Southern California
GLBTQ Resource Guide
Unlike their heterosexual counterparts, GLBTQ youth often encounter barriers to accessing traditional support systems and resources. This Resource Guide outlines community resources that can help to improve access to these supports. When GLTBQ youth feel they are encircled with support from their peers, educators, and mental health professionals, their quality of life improves.

About EDGY (Embracing the Diversity of GLBTQ Youth and Families)

EDGY is a one day conference presented by Penny Lane Centers dedicated to evolving practices for professionals who work with GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning) youth and families. EDGY provides an opportunity for government agencies, social service providers, mental health professionals, and families to learn how to create a supportive environment through initiatives, education, and enlightenment.

Penny Lane Centers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1969 to serve abused teenage girls. Since that time, Penny Lane's programs and services have expanded to serve thousands of children, youth, and families annually. Services include: Mentoring, Foster Care and Adoption, Transitional and Permanent Housing, Family Preservation, Wraparound, Residential Treatment Facilities, Therapeutic Behavioral Services and Mental Health Services. Penny Lane is proud to have received the “All Children, All Families” Seal from the Human Rights Campaign. For more information about Penny Lane Centers please visit pennylane.org.

For more copies of the Southern California Resource Guide, contact Cameron Cline at 818-332-8330 or ccline@pennylane.org.
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BIENESTAR HUMAN SERVICES— Mpowerment is Bienestar’s community level intervention program targeting gay/bisexual Latino youth ages 18 to 24 at risk of HIV infection. For more information call 323-727-7896, email info@bienestar.org or visit bienestar.org.

GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, & TRANSGENDER NATIONAL YOUTH TALKLINE is an email and telephone hotline program of the National Help Center designed specifically for youth. Volunteers in their teens and early twenties counsel teens and young adults up to age 25 about coming-out issues, relationship concerns, parental issues, school problems, HIV/AIDS anxiety, and provide information on local resources. Call 1-800-246-PRIDE, email youth@glbtnationalhelpcenter.org or visit gbthelpcenter.org.

LGBTQ ADVOCACY & TRAINING PROGRAM AT PENNY LANE CENTERS consists of therapeutic services including support groups, monthly socials and one-on-one rehab for clients experiencing issues with coming out, conflict resolution, crisis intervention or school issues. Professional trainings are also held for staff to inform employees of best practices when working with LGBTQ youth. For more information call 818-894-3384, email info@pennylane.org or visit pennylane.org.

LOS ANGELES GAY & LESBIAN CENTER provides a broad array of services for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. The Center offers free and low-cost health, mental health, HIV/AIDS medical care and HIV/STD testing and prevention. The Center also offers legal, social, cultural, and educational services, with unique programs for seniors, families and youth, including a 24-bed transitional living program for homeless youth. Located at 1625 N. Schrader Blvd, Los Angeles Ca 90028. For more information call 323-993-7400 or visit lagaycenter.org.
LIFEWORKS LA is a youth development program at the LA Gay and Lesbian Center. Offering one-on-one, peer and group mentoring opportunities including workshops and activities that are fun and educational for LGBTQ youth ages 12-24. Located at the LA Gay and Lesbian Center. For more information call 323-860-7373, email lifeworks@lagaycenter.org, or visit lifeworksla.org.

LOS ANGELES GENDER CENTER (LAGC) offers counseling for individuals, couples and families, support groups, child and adolescent programs, workplace and school support, trainings and continuing education. For more information call 310-475-8880, email staff@lagendercenter.com or visit lagendercenter.com.

PASADENA PRIDE CENTER offers programs, services, events and referral services to support the well-being of the LGBTQ community in Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley. Located at 234 N. Allen Ave, #17, Pasadena, CA 91106. For more information call 213-631-0373, email info@pasadenapridcenter.org or visit pasadenapridecenter.org.

PACIFIC PRIDE FOUNDATION offers comprehensive health and social services, counseling, care, education and advocacy to anyone at risk for, infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. The Foundation also provides sociocultural services sensitive to the needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. Located at 126 East Haley Street, Suite A-11 Santa Barbara, CA 93101. For more information call 805-963-3636 or visit pacificpridefoundation.org.

