

GLOSSARY

for all by RainbowHouse

Edition 2020





This glossary aims to help our readers better understand the realities that go along with certain words. It gives the most straightforward possible definitions so that those words can be understood by the highest number of people. However, if, despite our efforts, certain terms still seem abstract to you, do not hesitate to contact us.

This is, of course, a non-exhaustive list of vocabulary relating to the Rainbow-House Brussels networks.

To offer definitions that are as precise and complete as possible, we have sometimes called on outside resources, which are listed below:

* [Québec's Gay Chamber of Commerce](#), *LGBT Lexicon on Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Workplace*.

* Dominique Dubuc, *Words of diversity linked to sex, gender and sexual orientation*, FNEEQ CSN. This guide was produced by the Quebec Teachers' Federation, which makes it a well-constructed educational tool.

* [Fat Positivity](#). Large Belgian activist group.

* [Genres Pluriels](#). ONG that fights against discrimination of trans*, intersex, and gender-fluid people.

* The Larousse dictionary.

* Wikipedia.

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* ABORTION

In Belgium, the law is clear: abortion is still authorized but cannot be performed beyond 12 weeks of pregnancy, and a 6-day cooling-off period must be observed between the first appointment and the intervention.

Medically necessary termination is when termination of pregnancy is medically necessary, because it endangers the life of the mother and/or the child, or because tests show that the child has a severe and incurable disease that threatens his quality of life.

* ACTIVISM, ACTIVIST

Activism: attitude, the activity of the activist.

Activist: who defends, fights for an idea, an opinion, a party.

(Larousse)

* AGENDER

A person who does not identify with any gender.

Sometimes the term is used as a synonym for "neutrals" to refer to a gender-neutral identity.

Some people consider that being agender means that they don't have gender. In contrast, others feel that being an agender is a gender identity.

* ALLY

To be an ally is to be a person who is not the victim of specific discrimination, but gives explicit support, without taking the place of the first concerned. It is an expression used in the context of anti-discrimination and emancipation work to describe someone not directly concerned with a subject (such as non-conforming sexual orientation or gender identity). It is a question of speaking "for" but not "instead of." It means listening to and taking an interest in the experiences and needs of LGBTQI+ people to help them the best.

The ally situation is not a fixed identity but a political act that can evolve. It is a lifelong learning, to understand inequalities with humility and a genuine desire to serve the cause and not one's private interests, even if you can be proud of your engagement. The great advantage of allies lies in the fact that they cannot be accused of "preaching for their chapel," and that they can convince new people to open up to other human communities.

* ANDROGYNY, ANDROGYNOUS

Androgyny: Who is androgynous.

Androgynous: Person whose gender expression does not allow other people to determine their gender.

* AROMANTICISM, AROMANTIC

"An aromantic is a person who has little or no romantic attraction for others. While romantics have the emotional need to have a romantic relationship with someone, aromantics are often fulfilled with friendly relationships and other non-romantic relationships. (...) Aromanticism is generally considered to be innate and not to be a personal choice, just as a lack of sexual attraction is innate to asexual people. It is important to note that the aromantics are not cold and insensitive people without an affectionate side. They simply do not have the inherent need to establish bonds of romantic nature."

(*Aromantisme*, Even Wiki)

* ASEXUAL

An asexual person does not, or rarely, feels a sexual attraction.

This does not prevent them from being physically or intellectually attracted to people. Being asexual or "ace" does not mean that there can be no sexual or erotic life with oneself.

Some people can also feel a physical attraction after they have developed an intimate and strong link with someone: this is referred to as demisexuality.

* ASSIGNED NAME & SOCIAL OR USUAL NAME, DEADNAME

Assigned name: first name received at birth.

Usual or social name: first name by which a person wishes to be called in everyday life.

Deadname: first assigned name of a trans* person which they no longer wish to use, which they, therefore, consider to be "dead."

* ASYLUM, (RIGHT TO ASYLUM)

To ask for asylum is to ask to be received in a refuge, a safe space, far from danger and persecution. This refuge can be a house or a church, or it can also be a country. Since 1951, the Geneva Convention governs international asylum requests and refugee status.

Nowadays, asylum claims in Belgium on the grounds of LGBT-QI-phobic persecution represent at least 1000 requests each year, or at least 5% of files. This figure has been continuously increasing since 2011.

The majority of requests concern gay men from French-speaking countries on the African continent. Still, there are requests from many other countries. Practically no country is really "safe," and the demands of transgender citizens and lesbian or bisexual women are also increasing.

