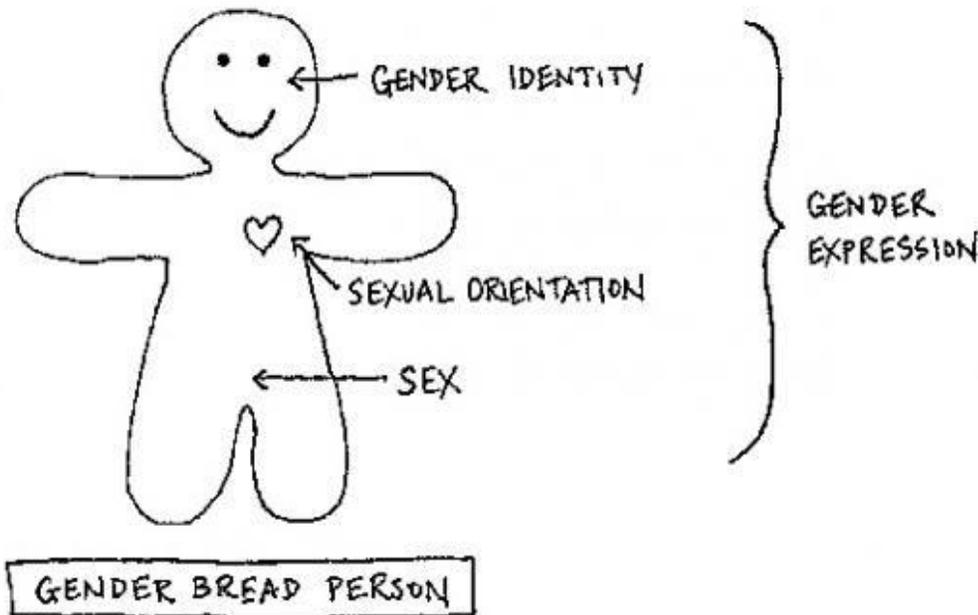


LGBT 101 – the Basics



Sex represents your chromosomes and your internal and external reproductive organs – in other words, your body parts

Gender Identity is your internal understanding of yourself as a boy/man, a girl/woman, or as something more or different than simply those combinations

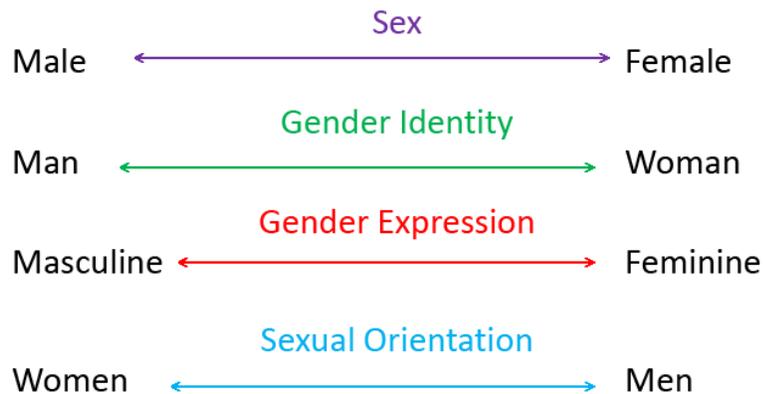
Gender Expression is the physical, external representation of gender. It includes your dress, mannerisms, hair, make-up, jewelry, how you walk, talk etc. It is everything about how you appear on the outside that has people making assumptions about your insides (sex) look like and include

Sexual Orientation is about your emotional, romantic and erotic attractions to the same, other, either or any gender.

Transgender is a term used to describe people whose gender identity or expression differs from the sex assigned to them at birth.

Each of these identities exist on a CONTINUUM and each continuum, though related, is separate and distinct from each other. See next page.

Identity Exists on a Continuum



Every human being is somewhere on each of the four continuums. We often act as if each person can only be on one side or the other: if you are male, you identify as a man, you are masculine and you are attracted to women (and vice versa). The reality is that human beings are much more diverse than that.

Some examples:

- Jay is 9 years old. He was born a girl but has identified as a boy since before he could even talk. He has made a social transition to a boy's identity when in the second grade. On the spectrum above, Jay's birth sex is female, his gender identity is male, his gender expression is masculine and at this point, we don't know where he will be on the sexual orientation continuum.
- When Iris was born, her physician looked at her genitals and proclaimed her a female. She was given a female name, told she was a girl from birth, and dressed in typically female attire. When puberty didn't occur as expected, chromosomal testing indicated that Iris had XY chromosomes, un-descended testicles and no uterus. On the spectrum above, Iris is intersex; her gender identity is as a woman; her gender expression is feminine and her sexual orientation is unknown.
- Zach was also born intersex and assigned a female sex. He, however, identified as a boy from his earliest memories. He always dressed more on the masculine end of the expression spectrum often against his parent's wishes for him to act 'more feminine'. When chromosomal testing at puberty revealed his XY chromosomes, he began living full time as a man. His sex is intersex, gender identity is a man, gender expression is masculine and his sexual orientation is heterosexual (he is attracted to women)
- Since he was very young, Will has always preferred clothing, toys, and activities that are more common to girls. He likes to dress up, wear make-up and look nice. Will is male, he identifies as a man, his gender expression tends more to the feminine end of the spectrum and his orientation is gay (he is attracted to men).
- Brittany was born male, but identified as a girl from toddler-hood. She began living full time as a girl when she was 11. At 12, she began puberty postponing hormones (to give her more time to choose from her adult body would take.) At 15, she began taking estrogen, and expects to complete sex reassignment surgery when she is 17. Brittany is attracted to boys. Where would you place her on each of the spectrums above?