PROJECT Q AT THE VILLAGE FAMILY SERVICES provides supportive services aimed at LGBTQ youth, ages 14-20, and is led by specially trained staff who are sensitive to the unique challenges faced by sexual minority youth. The LGBTQQA Youth Peer Group gathers on a weekly basis for empowerment, outreach, and peer support. The group meets every Thursday from 4:30 PM to 6 PM at the Drop-In Center. Registration is not required, you are welcome to just show up. Located at 6801 Coldwater Canyon, North Hollywood, CA 91605. For more information, call 818-755-8786, email ProjectQ@thevillagefs.org or visit thevillagefs.org.
THE CENTER ORANGE COUNTY advocates on behalf of the Orange County LGBT community and provides services that ensure its well-being and positive identity. Programs and services include counseling and mental health, HIV testing and information and referral for men, women, latinos, seniors, transgender and youth centered programs. Located at 1605 N. Spurgeon Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701. For more information call 714-953-LGBT or visit thecenteroc.org.

THE OUTREACH CENTER - THE OUT PROJECT is open to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, pansexual, intersex, asexual, androsexual, gynosexual, and straight ally youth ages 24 and younger. The Project promotes education to empower and make aware, outreach to involve and share experiences, activities to socialize and network, activism to create change and equality and a community to support and heal. Located at 2010 West Avenue K, Suite #397, Lancaster, CA 93536. For more information call 661-92-PRIDE, email info@outreachcenterav.org, or visit outreachcenterav.org.

SOUTH BAY CENTER
The Lesbian, Gay, Bi & Transgender Community Organization provides a focal point for the members of our community in the South Bay for education, social interaction, personal growth, and political power, and to foster public understanding of our community. Located at 16610 Crenshaw Blvd, Torrance, CA 90504. For more information call 310-328-6550 or visit southbaycenter.org.

THE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER OF THE DESERT provides a safe and supportive environment for members to enjoy health, wellness, educational and social programs, where people of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. The Center provides senior programming, a clinical counseling and internship program, a weekly food bank, extensive social and recreational offerings, a free community cyber center, a growing volunteer program and periodic special events in the community. Located at 611 S. Palm Canyon Dr, Ste 201, Palm Springs, CA 92264. For more information call 760-416-7790 or visit thecenterps.org.
THE SAN DIEGO LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER enhances and sustains the health and well-being of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and HIV communities by providing activities, programs and services that create community; empower community members; provide essential resources; advocate for civil and human rights; and embrace, promote and support cultural diversity. Located at 3909 Centre Street, San Diego Ca, 92103. For more information call 619-692-2077 or visit thecentersd.org.

TRANSGENDER PERCEPTIONS- LOS ANGELES GAY & LESBIAN CENTER is a peer-led group for men and women across the gender spectrum offered by the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. For more information, call (323) 860-7302 M–F between 6–9pm or email conversation@lagaycenter.org or visit laglc.org.

WALDEN FAMILY SERVICES LGBTQ NETWORK is designed to meet the special needs of LGBTQ foster youth. Located at 6150 Mission Gorge Road, Suite 210, San Diego, CA 92120. For more information call 619-584-5777 or visit waldenfamily.org.

THE CENTER LONG BEACH offers HIV testing, drug and alcohol counseling, housing assistance, mental health and counseling services, social and support groups. Located at 2017 E 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90814. For more information call 562-434-4455, email info@centerlb.org or visit centerlb.org.

TARZANA TREATMENT CENTER is a behavioral healthcare organization that provides high quality, cost-effective substance abuse and mental health treatment to adults and youth. Programs include medical detox, residential rehab, outpatient alcohol and drug treatment services and other health/mental health services. Located at 7101 Baird Ave., Reseda, CA 91335. For more information, call 1-800-996-1051 or visit tarzanatc.org.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL COUNSELING- LOS ANGELES GAY & LESBIAN CENTER provides one-on-one counseling, group therapy and other services which help recovery from addiction to alcohol or drugs. For more information call 323-993-7500, email mentalhealth@lagaycenter.org or visit laglc.org.
Spirits and Religion

WEHO CHURCH provides a Christian gathering for all Christians and Curious in a troublesome world. Special outreach for gay, lesbian, bi and transgender people and all are welcome who want to come and join our worship. Located at 916 N. Formosa Ave, West Hollywood, CA 90036. For more information, visit dimenwebsites.com.

BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM sustains a Jewish community for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Jews. Located at 6090 West Pico Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90035. For more information, call 323-931-7023, email bcc@bcc-la.org or visit bcc-la.org.

