



This partial list of terms provides basic information to support further discussion and reading. Language is constantly changing; we encourage you to continue researching. Please note all terms should be chosen by a person for themselves.

Liberation & Solidarity Frameworks

Transfeminism: (1) “Transfeminism is primarily a movement by and for trans women who view their liberation to be intrinsically linked to the liberation of all women and beyond. It is also open to other queers, intersex people, trans men, non-trans women, non-trans men, and others who are sympathetic to the needs of trans women and consider their alliance with trans women to be essential for their own liberation. Transfeminism ... stands for trans and non-trans women alike and asks non-trans women to stand up for trans women in return. Transfeminism embodies feminist coalition politics in which women from different backgrounds stand up for each other, because if we do not stand for each other, nobody will” – Emi Koyama, “The Transfeminist Manifesto,” 2000.

(2) “Transfeminism is a commitment to social justice, rooted in that understanding of power relations and experiences of oppression based on gender identity and expression.” – Pauline Park, “Transfeminism: Speaking My Truth to Power,” 2012

Feminism: (1) “Feminists should be seeing feminism as a transgender phenomenon: Some version of gender self-determination and resistance to binary gender norms and oppressions has always been central to feminism. Transgender phenomena are also created through the accusation of gender deviance, and this accusation is part and parcel of what maintains social hierarchies and the appearance of binary gender” - A. Finn Enke, “Introduction,” *Transfeminist Perspectives in and beyond Transgender and Gender Studies* (Temple UP, 2012), 5

(2) “As Black women we find any type of biological determinism a particularly dangerous and reactionary basis upon which to build a politic” – Combahee River Collective, “Combahee River Collective Statement,” 1977

(3) “Feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression” – bell hooks, *Feminism Is for Everybody*, 2000.

(4) “Feminism is the political theory and practice that struggles to free *all* women: women of color, working-class women, poor women, disabled women, lesbians, old women—as well as white, economically privileged, heterosexual women. Anything less than this vision of total freedom is not feminism, but merely female self-aggrandizement” – Barbara Smith, “Racism and Women’s Studies,” 1979.

Intersectionality: An understanding of how people who have more than one marginalized identity experience oppression (for example, misogynoir or transmisogyny) differently than people who have only one marginalized identity; and a critique of movements or organizing that leaves out people who have more than one marginalized identity. “Originally articulated on behalf of black women, the term brought to light the invisibility of many constituents within groups that claim them as members, but often fail to represent them. ... People of color within LGBTQ movements; girls of color in the fight against the school-to-prison pipeline; women within immigration movements; trans women within feminist movements; and people with disabilities fighting police abuse — all face vulnerabilities that reflect the intersections of racism, sexism, class oppression, transphobia, ableism and more.” - Kimberlé Crenshaw





Oppressions & Systems

Cisgenderism/Cissexism: The system of oppression that reinforces the belief in only two, biologically based genders, thereby negating, punishing, and excluding all transgender and genderqueer people.

Gender Binary: The false separation of women and men into two socially distinct categories that are inaccurately viewed as “opposite” from one another and as the only two gender identities. Gender binarism discourages the crossing and mixing of gender roles and gender identities. Gender binarism reinforces gender-based stereotypes and devalues people with transgender, intersex, and non-binary identities.

Heterosexism: The system of oppression that reinforces the belief in the inherent superiority of heterosexuality and heterosexual relationships, thereby negating, punishing, and excluding asexual, bisexual, pansexual, queer, lesbian, and gay people and their relationships.

Misogyny: A cultural attitude of demeaning, devaluing, and tolerating violence against women and femininity.

Misogynoir: “The intersection of racism, anti-Blackness, and misogyny that Black women experience” – Moya Bailey

Sexism: The systematic, institutional, pervasive, and routine mistreatment of women and femme people of all genders. This mistreatment creates an imbalance of power in society that renders women and femme people disadvantaged. The belief that men and masculinity are superior to women and femininity.

Transmisogyny: The intersection of transphobia and misogyny that systematically targets trans women. “When the majority of violence and sexual assaults committed against trans people is directed at trans women, that is not transphobia—it is trans-misogyny” – Julia Serano, “Trans Woman Manifesto”

Gender Identity & Expression

Sexual and romantic orientation are separate from gender identity and expression. People of any sexual and romantic orientation may be cisgender, transgender, or genderqueer; they may have any gender identity; and they may have any gender expression.

Assigned Sex: The sex a person is socially considered to be at birth, often based on interpretation of a person’s external genitalia. Not the same thing as gender identity.

Cisgender: A term used to describe a person whose gender identity is the same as the sex assigned to them at birth.

Gender Expression: How you express gender through how you dress, walk, talk, and the language you use for yourself. You can show your androgyny, femmeness, butchness, femininity, masculinity, or different gender expressions, or all or none of these. A person of any gender identity may have any gender expression.

Gender Identity: Your innermost sense of yourself as agender, genderqueer, Two-Spirit, gender fluid, woman, man, or all, some, or none of these and other gender identities. Your gender identity is not dependent on your anatomy.

Genderqueer: A term used to describe a person whose gender identity is between, beyond, or a combination of genders. A rejection of the social construction of gender, gender stereotypes, and the gender binary system.

Transgender: An umbrella term that people may use to describe their gender identity as different from the sex they were assigned at birth. People who identify as transgender may have any gender identity. Like anyone else, trans people may have any sexual orientation.