

## Glossary of Terms

**Bisexual** – sexual and romantic attractions to both men and women. Depending on the person, attraction may be stronger towards men or women or may be approximately equal.

**Public Health – Seattle & King County** (source:[www.safeschoolscoalition.org](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org))

**Civil Partnership** – The legal recognition of same sex relationships. It's not 'marriage' in the religious sense of the word but it awards lesbian and gay couples the same legal rights and responsibilities as heterosexual married couples. **Stonewall**

**Coming Out** – People who acknowledge their sexual identity to themselves and then tell others. Revealing your sexuality is a life-long process. **Stonewall**

**Cross Dresser** – 'One (regardless of the motivation) who wears clothes, makeup, etc. which are considered (by the culture) appropriate for the other sex but not one's own.' **Society for Human Sexuality@ sexuality.org** ([www.safeschoolscoalition.org](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org))

**Discrimination** – The act of showing partiality or prejudice; a prejudicial act. **Holmes, Henry. A** [www.columbia.org](http://www.columbia.org)

**Drag King/ Queen** – '[Drag Queen or King] refers to those who crossdress in a showy or campy way, often for theatrical purposes and often to caricature famous men or women. 'Drag' is a term that is often associated with gay or lesbian communities; some people who perform professionally outside gay/ lesbian communities prefer the term 'female/ male impersonator'. While some drag kings and queens may self-identify as transgendered, many do not, as their own sense of gender identity is not affected by their performance.'

**Transcend Transgender Support & Education Society** ([www.safeschoolscoalition.org](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org))

**Gay** – An umbrella term for lesbian, gay and bisexual people. It is best to avoid using this word to cover all LGB people as it can render lesbians and bisexual people invisible. **Stonewall (Ed. If you do use it in this way, state your intention)**

**Gay Man** - ... describes a man whose personal identity, lifestyle and relationship choices regarding his feelings, desires and sexual behaviour are made in relation to other men. **Beyond a Phase (1999) – Health Promotion Service Avon**

**Gender Reassignment** - A medical process whereby an individual undertakes medical treatment to enable transsexual people to alter their bodies to match their gender identity. **Stonewall**

**Heterosexism** – An attitude that assumes heterosexuality is the only valid sexual identity, and makes product, policy or practice on this basis. **Stonewall**

**Heterosexuality** – Sexual, emotional, and/ or romantic attraction to a sex other than your own. Commonly thought of as 'attraction to the opposite sex' but since there are not only two sexes (see Intersex and transsexual) this definition is inaccurate.

**Holmes, Henry. A** [www.columbia.org](http://www.columbia.org)

**Homophobia** – The irrational fear of lesbians, bisexuals and gay men. Now often used to describe discrimination and prejudice towards LGBT people. **The Metro Centre**

**Homosexual** – ‘Dated clinical term for individuals who are attracted physically, emotionally and/ or spiritually to members of their own gender. Inappropriate and possibly offensive to many gay men and lesbians. Preferred terms are lesbians and gay’. **GLAAD, The Gay Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation**

**Intersex** – ‘A person ... born with sex chromosomes, external genitalia, or an internal reproductive system that is not considered ‘standard’ for either male or female.’  
**Intersex Society of North America (source: safeschoolscoalition.org)**

**Lesbian** - ... describes a woman whose personal identity, lifestyle and relationship choices regarding her feelings, desires and sexual behaviour are made in relation to other women. **Beyond a Phase (1999) – Health Promotion Service Avon**

**LGBT** - Acceptable acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender  
**Stonewall**

**Outing** - Publicly declaring another person's sexuality without their permission. A lesbian, gay or bisexual person may 'out' themselves. **Stonewall**

**Prejudice** - many people have prejudices or a faint dislike of people or groups. However, being prejudiced against a person or persons becomes very serious if that prejudice has an effect on the way that person is treated. Once a prejudicial thought is translated into a deed it becomes an act of discrimination. **Stonewall**

**Queer** – an old derogatory slang word for describing lesbians, bisexuals and gay men that has been reclaimed in more recent years by (*some of*) the LGBT community for political purposes. **The Metro Centre**

**Sexual Orientation** - the term that indicates sexual attraction to person's of the the same, opposite or same and opposite sex.  
**Stonewall**

**Transgender** - an all encompassing term to cover transsexuals, transvestites and cross-dressers. More specifically it can refer to someone who experiences 'gender dysphoria' between their sexed body and society's construction of gender role. Can also refer to someone who consciously 'plays with' gender/sex role norms. A transgender person may or may not choose to alter their bodies with hormone therapy or surgery. **Stonewall**

**Transsexual** – ‘A person who wishes and seriously acts upon the sense of having the wrong ... body, often – though not always – culminating in sexual reassignment surgery. Pre-operative transsexuals include those not yet undergoing surgery; post-operative transsexuals are those who have received surgery; non-operative transsexuals are those who, for whatever reason, cannot [for financial or other reasons] or choose not to have surgery’. **Society for Human Sexuality@sexuality.org (source: safeschoolscoalition.org)**

**Transvestite** - A clinical term for a cross-dresser. A person who dresses in the clothing of the opposite gender. Generally, these persons do not wish to alter their body. **Stonewall**