AFFIRMATION – GAY & LESBIAN MORMONS supports LGBT Mormons, their families, and allies by encouraging spirituality, providing information resources, and working for inclusiveness and equality. To find a local chapter near you, visit affirmation.org.

DIGNITY LOS ANGELES is an independent lay organization that seeks to reform the Catholic Church and society in general, mainly on issues regarding the sexuality of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender (GLBT) persons, and also to minister to the spiritual (and other) needs of GLBT persons. For more information call 323-344-8064, email info@dignitylosangeles.org, or visit dignitylosangeles.org.

AGAINST THE STREAM BUDDHIST MEDITATION SOCIETY works to create and sustain communities of healthy, accountable, wise and compassionate people from every walk of life. People from all racial, economic, sexual, social, political and religious backgrounds and preferences are welcome. Two locations in Santa Monica and East Hollywood. For more information, call 323-665-4300, email service@againstthestream.org, or visit againstthestream.org.
MUSLIMS FOR PROGRESSIVE VALUES (MPV) – LGBTQ RIGHTS
Muslims for Progressive Values’ (MPV) mission is to embody and be an effective voice of the traditional Quranic ideals of human dignity, egalitarianism, compassion and social justice. For more information, please visit mpvusa-la.org.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCHES & FELLOWSHIPS is a welcoming and inclusive faith that has a long and proud history of advocating for LGBT dignity and equality, including supporting same-sex marriage for the past several decades. LGBT youth and young adults, as well as LGBT allies, will find a safe and supportive spiritual home when they may freely explore and define their religious and ethical beliefs and values. For information on UU congregations in the Southern California area, please visit uusca.cust.he.net. For the national Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, call (617) 742-2100 or visit uua.org.

CATHOLIC MINISTRY WITH LESBIAN & GAY PERSONS (CMLGP) OUTREACH GROUPS
The Blessed Sacrament Church Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons, fosters their call to discipleship, and encourages them to gather around the table of the Lord with the diverse community of Blessed Sacrament. For more information, call 323-462-6311 or visit blessedsacramenthollywood.org/mlg.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH LOS ANGELES (MCC) is a prophetic, liberating and progressive Christian community of faith that honors, values and welcomes all people. Rooted in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, and Intersex communities, MCC preaches a relevant, vibrant and scripture-based message that embodies and celebrates everyone’s spirituality and sexuality. Located at 4607 Prospect Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027. For more information, call 323-669-3434, email info@mccla.org, or visit mccla.org.
L.A. GAY AND LESBIAN CENTER- JEFFREY GOODMAN SPECIAL CARE CLINIC provides LGBT-sensitive high quality HIV/AIDS treatment regardless of financial situation. The clinic accepts various insurance plans. If you aren’t insured or if your income is limited, staff will help you determine your eligibility for medical care and drug-assistance programs. The clinic is staffed by HIV/AIDS specialists, including board-certified physicians, social services case managers, adherence counselors and a nutritionist. In addition to medical care, the Center’s HIV/AIDS services include case management, mental health counseling, complementary therapies such as chiropractic care, nutritional counseling, and on-site laboratory services. We also have an on-site pharmacy and offer patients the opportunity to participate in a number of clinical trials. Located at the McDonald/Wright Building at 1625 N. Schrader Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90028. For more information call 323-993-7500, email healthservices@lagaycenter.org or visit laglc.org.

VALLEY TEEN CLINIC
Safe, comfortable health clinic for teens 12-19 run by a trained and certified staff of peers and licensed medical professionals. For more information call 1-888-763-4070, email mail@teen411.com or visit teen411.com.

THE CENTER FOR TRANSGENDER YOUTH HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT is a program of The Division of Adolescent Medicine at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, provides prevention services for youth between the ages of 14-25 who are gender non-conforming, gender questioning, preparing for transition or actively transitioning. For more information call 323-361-5372 or visit transyouthla.com.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide. To find a location, visit plannedparenthood.org.
**Housing**

**LOS ANGELES YOUTH NETWORK (LAYN)** empowers abused, neglected and homeless adolescents to become self-sufficient. LAYN provides street outreach, food, emergency shelter, a transitional living program, and educational enrichment programs in a safe and nurturing environment. For more information call 323-467-8466, email info@layn.org or visit layn.org.