Unlike other people seeking asylum, such as people fleeing war, LG-BTQI+ people are not always sure that the threats and violence from which they fled are not perpetuated in the host country.

Remark: today we are talking about people seeking international protection.

(See: [LGBTQI-phobia](#))

* BISEXUAL

Bisexuality is defined as physical, sexual, emotional or romantic attraction to two or more genders. More broadly, bisexuality is the act of having romantic or sexual relations with people who are of the same gender or with people of other genders.

A bisexual is a person whose sexual orientation is bisexual.

Stubborn prejudices about bisexual people:

"Bisexuality influences the ability to be in a couple or to be faithful" : fidelity, like any other convention within a couple, has no sexual orientation. Bisexual people don't have any more tendency for infidelity than others."

(Dominique Dubuc, *Words of diversity linked to sex, gender and sexual orientation*, FNEEQ CSN)

* BODY SHAMING, BODY POLICING

Body shaming: "Body shaming consists of blaming or insulting a person based on a characteristic of their body (weight, handicap, exercise, etc.)"

Body policing: "Body policing is any behavior (indirect, direct, voluntary or intentional) intending to correct or control the actions of people concerning their body, especially in matters of weight or gender expression."

(*Fat Positivity*, glossary)

* CISGENDER, CIS

A person whose gender identity matches the gender assigned to them at birth.

* COMING-OUT & OUTING

Coming-out : coming out means revealing very personal and intimate information to someone, such as their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Example: "Franz told us he was bisexual, he came out."

Warning: We say "reveal," rather than "confess" the homosexuality (for example). Confessing has a negative connotation and gives the impression that being an LGBTQI+ person is shameful, which is not the case.

Outing: is to reveal the sexual orientation, gender identity, or sexual characteristics of an LGBTQI+ person without their explicit consent. Outing can expose these people to very embarrassing or even quite dangerous situations.

Likewise, it is entirely inadequate to compel someone to come out. That is to say, encourage or even force someone to disclose their belonging to the LGBTQI + community when they do not wish to or do not don't feel ready for it.

50% of Belgians or citizens residing in Belgium do not come out (i.e., announce their homosexuality, bisexuality, transidentity or intersexuality) at their workplace.

* DISCRIMINATION

"Discrimination means interference in terms of rights and opportunities. It is about the unfair treatment of a person because of their gender, sexuality, age, weight, ethnicity, religion, disability, etc. Discrimination can take many different forms, from acts of personal hatred to an institutional denial of privileges normally granted to other groups of individuals. Discrimination breeds the oppression of the group of targeted individuals."

(*Fat positivity*, glossary)

In Belgium:

- * Discrimination and LGBTQI-phobic attacks are prohibited by Belgian law and European conventions. The aggravating circumstance of homophobia and transphobia, as for racism or sexism, can increase the punishment of perpetrators of criminal acts.
- * LGBTQI+ are also victims of other, cross, or "intersectional" discrimination (when this involves racial discrimination) when they are, for example, disabled, undocumented, etc.
- * In many families, LGBTQI+ people are still unfortunately perceived as "shame" or "deviance." It is the result of historical policies and deep LGBTQI-phobic convictions.
- * In Belgium, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression are among the 19 criteria protected against discrimination by Belgian law.

The pink ceiling:

The term, inspired by the glass ceiling, refers to the difficulties and sometimes the impossibility for LGBTQI+ people to access senior positions in companies. The pink ceiling is the consequence of the discrimination that LGBTQI+ people face every day and the reason why some people do not come out at their workplace.

* DIVERSITY

Diversity is what relates to the inclusion and promotion of the integration in a space, most often the workplace, of "different" people. This difference might concern age, ethnic origin, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, abilities, ...

| **Token Diversity** : see *Pinkwashing*

* DRAG KING, DRAG QUEEN

Drag king : "Drag kings (as opposed to drag queens) are people constructing a masculine identity based on archetypes, temporarily and playing a personage. This cultural or folkloric practice does not necessarily have a link with gender identity. Drag kings express their identity through stereotypical masculinity, during shows or events.

The movement originated at the beginning of the twentieth century among the flappers, who were young women that defied what was considered appropriate behavior for girls. It is a desire, often originated from radical feminism, to reject gender stereotypes. If drag kings show their belonging to the male gender by their physical appearance, they are not necessarily transgender."

(*Drag King*, Wikipedia)

Drag queen : "The drag queens express their identity through stereotypical femininity, generally for the purpose of entertainment or as part of a show including song, dance, lip-sync, stand-up, and impressions.

Like any cross-dressing, the fact of dressing as a drag queen is not an indication either on the sexual orientation of the person concerned or on their true gender identity; a drag queen is not necessarily a transgender person."

