



1. Glossary of Terms Related to Hate Crime

Biphobia: dislike and/or prejudice toward bisexual people.

Bisexual: a term that is used to describe individuals attracted to people of both sexes.

Cisgender: a term to describe individuals who have a match between the gender they were assigned at birth, their bodies, and their personal identity.

Crossdresser: person who wears clothes or make-up commonly associated with the 'opposite' sex, but who do not necessarily identify as that gender.

Discrimination: the unjust or prejudicial treatment of groups of people, especially on the grounds of protected characteristics, defined by the Equality Act (2010) as age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Diverse: a group or organisation that has many different people in it, for example people of different ethnicities; sexual orientation or gender.

Gay: a term that is used to describe a man who has an emotional and/or sexual orientation towards men. Some women also define themselves as gay rather than lesbian; it is a generic term for lesbian and gay sexuality.

Hate crime: Any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's actual or perceived race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

Heterosexual: a term to describe individuals who are attracted to people of the opposite sex.

Homophobia: dislike and/or prejudice toward people who are sexually or romantically attracted to people of the same gender, including lesbians, gay men and bisexual people.

Hostility: Courts use an ordinary dictionary definition of this term, which includes ill-will, ill-feeling, spite, contempt, prejudice, unfriendliness, antagonism, resentment, and dislike.

Bullying: behaviour that is repeated, intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally and is often aimed at certain groups, e.g. because of race, religion, gender, trans identity or sexual orientation. It takes many forms including physical assault, teasing, making threats, name calling or cyberbullying – bullying via mobile phone or online (e.g. email, social networks and instant messenger).

Hate crime: Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic; particularly disability, gender-identity, race, religion/faith or sexual orientation.

Non-criminal hate incident: Any incident which is not a criminal offence but which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's actual or perceived race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

Homosexual: historically the term 'homosexual' was used by the medical profession to describe same sex attraction and behaviour as a sign of mental disorder and moral deficiency. To obtain distance from such medical labels, the terms gay and lesbian are now used.

Intersex: a person who is born with sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, and/or chromosome patterns that do not fit the typical definition of male or female. An intersex person may identify as male or female or as neither. Intersex status is not about sexual orientation or gender identity: intersex people experience the same range of sexual orientations and gender identities as non-intersex people.

Lesbian: a term that is used to describe a woman who has an emotional and/or sexual orientation towards other women.

LGBT: an acronym for lesbian, gay and bisexual and trans.

Prejudice: a judgement made about someone without knowing them. It is usually called prejudice when the judgement is negative and prejudice is often formed by stereotypes.

Sexual orientation: an enduring pattern of [romantic](#) or [sexual](#) attraction (or a combination of these) to people of the opposite [sex](#) or [gender](#), the same sex or gender, or to both sexes or more than one gender. These attractions are generally subsumed under [heterosexuality](#), homosexuality, and [bisexuality](#), while [asexuality](#) (the lack of sexual attraction to others) is sometimes identified as the fourth category.

Stereotype: a commonly held belief about a group of people – for example there are many stereotypes about the way that lesbian, gay and bisexual people look and act. Usually stereotypes are not true and they can be very offensive.

Straight: a commonly understood term defining being attracted to people of the opposite sex.

Trans/transgender: terms that identify the spectrum of those who feel that their assigned sex at birth does not match or sit easily with their sense of self. It encompasses transsexual people, cross dressers, or anyone who challenges gender norms. It may be that a trans person feels more the "opposite" sex and so chooses to use medical intervention in order to align their body

with their mind or their external appearance with their internal feelings. It also encompasses cross dressers may dress to express the more masculine or feminine side of themselves, or simply because they find those clothes more comfortable. It also includes people who identify themselves as transsexual; this is a more clinical word used in the medical world and usually describes those who have decided to undergo procedures such as hormone therapy or surgical intervention.

Transphobia: dislike and/or prejudice toward trans people.

The above information is adapted from a glossary within a CPS School Project resource, based on information from Gendered Intelligence and Stonewall. Our thanks to all those organisations.

This information sheet was produced by Galop, an LGBT anti-violence charity providing support, advice and advocacy to people facing hate crime, domestic abuse or sexual violence. It is a part of a series of 17 resources on hate crime for LGBT people and service providers, created on behalf of the National LGBT Hate Crime Partnership. The other useful information sheets are:

2. Diary Sheets and Guidance on Keeping a Written Record of Hate Crime
3. Hate Crime Laws: A Guide for LGBT People
4. LGBT Hate Crime and Emergency Accommodation
5. Non-Emergency Housing Options for LGBT People Facing Hate Crime
6. Financial Assistance Schemes: Help for LGBT People Experiencing Hate Crime
7. Talking to your Children about Bullying and Hate Crime: Advice for LGBT Parents
8. Training Toolkit on LGBT Hate Crime
9. LGBT Hate Crime Quality Standard: A Service Improvement Tool for Organisations
10. Tackling Biphobia: A Guide for Safety Services
11. Tackling Transphobia: A Guide for Safety Services
12. Complaints to Statutory Agencies: A Guide for Advice Workers
13. Understanding Hate Crime Statistics: A Guide for Organisations
14. Hate Crime and Older Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans people in Care Settings
15. Housing, Disability and LGBT Hate Crime: An Advisors Guide
16. Commissioning LGBT Hate Crime Services: A Guide for Organisations
17. Building Partnerships to Tackle Hate Crime

Find out about our work at www.galop.org.uk and www.lgbthatecrime.org.uk

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