



Youth Trans & Intersex Educational Services

## Glossary - Transgender Terms and Definitions

**Androgynous** – *someone appears both masculine and feminine, or who appears to be neither or both a boy or a girl.*

**Binary gender system** – *the idea that there are only two genders, male and female.*

**Bi/Multigendered** – *someone whose self-defined gender identity is more than one gender; they may choose gender expressions of more than one gender. Some Bi/Multigendered people cross-dress; others may choose to have a sex change operation, while some may not do either.*

**Cross-Dresser** – *someone who wears clothes typically assigned another gender. This is a more polite term than “transvestite.”*

**Drag King/Drag Queen** – *used to refer to gender-benders or cross-dressers of both directions who perform male (drag kings) and female (drag queens) stereotypes on stage in an over the top and extravagant way.*

**FTM / Transman** - *Female To Male transgender person.*

**Gender** – *someone’s internal sense of being male, female, both, neither, multi-gendered, androgynous, etc. You can change your gender.*

**Sex** – *a category we are put into at birth (usually male or female). Sex is often judged by a person’s chromosomes, genital appearance and reproductive organs. You can change your sex.*

**Genderqueer** – *someone who feels they are neither male nor female, are a little of both genders, have no gender at all, or their gender is fluid. Often but not always, they reject society’s binary gender system.*

**MTF/ Transwoman** – *Male To Female transgender person.*

**Pass** – *to be recognized in society as the gender you present (as opposed to the sex you were born).*

**Pre-Op, Post-Op, and Non-Op** – *refers to the sexual reassignment surgery (SRS) status of a transsexual. Pre-Op are those who have not yet had surgery but are planning on it, Post-Op are those who have already had surgery, and Non-Op are those who have chosen not to have surgery.*

**Transgender** – *Umbrella term describing all gender variant people, including drag kings/queens, transsexuals, transvestites, genderqueers, gender benders, androgynous, and bigendered persons.*

**Transsexual** – *A person whose gender does not match their birth sex. Most commonly they take hormones and have sexual reassignment surgery make their body match their gender.*

**Transvestite** – *someone who wears clothes typically assigned another gender, sometimes for sexual purposes. Some people find this term offensive and prefer the term “cross-dresser”, but others, primarily those in heterosexual relationships, embrace it.*

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