(Drag Queen, Wikipedia)

* DYADIC

A person whose sexual characteristics are clearly identifiable as either "male" or "female."

* FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

"Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the total or partial removal of the external female genital organs. Generally performed by a traditional circumciser with a blunt object, with or without anesthesia. This practice is concentrated in at least 27 African countries, in Yemen, in the Iraqi Kurdistan, but also to a lesser extent in the rest of Asia and among some immigrant populations in Western countries.

Procedures:

Procedures vary by region and ethnic group. They can range from a total or partial grinding or removal of the foreskin of the clitoris to partial or complete removal of the clitoris and labia (excision) or even suturing of the labia to close the vulva (infibulation)."

([Female genital mutilation](#), Wikipedia)

* FEMINISM

Feminism is a movement that fights for equality between men and women in all areas, private and public, professional, economic, cultural and so on. There are different movements, each with their own concepts, action plans, sources, etc. For example, socialist feminism, afro-feminism, liberal feminism, universal feminism, or anarcho-feminism...

* **FRIENDLY :**
LGBTQI+FRIENDLY, GAY FRIENDLY,
TRANS* FRIENDLY, ...

We can use the expression "friendly" in the sense of "welcome."

When speaking of a place, a space.

Example: "this cafe is gay-friendly, that is to say, that gays are welcome there", but it can also be used when talking about a person.

"This doctor is trans* friendly" means that they receive trans* people correctly.

* **GAY**

An adjective used to speak of a homosexual man, that is to say, a man who is romantically and/or sexually attracted to men.

* GENDER

Generally, we consider that there are only two poles of gender (male and female) because our society thinks of gender in a binary way. Therefore, gender is a socio-cultural construction, and many gender possibilities fall between the two poles "female-male." It is also quite possible to be outside the "male-female" spectrum.

* GENDERED

"Characteristic of something that is defined or divided by gender.

Note: Among other things, a job, a function, an establishment, or a place can be gendered, making access to it impossible, difficult, or insecure for people whose gender identity is non-conforming or whose gender is not socially valued."

(Québec's Gay Chamber of Commerce, LGBT Lexicon on Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Workplace)

* GENDER EXPRESSION

These are the different ways people express their gender identity (appearance) and perform it socially. It can be fairly feminine, more masculine, more androgynous... We are talking about ways to dress, walk and move, to wear or not makeup, talk, wear this or that physical attribute (such as hairstyle, body hair, etc.).

The expression of gender varies enormously according to the regions of the world and the times.

Gender expression should not be confused with gender identity.

(See: *Gender identity*)

Example: it is quite possible to identify oneself as a man (*gender identity*) and to have a somewhat "feminine" appearance, for example, by wearing so-called "feminine" clothes or even makeup (*gender expression*).

* GENDER FLUID

"Gender fluid" is an expression that refers to a person who has not only one fixed gender, but whose gender is evolving and might change during the lifetime. A gender fluid person can, therefore, "sway" through their gender.

* GENDER IDENTITY

Gender identity refers to how someone defines oneself, it is the gender with which a person identifies. The gender identity can, therefore, be different from the gender assigned at birth by the doctor (= sex assigned at birth).

Sometimes the gender with which the person identifies doesn't match the gender assigned to them at birth and in which they were raised. This is the case for transgender people (gender, non-binary...), for example. When gender identity corresponds to the gender assigned at birth, we call them cisgender people.

Homosexual or bisexual people, like heterosexual people, can be cisgender or transgender. Gender identity has nothing to do with sexual orientation.

* HETEROSEXISM

"Heterosexism is the presumption that everyone is heterosexual and that heterosexuality is superior to any other sexual orientation; heterosexism contributes to obscuring other sexual orientations."

(Dominique Dubuc, *Words of diversity linked to sex, gender and sexual orientation*, FNEEQ CSN)

Heterosexism, therefore, leads to discrimination.

* HETEROSEXUAL

"Person sexually attracted to a person of gender or sex (biological) opposite to their own. Heterosexuality is part of a binary 'male-female' pattern."

([Genres Pluriels](#), glossary)

* HIV

"HIV is the acronym for 'human immunodeficiency virus.' HIV is found in the blood, semen, pre-ejaculatory fluid, and mucous membranes (for example, in the intestine) of infected people. HIV infection cannot currently be cured, but antiretroviral (ARV) drugs can keep the infection under control and avoid the appearance of its development disease, AIDS. People with HIV who are following an effective antiretroviral therapy and whose viral load is, therefore, undetectable will not transmit the virus during sex, even without protection."

