

Sexuality is the total expression of an individual through that person's feelings, beliefs, attitudes, values and behaviors. Sexuality is complex and spans a vast array of human experiences including family, relationships, dating, sexual behavior, physical development, attraction, reproduction, gender, body image, sexual orientation and more.

Factors That May Influence Sexual Decision Making

- personal values
- having limits
- being able to communicate them
- being aware of and respecting the limits set by others
- peer and family expectations
- having physical and emotional desires
- media messages
- myths and norms related to sexual activity or safer sex practice
- participation in activities such as substance use that impair judgement



HETEROSEXISM

- Heterosexism is the assumption that if someone is in a romantic or sexual relationship, it is with someone of the opposite sex.
- Think about the effect this might have on a person who is questioning his or her gender identity or sexual orientation.

5 WAYS TO END HETEROSEXISM

Heterosexism is the hatred or discrimination of people who are not heterosexual.

- 1. When you meet somebody, don't assume that you know their sexual orientation.
 - Don't use gay as a synonym for stupid or bad.
 - Pay attention to how queer people are treated around the world, and speak up against mistreatment.
 - When people make homophobic comments, ask them to stop even if you aren't offended.
- 5 Don't act offended if people think you're queer.



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- Heterosexism is often seen in our use of language.
- Use more inclusive language ourselves
- Supporting its use in literature and the media
- We can create an environment that is comfortable for all
- Where all feel they are a part.



What are some other ways in which we can reduce homophobia, increase understanding, and support those who are questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation?

Ideas



- contribute to a positive school climate in which everyone feels safe, comfortable, and accepted by showing respect for others.
- object when we see people being harassed or treated unequally and report the incident to trusted adults.
- participate in gay-straight alliances and other student-led activities that promote understanding and the development of healthy relationships."



Describe some common misconceptions about sexuality in our culture, and explain how these may cause harm to people and how they can be responded to critically and fairly

Ideas

- Everyone in Canada has the right to live free of discrimination and with the same rights as everyone else
- We have an obligation to treat everyone with fairness and respect, just as we want others to respect us and our choices.
- People sometimes face discrimination because of beliefs that others have come to accept. Understanding about sexuality, sexual behaviour, and gender behaviour varies widely
- Some beliefs may be misconceptions based on erroneous information

If we encounter what we think is discrimination or a misconception, how can we respond to it?





- Getting more information
- having open-minded discussions
- thinking critically about the assumptions behind various ideas can help us think critically about their credibility
- encourage people to respect the rights of others
- respect is enshrined in the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Human Rights Act.



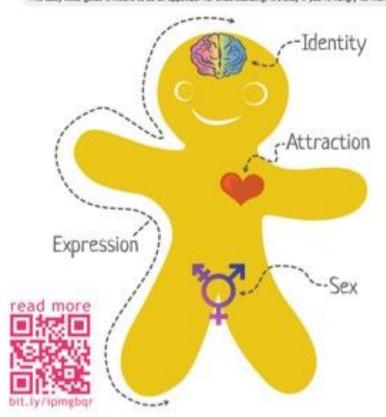
• National Geographic Gender Revolution

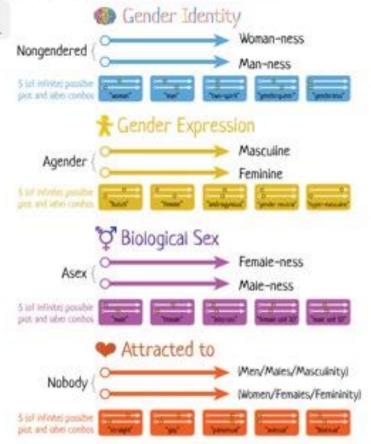


National Geographic GenderBread Person

The Genderbread Person v2.0 with pronounced Method sexual

Gender is one of those things everyone thinks they understand, but most people don't. Like inception. Gender isn't binary. It's not either/or. In many cases it's both/and, A bit of this, a dash of that, This tasty little guide is meant to be an appetition for understanding. It's okay if you're hungry for more.









 IN THE OPERATING ROOM DURING GENDER REASSIGNMENT SURGERY



THE GENDER BINARY



What is the Gender Binary?

The Gender Binary is a system where a person's sex determines them being assigned one of two genders. Those genders are reinforced and normalised through language, social structures and the media.



The Binary Through History

The gender binary seems to have emerged through necessity - dividing labour in Neolithic tribes by physical appearance was a simple method. As civilisation evolved, certain jobs became more associated with men or women, cementing those roles as 'masculine' or 'feminine'. Later legal systems enshrined the gender binary in law - as those who could inherit land and titles, and those who could not. By the 18th and 19th centuries, the gender binary had become akin to a romantic ideal - the 'breadwinner husband' and 'doting wife' were roles young men and women were told to aspire to.

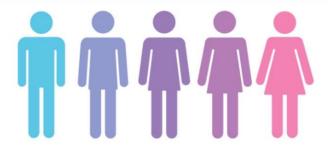
The Binary Today

Despite work to deconstruct the binary, it is still heavily ingrained in society. The binary manifests itself in multiple ways: toilets are still gendered for the most part, and genderneutral pronouns have only slowly been adopted. The binary is still prevalent in most communities leading to trans and non-binary people not allowing themselves to express themselves as they would wish to. The media still often portrays certain roles as being unsuitable for one gender or the other.



BREAKING THE BINARY





Biology and Gender

A person's biological sex is dependent on many factors including their chromosomes, hormone levels and receptor sensitivity. As such, it is possible for someone assigned one sex at birth to have the chromosomes typically associated with another. Someone who is born with characteristics that don't fit the definition for male or female is intersex. Sex and gender are not equivalent – despite what some would want you to believe.

Not So Traditional

Numerous cultures have accepted that there are more than two genders, including Native Americans (Two-Spirit), Thailand (Kathoeys) and Hawaii (Mahu). Also, many polytheistic religions include amongst their gods those with androgynous or genderless characteristics. High-heels originated as footwear for upper-class men in Renaissance Europe – only recently have they been seen as a female-exclusive item; and originally, pink was associated with boys and blue with girls.

Changing Attitudes

Several countries are now recognising more than two genders in law (e.g. Australia and Switzerland), allowing citizens to choose a third gender. As awareness of different genders increases so does their acceptance, allowing people to be more comfortable in their identity. Many organizations are installing gender-neutral toilets in their facilities, including Loughborough University.

LGBTQ and Gender Inclusive School





A Checklist for a Welcoming and Inclusive School Environment

• Welcoming Schools Checklist