

## Other Terms

**Ally:** Anyone who supports the causes affecting the transgender community, or helps a transgender individual is an Ally.

**SOFFA:** Significant Others, Friends, Families, and Allies of trans-people.

**Cis-gender** is anyone who is not transgender.

**Gender neutral pronouns.** The singular "They" and "Them" has become the popular alternative to "he/she" and "his/hers", particularly for non-binary people. "Ze" and "hir" are also options.

**Sexual orientation:** This is determined by whom we are sexually attracted to. This is not to be confused with gender identity, which is a separate concept.

**Trans-west-ite.** Someone who wears country western attire, but never leaves the city.

**T-friendly:** Any organization, person, business or institution that is accepting of transgender peoples and their needs.

Transgender terms are still evolving. The definitions listed here are intended to start the discussion and are not the final word. Getting a community who are non-conformist to agree to one definition is not possible.

Transgender Michigan

855-345-TGMI

[www.TransgenderMichigan.org](http://www.TransgenderMichigan.org)



# What is Transgender?

## Definitions

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## Transgender Terms

**Transgender (TG), or Trans,** is the umbrella term to include anyone whose gender identity or expression does not conform to the gender stereotypes, roles, and expectations assigned them at birth.

**Transsexual** (a sub category of transgender) is a person who identifies as the sex opposite to the one assigned at birth.

**Non-op.** (Non-surgical) Transsexuals who do not intend to seek surgery. Some have concerns about major surgery, which is not always successful. Others do not have the necessary funds. Yet others feel they are complete without surgery. Others still cannot have surgery due to special health problems.

**Post-op.** Short for post operative, meaning that the person has had genital reassignment surgery.

**Pre-op.** Short for Pre-operative, meaning that the person has not yet had genital reassignment surgery, but intends to.

**None-of-yo-business-op.** More and more people are taking back their right to privacy regarding operative status. Many also believe that transgender identity does not relate to operative status.

**Cross-dressing.** The practice of dressing in clothes traditionally assigned to the opposite gender. (This word replaces the inappropriate transvestism.)

**Drag:** Gender caricature or performance, for entertainment purposes. Performer may or may not be transgender.

**Gender Queer:** Those who identify their gender outside the gender binary system of male and female, maybe fluid with gender presentation or not conform to gender norms.

**Androgyny:** From the combined Greek words for man and woman. It is used to denote a form of self presentation neither masculine nor feminine.

**Butch:** A woman who prefers traditionally masculine dress, style, expression, or identity. May not self-identify as transgender.

**Femme:** A person who prefers traditionally feminine dress, style, expression, or identity.

**Gender:** One's social, personal and legal status as a man, a woman, mixed, or neither, on the basis of romantic and behavioral more inclusive than the genital criterion and/or erotic criterion alone.

**Gender bender:** Anyone who does not conform to societal expectations or roles for a given gender identity.

**Gender Dysphoria:** Medical term for transgender.

**Gender Identity:** One's sense of belonging to a particular gender; the private experience of gender role. The sameness, unity, and persistence of one's individuality as a man, woman, or a host of other identities, in greater or lesser degree, especially as it is experienced in self-awareness and behavior.

**Non-binary:** Some feel that gender identity is not limited to the male/female binary and consider it more of as a spectrum of genders.

**Gender Fluid:** Some do not consider gender to be fixed.

**Intersex:** Persons born with the full or partial sex organs of [male and female], or with underdeveloped or ambiguous sex organs. About 4% of all births are intersex to some degree. (This word replaces hermaphrodite.)