([Ex Aequo](#), HIV and AIDS)

* HIV POSITIVE, HIV NEGATIVE

HIV positive: a person who's infected with the HIV virus.

HIV negative: is a person who does not have HIV.

"The spread of HIV / AIDS is not exclusive to LGBTQI+ communities, but rather the entire population. In Belgium, around 50% of people with HIV are not LGBTQI+. People with HIV remain widely stigmatized, this is called 'serophobia.' No regulations require a person living with HIV to disclose their HIV status to their employer."

(Québec's Gay Chamber of Commerce, *LGBT Lexicon on Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Workplace*)

(See: [HIV](#))

* HOMOPARENTAL FAMILY

This term indicates the parental link or/and the family structures where the parents are of the same gender and/or gender identity. In Belgium, LGBTI couples are legally recognised.

| **More information:** homoparentalites.be

(See also: [Rainbow family](#))

* HOMOPHOBIA

"Homophobia groups all the negative attitudes that may lead to discrimination or persecution (harassment, rejection, violence, etc.) against a person or a group of people based on homo-bisexuality, actual, or perceived. Homophobia can be broken down into lesbophobia (rejection of lesbians), gayphobia (rejection of gays), or biphobia (rejection of bisexuals). Homophobia can affect anyone whose appearance or behavior does not conform to gender stereotypes."

(Dominique Dubuc, *Words of diversity linked to sex, gender and sexual orientation*, FNEEQ CSN)

* HOMOSEXUAL

A person who is romantically and/or sexually attracted to a person of the same gender. Homosexual men are often defined as "gay," homosexual women are usually described as "lesbian." There are as many ways to experience homosexuality as there are homosexuals.

* HOMO- SEXUALITY

In Belgium:

* Homosexuality is not criminally prosecuted since 1972.

* Two people of the same gender can marry since 2003 and adopt children since 2006.

(See: *Homosexual*)

* HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE

**MARRIAGE FOR EVERYONE,
EQUAL MARRIAGE...**

Marriage between two people of the same gender.

* HORMONE THERAPY (HT)

Use or blockage of hormones such as testosterone, estrogen, or progesterone in a gender transition process.

"This treatment is not without health risks and must be monitored by a doctor. HT causes a series of body transformations, some reversible and others irreversible.

The effects of **feminizing HT**:

The purpose of feminizing HT is the appearance of secondary female sexual characteristics.

The effects of **masculinizing HT**:

The goal of masculinizing HT is the appearance of male secondary sexual characteristics."

It is strongly advised not to get the products online!

([Genres Pluriels](#), Traitement Hormonaux)

* INTER-SECTIONALITY

"Intersectionality studies the forms of oppression and discrimination not separately, but in the links which entangle them, starting from the principle that racism, sexism, homophobia or the relations of domination between social categories cannot be fully explained if studied separately from each other."

([Fat Positivity](#), glossary)

* INTERSEX

Intersex persons are born with sexual characteristics (such as chromosomes, genital organs or hormonal structures) that do not entirely correspond to the male or female category, but belong to both at the same time.

Persons whose sexual characteristics can be clearly identified as "male" or "female" are referred to as "dyadic".

In Belgium, intersex children whose reproductive system is considered "not conforming" to one of the two dyadic sexes ("male" or "female") are still mutilated at birth to "normalize" them according to heteronormative and cisnormative criteria.

[To go further : Dominique Dubuc, *Words of diversity linked to sex, gender and sexual orientation*, FNEEQ CSN

* INTER-SEXUALITY

Being an intersex / intersexual person.

The number of births with intersex characteristics is estimated to be between 1 and 2% worldwide.

(Source: [Genres Pluriels](#))

* INVISIBILITY

"Direct or indirect discrimination by which needs, desires, rights, life choices, or the cultural and intellectual production of a minority are ignored, ridiculed, or made inaccessible. Invisibility affects, among other things, sexual and gender minorities."

(Québec's Gay Chamber of Commerce, LGBT Lexicon on Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Workplace)

* LESBIAN

An adjective used to speak of a homosexual woman, that is to say, a woman who is romantically and/or sexually attracted to women.

Lesbianism: being lesbian.

* LESBOPHOBIA

"Disgust, hate, fear, or rejection of lesbianism or lesbians."

(Québec's Gay Chamber of Commerce, LGBT Lexicon on Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Workplace)

Lesbophobia is different from gayphobia because it attacks lesbians on two fronts: being a lesbian and being a woman. Lesbophobia is, therefore, a combination of homophobia and sexism.