**YOUTH CENTER ON HIGHLAND** is a drop-in center for LGBT youth that provides case management, support groups, meals, clothing, laundry, showers, computer access and an educational/GED preparation center. The Center is located at 1220 N. Highland Ave. and is open M-F (8:30am-5:30pm) and Sat-Sun (8:30am-4:30pm). For more information, call 323-860-2280, email youthservices@lagaycenter.org or visit lagl.org/youthservices.

**CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT** is open to child prostitutes throughout the United States, and the Children of the Night hotline is ready and able to rescue these children 24 hours a day. We provide free taxi/airline transportation nationwide for America’s child prostitutes who wish to escape prostitution and live in our home. For more information call 818-908-4474 or visit childrenofthenight.org.

**COVENANT HOUSE CALIFORNIA** offers a live-in facility for LGBT homeless youth (18-24 years old). Services provided are short and long term housing, meals, health and medical services, mental health services, substance abuse counseling, recreation and employment opportunities. Located at 1325 N. Western Avenue Hollywood, CA 90027. For more information call 323-461-3131, email info@covenanthousecalifornia.org or visit covenanthousecalifornia.org.
L.A. GAY & LESBIAN CENTER LEGAL CLINIC offers one-on-one attorney consultations on a no- or low-cost basis to those who need counsel regarding a wide range of legal issues, including but not limited to business, civil rights, consumer, criminal, employment, family, government benefits, immigration, insurance, landlord/tenant issues, personal injury, and wills and estates. We request a $10 processing fee for the consultation, but no one will be denied services for lack of funds. For more information, call (323) 993-7670, email legalservices@lagaycenter.org or visit laglc.org/legalservices.

LAMBDA LEGAL is the oldest and largest national legal organization whose mission is to achieve full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work. For more information call 213-382-7600, or visit lambdalegal.org.

UNDOCUMENTED & QUEER TALKING CIRCLES-LONG BEACH IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COALITION LBIRC currently runs talking circles for undocumented and queer youth, examining the intersection of the LGBT and immigrant community. Talking circles are held on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at The Center, 2017 E. 4th St, from 6:30-8:30 pm. For more information, call 714-873-6898, email Miguel.Ibire@gmail.com or visit lbirc.org.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU) – LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER PROJECT The mission of the ACLU LGBT Project is the creation of a society in which lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people enjoy the constitutional rights of equality, privacy and personal autonomy, and freedom of expression and association. For more information, visit aclu.org/lgbt-rights.

GENDER SPECTRUM As families grapple with raising transgender or gender nonconforming children, one of the most unsettling aspects of the experience can be related to the legal issues they encounter. genderspectrum.org.
School and Education

**GAY-Straight Alliance Network** is a national youth leadership organization that connects school-based Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) to each other and community resources through peer support, leadership development, and training. For more information email info@gsanetwork.org or visit gsanetwork.org.

**Welcoming Schools – a Project of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation** helps meet the needs of students whose family structures are not well represented or included in school environments, Welcoming Schools also provides tools to address bias-based name-calling and bullying. Additionally, it offers a wide range of resources for schools to support students who don’t conform to gender norms. For more information visit welcoming.schools.org.

**Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)** works to ensure that LGBT students are able to learn and grow in a school environment free from bullying and harassment. For more information email losangeles@chapters.glsen.org or visit glsen.org.

**Project 10 of LAUSD** helps parents with gender variant children with placement in supportive LAUSD schools, and provides help in negotiating to solve school problems encountered by gender variant children. For more information email stephen.jimenez@lausd.net or visit project10.org.

**Reach LA** Through its media arts programs, REACH LA is committed to advocacy of LGBTQ youth rights, visibility for the LGBTQ youth of color community, fostering LGBTQ youth creative media expressions and building connections to existing resources. For more information call 213-622-1650, email reachla@eathlink.net or visit reach.la.
THE POINT FOUNDATION supplies financial support, professional guidance and a network of contacts for LGBTQ undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students. Point also attempts to identify students who have exceptional financial needs that would require personal assistance for personal success. For more information visit pointfoundation.org.

FINAID – FINANCIAL AID FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED STUDENTS
Lists regional and national LGBT scholarships. For more information, visit finaid.org/otheraid/lgbt.phtml

MODELS OF EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP
Friends of Project 10 Inc. Scholarship fund for Senior High School students from Southern California public, private and parochial schools who have advanced the civil rights of the LGBT population. For more information, visit project10.org/scholarships.html.

PFLAG NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP
The PFLAG Scholarship program provides support for role models and pioneers around the country that are making schools safer for all students. For more information visit community.pflag.org/scholarship.

