

# Transgender 101

*\*Terminology within the transgender community varies and has changed over time so we recognize the need to be sensitive to usage within particular communities. This information is adapted from the National Center for Transgender Equality resources page (NCTE). <http://www.nctequality.org/>*

## What Does Transgender Mean?

**Transgender is an umbrella term** for people, whose gender identity, expression or behavior is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth, including but not limited to transsexuals, cross-dressers, androgynous people, genderqueers, and gender non-conforming people. **Transgender is a broad term and is good for non-transgender people to use. "Trans" is shorthand for "transgender."**

## What is being done about the discrimination that Transgender people face?

Around the country, laws, policies and attitudes are changing, making life better for transgender people overall. **More and more employers, for example, now have policies which ban discrimination based on gender identity; they recognize that intolerance is bad for business.** In addition, 39% of people in America (as of January 2009) are covered by anti-discrimination laws that include gender identity.

## How many transgender people are there?

We don't know for sure the answer to this question. There are a number of reasons for that. First, there really isn't anyone collecting this data. It's not something that the US Census or other agencies keep track of.

⇒ **Transgender people can be heterosexual/straight, bisexual, homosexual/gay/lesbian or identify as queer.**

⇒ **FTM: A person who transitions from "female-to-male," meaning a person who was assigned female at birth, but identifies and lives as a male; also known as a "transgender man."**

⇒ **MTF: A person who transitions from "male-to-female," meaning a person who was assigned male at birth, but identifies and**

**Gender Expression:** External representation of one's gender identity, usually expressed through "masculine" or "feminine" behavior, haircut, voice or body characteristics.

## How is gender identity different from sexual orientation?

- **Gender identity** refers to the way you understand yourself and your gender.
  - It is socially and personally constructed identity that can be associated with masculinity, femininity, androgyny any combination of these, or altogether different conceptions of gender.
- **Sexual orientation** is our attraction to someone else of the same or different gender or both. It refers to the kinds of relationships that you have with others.