(See also: *Intersectionality, Corrective rape*)

* LGBTQI+, LGBTQI+ COMMUNITY, LGBTQI+ MOVEMENT, LGBTQI+ CULTURE

Acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex. The "+" refers to all identities, orientations, expressions not represented in the acronym. In short, to all other realities.

Being LGBTQI+ is never a choice, it is a natural condition and impossible to change, just like being heterosexual or cisgender.

LGBTQI+ people are distributed evenly across the world and over time, but not all citizens have the same opportunity to experience it or express it. It is considered that between 5% and 15% of human beings can be defined or self-defined as LGBTQI+.

LGBTQI+ people come together under this acronym because they are victims of somewhat similar systems of oppression and invisibility, but all these letters also represent different realities of life.

The acronym may vary depending on regions of the world or the organizations that use it. At RainbowHouse, we use "LGBTQI+."

* LGBTQI-PHOBE

Relating to discrimination against LGBTQI+ people.

In Belgium, LGBTQI-phobic violence is still very present, particularly in public spaces.

* MAN

"Person of male gender and/or the male social role (regardless of their sexual characteristics)."

(*Genres Pluriels*, glossary)

* **MEDICALLY ASSISTED PROCREATION** (MAP)

"Medically assisted reproduction can come in different forms but all of them consist of an external clinical intervention to initiate pregnancy. It mainly involves two forms of artificial insemination either in the womb and/or fertilisation in vitro. This requires a donation of sperm and/or egg cells which are treated in advance in a laboratory."

In Belgium since 2007, couples of women can officially use medically assisted procreation, with a known or anonymous donor.

(Guide de l'infertilité)

* **MINORITY**

An ensemble, a group of people whose number is lower than that of another group.

In the sociological sense, minorities, as defined by Colette Guil-laumin, can also designate the parts of the population that do not have power. Women then fall into the definition of the minority.

* MISGENDERING

To misgender is to use, intentionally or not, a pronoun or a gender that does not correspond to a person's gender identity.

* NON-BINARY

To be non-binary is to except oneself from the binary "masculine-feminine" gender scheme.

"The gender identity of a non-binary person gets out of the male-female binarity. These people often prefer to use neutral pronouns to address them. It is an umbrella term that includes, among others, people who identify with both men and women, or with neither."

(Dominique Dubuc, *Words of diversity linked to sex, gender and sexual orientation*, FNEEQ CSN)

* **NORMATIVITY:** **HETERONORMATIVITY,** **CISNORMATIVITY**

" **Heteronormativity:** Heteronormativity is the presumption that heterosexuality is the valid norm, and that heterosexual relationships are the standard for determining what is normal (valid) or not.

Cisnormativity: Cisnormativity is the presumption that being cis-gender is the valid norm and that the framework of gender binarity must serve as a reference for the determination of what is normal (valid) or not. "

(Dominique Dubuc, *Words of diversity linked to sex, gender and sexual orientation*, FNEEQ CSN)

* **OUTING,** DISCLOSURE

Outing is to reveal the sexual orientation of an LGBTQI+ person, their gender identity, or their sexual characteristics. We must never out someone without their express consent, as this can expose them to very embarrassing or even quite dangerous situations. Likewise, it is entirely inappropriate to compel someone to come out, that is to say, encourage or even force a person to reveal their membership of the "LGBTQI+ community "when they do not wish or are not ready to do so.

* PANSEXUAL, PAN

The "pan" in pansexuality translates as "everything", pansexual people are therefore attracted, whether physical, sexual, affective or romantic, to persons regardless of their gender and gender identity. Whether that person identifies as female, male, trans, genderless or otherwise. For pansexual people, it is about a person's personality and not their physical.

* PATHOLOGIZING

Regard or treat someone or something as pathological, that is to say, treating as unhealthy, abnormal.

* PATRIARCHY

Patriarchy is "the manifestation and institution of male domination over women and children in the family and the extension of this dominance over women in society in general. "

(Gerda Lerner)

It is a "system where the masculine embodies both the superior and the universal."

(I. Jablonka, *Des hommes justes*. From patriarchy to new masculinities, Ed. Seuil, 2019, p. 98).

In the patriarchal system, the figure of the man is placed above the social and legitimate hierarchy, but it can also be maintained by other figures.

* PINKWASHING, FAKE DIVERSITY

Pinkwashing is when a State, a political party, or even a private company trying to display a fake diversity which in reality is not systematically supported by actual practices or policies of "diversity." It is a communication strategy that aims to improve the image of those who practice it by portraying them as progressive, committed with LGBT rights, LGBT-friendly, etc. Pinkwashing is ultimately only a matter of marketing, sometimes even to the detriment of LGBTQI+ people or even other minorities.