LEAGUE FOUNDATION
The LEAGUE Foundation awards scholarships for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender high school seniors who have a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and who are actively and substantially involved in community service. leaguefoundation.org

GAMMA MU FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS
The Gamma Mu Foundation awards $19,000 in individual scholarships to gay men who want to continue their education beyond high school at a college, university, or through a vocational or professional training program. The program supports a wide range of educational options, including vocational and technical training, as well as Associate's, Bachelor's and graduate degrees. For more information, visit gammamufoundation.org
GLTBQ Glossary of Terms

Ally
Any heterosexual person who opposes heterosexism and homophobia and actively supports LGBT individuals and causes.

Asexual
Having no evident sex or sex organs. In usage, may refer to a person who is not sexually active, or not sexually attracted to other people.

Bisexual
A person who has significant romantic, emotional, physical and sexual attractions to members of both sexes. The frequency, intensity, or quality of attraction is not necessarily directed toward both sexes equally.

Biphobia
Fear of bisexuals, often based on stereotypes, including inaccurate associations with infidelity, promiscuity and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases.

Cisgender
A term used to describe those who are not-transgender; having a gender identity or performing in gender roles that society considers appropriate for one’s sex.

Cisgender privilege
Refers to the rights and benefits automatically granted to cisgendered people that are denied to transgender, genderqueer, or gender variant people.

Civil Union
State-Based Relationship recognition for gay and lesbian couples that offers some or all of the state (though none of the federal) rights, protections and responsibilities of marriage

Coming Out
Coming to terms with one’s sexual or gender identity. Can also mean stating openly that one is gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. The term is usually applied to members of the LGBT community, but heterosexual people can experience a similar process of coming to terms with their sexual orientation and/or their identity as an ally.
**Closeted**

Describes a person who is not open about his or her sexual orientation.

**Cross-Dressing**

To occasionally wear clothes traditionally associated with people of the other sex. Cross-dressers are usually comfortable with the sex they were assigned at birth and do not wish to change it. "Cross-dresser" should NOT be used to describe someone who has transitioned to live full-time as the other sex or who intends to do so in the future. Cross-dressing is a form of gender expression and is not necessarily tied to erotic activity.

Cross-dressing is not indicative of sexual orientation.

**Family of Choice**

Persons forming an individual’s social support network and often fulfilling the functions of blood relatives. Many LGBTQ people are rejected when their families learn of their sexual orientation/gender identity or may remain “closeted” to their biological relatives. In such cases it is their partner/significant other, close friends, and often former partners who will be called on in time of illness or personal crisis.

**FTM**

Female-to-male. Indicates a transgender individual who was originally assigned the gender of female at birth, but has claimed a male identity through clothing, surgery, or attitude changes.

**Gay**

A man whose primary romantic, emotional, physical and sexual attractions are to other men. This term can also be used to apply to lesbians, bisexuals, and on some occasions, be used as an umbrella term for all LGBT people.

**Gender Binary System**

A system of oppression that requires everyone to be raised either male or female, and masculine or feminine. Eliminates the possibility for other gender expressions, and gives power to people whose genders do not break gender norms at the expense of transgender and intersex people.

**Gender Expression**

External manifestation of one’s gender identity, usually expressed through "masculine," "feminine" or gender-variant behavior, clothing, haircut, voice or body characteristics. Typically, transgender people seek to make their gender expression match their gender identity, rather than their birth-assigned sex.
Gender Identity
How one thinks of one’s own gender. This conviction is not entirely contingent upon the individual’s biological sex.

Gender Identity Disorder (GID)
A controversial DSM-IV diagnosis given to transgender and other gender-variant people. Because it labels people as “disordered,” Gender Identity Disorder is often considered offensive. The diagnosis is frequently given to children who don’t conform to expected gender norms in terms of dress, play or behavior. Such children are often subjected to intense psychotherapy, behavior modification and/or institutionalization. Replaces the outdated term “gender dysphoria.”

Gender-neutral
Nondiscriminatory language to describe relationships; i.e. “spouse” and “partner” are gender-neutral alternatives to the gender-specific words “husband,” “wife,” “boyfriend” or “girlfriend.”

