarnished the honor of what it meant to be Two-Spirit. Today, the term Two-Spirit is being reclaimed as Sacred; it also encompasses individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. Adapted from: Two-Spirits flyer, www.2spirits.com (2006). The term is reserved for North American Indigenous cultures and those who walk a spiritual/traditional path.

L

Lesbian: A woman who has an attraction to other women. The term lesbian is derived from the name of the Greek island of Lesbos. Lesbian is a sexuality.

G

Gay: A man who has an attraction to other men. May have origins around 12th century in England, from the Old French ‘gai’. Gay is a sexuality.

B

Bisexual: An individual who has attractions to more than one gender. Bisexual is a sexuality.

T

Transgender/Trans: A person whose sex assigned at birth does not align with their gender identity. An umbrella term that represents many gender diverse individuals. Some may include: Trans men (Assigned Female at Birth), Trans women (Assigned Male at Birth), genderqueer people, Two-Spirit individuals, non-binary folks and more. A transgender individual’s sexual orientation varies and is not dependent on gender identity.

Q

Queer: Historically, a derogatory term, which has been reclaimed by some to be an inclusive, empowering, unifying, sociopolitical umbrella term. Can be a sex, gender identity, expression, attraction and/or cultural identity.

Questioning: Refers to people who are uncertain about their attraction and/or gender identity. They are often seeking information and support during this stage of their identity development.

+

Plus: A symbol representing the thousands of identities that do not fit within the acronym.