* POLYAMOROUS

A person who maintains or would like to have a polyamorous relationship.

* POLYAMORY

Polyamory is an orientation in which partners can engage romantically with more than one person. Polyamory is based on sexual freedom, trust, and respect between partners.

Polyamorous relationships are all different from each other because it is the people involved who determine their conditions, making each relationship unique.

Polyamory is not to be confused with infidelity, polygamy, or polyandry.

* PREFERRED PRONOUN

The pronoun chosen by a person and which agrees with their gender identity.

It is recommended to ask anyone you meet which pronoun they prefer to designate them in the third person ("he" or "she" or, as far as possible, in a neutral way like "they"), since it could be different from their assigned gender/sex or from the perception of their gender expression.

(Québec's Gay Chamber of Commerce, LGBT Lexicon on Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Workplace)

To use the wrong pronoun in the presence or absence of the person concerned is a micro-aggression and a transphobic act.

(See: *Transphobia* and *Misgendering*)

* PRIDE

"A feeling of satisfaction and self-esteem felt by a person concerning their sexual orientation or gender identity."

(Québec's Gay Chamber of Commerce, LGBT Lexicon on Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Workplace)

Pride parades: Gay Pride, LGBTQI+ Pride, Belgian Pride...

In 1969, in a gay bar in New York, the Stonewall Inn, LGBTQI+ people rebelled against a new raid by the police. These riots lasted for several days and are considered today as one of the milestones in the fight for LGBTQI+ rights.

After the events of Stonewall, the "Pride marches," generally called "Pride," emerged in many countries around the world. They often take place during the spring and summer. They are, above all, a politically engaged event, a visible form of protests and occupation of the public space. However, Prides are also perceived as festive events bringing together parades, evenings, concerts, ...

The Belgian Pride

"The association The Belgian Pride was founded in 1996 and was originally called 'Belgian Lesbian and Gay Pride Roze Zaterdag Samedi Rose.'

Since 2010, the organization has been called 'The Belgian Pride,' and it's under this name that it tries to achieve its objectives. The first edition of the Pride attracted 2,000 visitors to the capital".

In 2019, 23 years after the first edition, the event gathered around 130,000 visitors. This National event takes place in Brussels since 1996.

(Belgian Pride, History)

* QUEER

Is a person whose sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression differs from society's expectations, or is considered to be "non-compliant, non-traditional, out of category." This term, therefore, defines all the letters of the acronym LGBTQI+. It was originally an insult in the English language, which was re-used under the principle of "reappropriation of stigma," and which is today positive and often associated with artistic culture.

* RAINBOW FAMILY

A rainbow family is a family in which at least one of the parents is an LGBTQI+ person. At RainbowHouse, we prefer to use "rainbow family" rather than "homoparental family," for example, because the term is more inclusive. It also allows not to emphasize the nature of the relationship that unites the couple and thus leaves place for privacy.

Children of rainbow families may have been conceived during a previous heterosexual relationship or by MAP; they may have been adopted... Family or friends may also be relied upon to help conceive or bear a child.

All rainbow families are different.

(See: [Homoparentality](#))

* RAPE, CURATIVE OR CORRECTIVE RAPE

Rape: "The Criminal Code defines rape as being 'any act of sexual penetration of any kind whatsoever and by any means whatsoever, committed on a person who does not consent to it' (Article 375). Rape, therefore, requires sexual penetration and the victim's lack of consent. This includes every orifice in the body.

A person is not consenting, in particular, when the act is imposed by violence, coercion, or cunning, or even when the act was made possible following an infirmity or a physical or mental impairment of the victim (Article 375 al. 2 of the Criminal Code)."

| **More information:** [sosviol.be](https://www.sosviol.be)

Corrective or curative rape: This is the criminal practice of raping lesbians, bisexuals or other gender identities with the aim of "curing" them from homosexuality and "converting" them to heterosexuality.

* ROMANTIC ORIENTATION

It is a romantic attraction or the absence of romantic attraction (when we are aromantic) towards another person.

Romantic orientation is different from sexual orientation. You can be romantically attracted to someone while being asexual.

* SAFE SPACE

A space, environment, or place where there is no discrimination. The safe space must allow people to feel safe and respected.

Did you know?

"The term was born in shelters for women victims of violence. It is particularly applicable to people from the so-called "sexual and gender minorities." A safe place contributes not only to their safety and physical integrity but also to their well-being."

