

BE BRAVE WITH LANGUAGE

OUR **LGBT+** CAMPAIGN GROUP WANT YOU TO KNOW...

SEXUAL ORIENTATION GLOSSARY

AROMANTIC

A person who does not experience romantic attraction. Sometimes shortened to aro.

ASEXUAL

A person who does not experience sexual attraction to any gender. Sometimes shortened to ace.

A-SPEC

Short for asexual and aromantic spectrum, referring to anyone who does not or exceptionally rarely experiences sexual and/or romantic attraction.

ATTRACTION

This is how you find yourself feeling drawn (or not drawn) to people in a physical, sexual, romantic or emotional way.

BISEXUAL

A person who is attracted to two or more genders. Sometimes shortened to bi.

DEMISEXUAL

A person who does not experience sexual attraction to anyone until a strong emotional connection is formed.

GAY

A person who is attracted to people of the same gender. Some people also use homosexual, but due to that term's clinical and pathologising history, most prefer gay.

HETEROSEXUAL

A person who is exclusively attracted to a different gender to their own. Sometimes shortened to het or hetero and is also referred to as straight.

HETERONORMATIVITY

The assumption or belief that heterosexual people are the default and those who aren't heterosexual are abnormal.

LESBIAN

A woman who is exclusively attracted to other women.

PANSEXUAL

A person who is attracted to all genders or to people regardless of gender. Sometimes shortened to pan.

QUEER

An umbrella term that can be used to refer to people of any LGBTQ+ identity. Because of its history of being used in a derogatory manner, some people dislike being referred to as queer.

QUESTIONING

A person who is unsure of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

STRAIGHTWASHING

Erasing a historical figure or character's sexual orientation in order to present or portray them as heterosexual when they are not.