Gender Non-Conforming
refers to people who do not adhere to society’s rules about dress and activities for people that are based on their sex. A gender non-conforming person may choose to present as neither clearly male, nor clearly female, but rather as a gender-free individual. Some gender non-conformists are transgender, gay, lesbian or bisexual. Others do not identify with any of these categories. Also Known As: Gender-Queer

Genderqueer
A rejection of the gender binary (male/female) in favor of a more fluid, nontraditional identity.

Heterosexism
The system of oppression that reinforces the belief in the inherent superiority of heterosexuality and heterosexual relationships, thereby negating gays’, lesbians’, and bisexuals’ lives and relationships.

Heterosexual
a person who is emotionally, romantically, sexually attracted or committed to members of the opposite sex.

Heterosexual Privilege
The societal assumption and norm that all people are heterosexual. The basic civil rights and social privileges that a heterosexual person automatically receives, that are systematically denied to gay, lesbian, or bisexual persons, simply because of their sexual orientation.

Homophobia
Negative feelings, attitudes, actions
or behaviors towards anyone who is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, or perceived to identify as any of the above.

**Internalized Homophobia**
Fear of same-sex tendencies within oneself which can lead to repression

**Institutionalized Homophobia**
Refers to homophobic laws, policies, and positions taken by social and governmental institutions.

**Homosexuality**
Defines attraction to the same sex, and is one orientation on the continuum from homosexual to bisexual to heterosexual. Many prefer the terms “gay”, “lesbian”, or “bisexual” to describe their identities.

**Intersex**
Describes a person whose biological sex is ambiguous. There are many genetic, hormonal or anatomical variations that make a person’s sex ambiguous (e.g., Klinefelter Syndrome). Parents and medical professionals usually assign intersex infants a sex and perform surgical operations to conform the infant’s body to that assignment. This practice has become increasingly controversial as intersex adults speak out against the practice. The term intersex is not interchangeable with or a synonym for transgender.

**Lambda**
The Gay Activist Alliance originally chose the lambda, the Greek letter “L”, as a symbol in 1970 to signify liberation. The word has become a way of expressing the concept “lesbian and gay” in a minimum of syllables and has been adopted by such organizations as Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

**Lesbian**
A woman whose primary romantic, emotional, physical and sexual attractions are to other women.

**LGBT (also GLBT)**
The acronym for “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender”. The acronym may be expanded to a variation of LGBTIQA to include intersex, questioning, queer-identified people and/or allies.

**MTF**
Male-to-female. Indicates a transgender individual who was originally assigned the gender of male at birth, but has claimed a female identity through clothing, surgery, or attitude changes.

**Openly Gay**
Describes people who self-identify as lesbian or gay in their personal, public and/or professional lives.
Also openly lesbian, openly bisexual, openly transgender.

**Outing**

The act of publicly declaring or revealing another person’s sexual orientation or gender identity without that person’s consent. Considered inappropriate by the LGBT community. For example, in some states it is illegal for an employer to disclose an employee’s transsexual status to a third party without permission.

**Pansexual**

A person who is fluid in sexual orientation and/or gender or sex identity; they can be attracted to another person of any sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Queer**

1) Can be used as an umbrella term to refer to all LGBTIQ people. 2) Can be a political statement, as well as a sexual orientation which advocates breaking binary thinking and seeing sexual orientation and gender identity as fluid. 3) A simple label to explain a complex set of sexual behaviors and desires. For example, a person who is attracted to multiple genders may identify as queer. 4) Originally a synonym for “odd”, this word became a derogatory expression for gays in the 20th Century. Despite this, a movement emerged in the 1980s that called itself queer and now LGBTQ people are re-claiming the term. 5) In academic circles, the term “queer” often refers to the approaches and sensibilities of queer theory.

**Sexual Orientation**

How one thinks of oneself in terms of to whom one is sexually or romantically attracted. Orientation is not dependent on physical experience, but rather on a person’s feelings and attractions.

**Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS)**

Refers to surgical alteration, and is only one small part of transition (see Transition above). Preferred term to “sex change operation.” Not all transgender people choose to or can afford to have SRS. Journalists should avoid overemphasizing the role of SRS in the transition process.

**Transgender**

Used both as an umbrella term and as an identity. Broadly, it refers to those who do not identify or are uncomfortable with their assigned gender and gender roles. As an identity the term refers to anyone who transgresses traditional sex and gender categories.
Penny Lane Centers
15305 Rayen St.
North Hills, CA 91343
Phone: 818-892-3423
www.pennylane.org

EDGY
Embracing the Diversity of GLBTQ Youth & Families