(Québec's Gay Chamber of Commerce, LGBT Lexicon on Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Workplace)

* SEX

Set of biological characteristics (genetic, epigenetic, endocrine, skeletal, ...) used to divide certain mammals, including human beings, into two strict categories: "male" and "female," thereby regularly denying the existence of intersex people.

* SEXISM

Sexism means the division of roles, skills, interests, and acceptable behaviors according to sex. The main effects are discrimination against women and the alienation of both genders.

"Criticism of sexism denounces the idea that the different characteristics of the two sexes "male" and "female" would imply the allocation of distinct roles, rights, and duties in society. It denounces this gendered construction of society, which attributes a character, a role, physical, and emotional predispositions according to sex. The notion of sex is no longer a notion of biological sex but a social construction of the feminine and masculine by limiting the development of the individual on the personal, emotional, social and professional aspects."

([Genres Pluriels](#), glossary)

(See: [Feminism](#), [Patriarchy](#))

* SEXUAL ASSIGNMENT

The sexual assignment is the decision made by the doctor at the birth of the child, after observation of the baby's genitals, to tick the box M (male) or F (female) on the birth certificate.

The assignment of the sex designation is compulsory in Belgium.

* SEXUALITY

"All of the sexual or sex-related phenomena that can be observed in the living world."

(Larousse)

* SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR SEXUAL PREFERENCES

It is the sexual attraction or the absence of sexual attraction towards another person (man, woman, or a person of another gender). You can be heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, asexual, etc.

* SLUT-SHAMING

Slut-shaming is the act of insulting and/or pointing fingers at women who have - or who people assume to have - a sexual activity considered as incorrect or an attitude deemed too "provocative." This also sometimes refers to women who resort to abortion. Slut-shaming manifests through insults, harassment, mockery, discrediting, etc.

It is also slut-shaming to blame a rape victim by saying that she should not have worn the outfit she was wearing when she was assaulted.

There is no male version of slut-shaming, it is a sexist practice.

* STI, STD

STI : Sexually Transmissible Infections.

STD : Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Currently, to refer to STDs, we speak of STIs; the two acronyms refer to the same reality.

STIs are infections that can be spread through unprotected sex.

There are many STIs, such as HIV (AIDS), genital herpes, syphilis, chlamydia, or hepatitis A, B, and C.

It is, therefore, vital to get tested quickly if you have taken a risk.

| Some useful sites:

* **O'Yes, safe sex & fun** (various information on STIs, testing, current campaigns, educational brochures, etc.):

» o-yes.be

* **Go to Gynéco** (the guide of lesbo-friendly professionals):

» gotogyneco.be

* **Mon contraceptif** (to know everything about contraception*):

» mescontraceptifs.be

***Reminder**: a contraceptive does not protect against STIs!

(See also: [Testing](#))

* SURROGACY

"Process by which a person with the female reproductive system carries through pregnancy and gives birth to a child who is to be raised by someone else, either one or more persons. Surrogate pregnancies are not exclusive to LGBTQI+ communities".

(Québec's Gay Chamber of Commerce, LGBT Lexicon on Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Workplace)

Surrogacy also concerns both single people and those in a relationship, and it includes heterosexual couples (having a sterility problem, for example) as well as homosexual couples, etc.

In Belgium, surrogacy is tolerated (it is not expressly prohibited) but is not regulated by law.

* TESTING

Testing is a medical procedure that aims to check whether you have an STI or an STD. Depending on the disease or infection that one is looking for, it can be of different natures: blood test, urine test, smear, ...

"STIs are transmitted very easily. It is important to get tested to find out whether or not you have an STI. Indeed, one can be contaminated by an STI without showing visible signs."

|**More information on testing:** depistage.be

(See also: [STI](#), [STD](#))

* TRANS*

Abbreviation for "transgender person."

"The term trans* is an umbrella term that includes anyone whose gender does not match the sex assigned to them at birth. This term may or may not include non-binary people, depending on their own self-identification."

(Dominique Dubuc, *Words of diversity linked to sex, gender and sexual orientation*, FNEEQ CSN)

* TRANSGENDER

Said of a person whose gender identity differs from that assigned to him at birth according to sex (biological).

Today, in the majority of cultures in the world, the gender "man" is assigned to children of "male" sex, and "woman" to children of "female" sex. People who deviate more or less from this assignment, and who define themselves as such, are transgender. Transgender citizens can decide to make different forms of transitions, physical or not, to reach their point of comfort, that is to say, the expression, the way of living that most corresponds to their gender identity.

Reminder: people whose gender identity agrees with the gender to which they have been assigned at birth, according to their biological sex, are said to be "cisgender."

