



Factsheet: Key Definitions and Terminology

Domestic Abuse

According to the UK Home Office, domestic abuse is defined as ‘any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviours, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or who have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality’. Domestic abuse can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional and also includes so-called ‘honour’-based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Terms

Bi or Bisexual is an umbrella term used to describe an emotional, romantic and/or sexual orientation to more than one gender.

Cisgender or cis Someone whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. Non-trans is also used by some people.

Gay/Lesbian Refers to a man or woman who has an emotional, romantic and/or sexual orientation towards men/women.

Gender Identity A person’s innate sense of their own gender, whether male, female or something else, which may or may not correspond to the sex assigned at birth.

Intersex A term used to describe a person who may have the biological attributes of both sexes or whose biological attributes do not fit with societal assumptions about what constitutes male or female. Intersex people may identify as male, female or non-binary.

LGBT+ The acronym for lesbian, gay, bi, trans people and all other minority gender and sexual identities.

Non-binary An umbrella term for people whose gender identity doesn’t sit comfortably with ‘man’ or ‘woman’. Non-binary identities are varied and can include people who identify with some aspects of binary identities, while others reject them entirely.

Sexual Orientation A person’s emotional, romantic and/or sexual attraction to another person.

Trans An umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth. Trans people may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms, including (but not limited to) transgender, transsexual, gender-queer, gender-fluid, non-binary, gender-variant, crossdresser, genderless, agender, nongender, third gender, two-spirit, bi-gender, trans man, trans woman, trans masculine and trans feminine.

Transition Some trans and non binary people may undertake a social transition (e.g. changing names, presentation, documentation etc.) and/or medical interventions (hormones and/or surgeries) but not all trans / non binary people want/need this or are able to access it.

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Doncaster Council