Transgender people, like cisgender people, can be homosexual or bisexual or heterosexual. Gender identity has nothing to do with sexual orientation.

In Belgium, transgender people can adapt their identity card in terms of first name(s) and "gender registration" since January 2018, by a simple declaration to their municipality of residence.

To abolish: "transexual." The term "transexual" is an outdated term dating from the 19th century, ideological, pathologizing, and discriminating. It does not consider transidentities but rather the dominant psychiatric position of a particular human group. This term does not define what it is supposed to describe, namely, gender identities.

Please note, the term transgender has a more respectful use as an adjective, like the terms "gay," "lesbian," etc. It is, therefore, not adequate to speak of "a trans*" or "a transgender."

* TRANSIDENTITY

Transidentity concerns the gender identity of trans* people. It is a term that is not unanimous in trans* communities, however, because it emphasizes a hypothetical "trans* identity," while the main self-identification of trans* people is towards a specific gender (either man or woman) and not towards being trans* in itself.

(Dominique Dubuc, *Words of diversity linked to sex, gender and sexual orientation*, FNEEQ CSN)

* TRANSITION

"Period during which psycho-social and bodily transformations are most marked, in a person who has undertaken the change of their social role (for example, to live "as a woman") and/or modify their physical appearance (for example by waxing, taking hormones, or genital surgery).

For transgender people, most of a transition consists of working on oneself to free oneself from any social role arbitrarily assigned according to their genitalia and which stifles individual freedoms."

(*Genres Pluriels*, glossary)

The transition occurs at three levels: social, medical, and legal. You can choose to take care of only one level, or two, or all three, or none. Everyone experiences their transition as they wish. The journeys of trans* people are all different, and the transition is not an obligation.

* TRANSPHOBIA

"Irrational fear/rejection that an individual may feel towards a trans* person.

Transphobia can manifest itself by:

- * discrimination and intolerance (discrimination in hiring, housing,...),
- * physical violence (assaults, rapes, murders, ...), verbal (insults), psychological,
- * the refusal to consider a person in the genre that corresponds to their comfort zone."

([Genres Pluriels](#), glossaire)

* TRANSVESTISM, CROSS-DRESSING

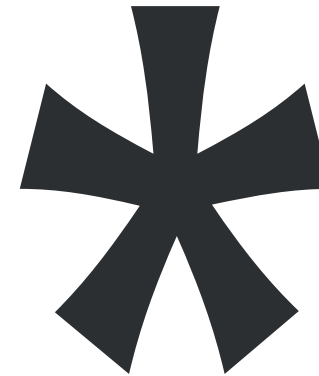
Transvestite, cross-dresser: "A person who, on a permanent or occasional basis, presents a gender expression contrary to their usual gender identity. Generally, transvestites do not identify as trans* and do not plan to undertake a transition."

([Québec's Gay Chamber of Commerce](#), *LGBT Lexicon on Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Workplace*)

* WOMAN

"Person of female gender and/or the female social role (regardless of sexual characteristics)."

([Genres Pluriels](#), glossary)





What does the Brussels RainbowHouse stand for?

1. A NETWORK OF LGBTQI+ ASSOCIATIONS

The RainbowHouse Brussels is the umbrella organisation for the LGBTQI+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans*, Queer, Intersexual) associations in the Brussels-Capital region. It harbours over fifty multilingual associations.

2. A SHELTER FOR LGBTQI+ PEOPLE

The RainbowHouse is a bar managed by the different associations! Besides the organised and scheduled soirées, it is also a safe and inclusive space where LGBTQI+ people and their friends are welcome, where they can socialise and enjoy a good time.

3. A ENQUIRY POINT

The RainbowHouse is well-known for its expertise concerning LGBTQI+ topics. The umbrella organisation provides comprehensive information material, accessible to everyone, through brochures or flyers.

4. A SYMPATHETIC EAR AND SUPPORT OFFER

We offer interviews to people with questions about their sexuality, gender identity, gender expression and variations of sexual characteristics. Experts working in this field will meet you by appointment in a reassuring and safe atmosphere.

5. COMMITTED SPOKESPERSON

As spokesperson of the Brussels LGBTQI+ movement, the umbrella association RainbowHouse along with the other two Belgian umbrella associations, çavaria (Flanders) and Arc-en-Ciel Wallonie, forms a partnership that commits itself to defend and promote the interests, the emancipation, and the rights of LGBTQI+ persons on all political levels. ILGA-Europe and TGEU, our European umbrellas, are our main international partners.



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In**Q**lusion



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