

UNDERSTANDING S.O.G.I.E

(Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression)

THE RAINBOW RIGHTS PROJECT



Sexual Orientation

Gender expression
External manifestations, clothing, mannerisms etc

Gender identity
Homeness to being female or male, how one sees himself or herself

Assigned Sex/Gender
Declared by the doctor / midwife / birthing assistant upon examination of genitals at birth

attracted to
feminine /
androgynous
male / boy / man

Hetero Male



attracted to
feminine /
androgynous
male / boy / man

Gay Man



attracted to
feminine /
androgynous
male / boy / man

Bisexual Man



attracted to
feminine /
androgynous
female / girl / woman

Transwoman



attracted to
feminine /
androgynous
female / girl / woman

Hetero Female



attracted to
feminine /
androgynous
female / girl / woman

Lesbian



attracted to
feminine /
androgynous
female / girl / woman

Bisexual Woman



attracted to
feminine /
androgynous
male / boy / man

Transman



DEFINITIONS

LGBT

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender. Collectively, we refer to the LGBT community.

Bisexual

A man or woman who has an emotional and/or sexual attraction towards more than one gender. (Does not necessarily mean having relationships with men and women at the same time.)

Gender Identity

An individual's personal sense of being a man or a woman (or a boy or a girl).

Lesbian

A woman who has an emotional and/or sexual attraction to other women. As regards her gender identity she is female, and not male. By definition, BOTH women in the lesbian relationship, regardless of their gender expression (or roles), are lesbians (unless there is a claim that there is no attraction, or there is no emotional/sexual relationship).

Transgender

An umbrella term for persons whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. Transgender people may identify as female-to-male or male-to-female. Transgender does not imply any specific form of sexual orientation; and transgender people may be heterosexual, lesbian, gay or bisexual.

Gender Expression

The external manifestation of a person's gender identity as expressed through behavior, clothing, haircut, voice or body characteristics. Gender Expression cannot be the basis for determining a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.*

Gay

A person whose emotional and/or sexual attraction is towards someone of the same sex, although it is commonly used to refer to males. In the same manner, a gay man's gender identity is male not female.

Sexual Orientation

A person's physical, romantic, emotional and/or spiritual attraction to another person.

Third Sex

This term is greatly DISLIKED in the community as it presupposes a hierarchy in gender. If we accept LGBT as the third sex, it implies that the first sex is that of the man's and the second sex is that of the woman's, and that is wrong.



THE RAINBOW RIGHTS PROJECT

#MediaSpeaks: A quick guide on LGBT Rights for Media Reporting



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Disclaimer:

This flyer is a result of discussions, and desktop research conducted by Rainbow Rights Project, Inc. throughout its 10 years of advocacy, with external contributions. It is meant to be an advocacy guide and does not claim to be a complete and comprehensive data source. The support of the US Embassy and FGHR made this flyer possible but this does not necessarily reflect the views of these two organizations.

* Example: persons may cross-dress but it doesn't mean they have changed their gender identities or orientation. A heterosexual woman may dress in a masculine

Gender expression may be affected by conformity to norms, as when a transwoman may opt to wear androgynous clothes and wear her hair short. This



Transgender Sensitivity

The gender identity of a Transwoman is female and the gender identity of a Transman is male. Their sexual orientation is not dependent on their gender identity. Therefore, a person whose assigned sex at birth is female, whose gender identity is male (hence transman) may also be attracted to men which makes HIM a gay transman.

Asking about gender surgery is offensive

A transgender person need not undergo Gender or Sexual Reassignment Surgery (G/SRS) to be a transgender. It is based on his or her personal self-determination. Questions on whether a transman or a transwoman has undergone SRS are irrelevant and very personal. It may be considered offensive, unless among closest of friends.

Addressing transgender people

In addressing transwomen/transmen, it is best to ask how a person wishes to be addressed rather than assume. If a transwoman indicates a feminine name then call her by such name and refer to her using pronouns used for women. Use pronouns used for men for Transmen.

Preferred reference in media

In reporting about transgender people when the person can no longer be asked, it is best to use the name he or she used most recently among his/her closest friends. Many claim that the public, formal or legal name should take precedence. However, it is the belief of the community that in respect to a person's life, if a person's legal

name plays no role in the incident that led to the issue at hand, the transgender person's preferred name should be used to pertain to the person.

Misrepresentations in media

Hate Crimes

In cases where LGBTs are victims of crimes, whether or not it leads to death, it is the belief of the community that if the reason for violence is on the basis of SOGIE, it is a gender-based violence. Similar to how violence against women is reported, fraud by and/or fault of the LGBT person/victim should not be presumed.

Non-SOGIE-related Violence

Similarly, if the violence that happened has nothing to do with the SOGIE of the person, his or her Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Identity need not form part of the headline of the story. Similar for reporting cases that involve Muslim Filipinos: when the person's religion has no bearing in the report, adding this status can only inflame and cause biases that would damage his/her community. It should not be done.

Stop Perpetuating LGBT Myths

As progressive media in other countries have begun to do, it is a dream for the community to have portrayals in media/entertainment that shatter stereotypes/myths about LGBTs, as the more accurate reflection of reality.

LGBT Myths

- There are only a few industries where LGBTs thrive.
- Being LGBT is a disease.
- Being LGBT is contagious.
- Exclusive schools breed being LGBT.
- All gay men are pedophiles.
- All lesbians are violent.
- All bisexuals are automatically sexually promiscuous.
- Being LGBT is something that a person can turn on or off, at will.
- ALL relationships within the LGBT community don't last.

Beyond Appearances

The treatment of a person's gender expression as independent from orientation and identity is very important. In reality, many are discriminated against by the blurring of the perceived and actual SOGIE of a person. Based on stereotypes, many conclusions are made just by observing a person's gender expression.

Don't "out" people, without consent

Needless to say, a person's SOGIE is very personal and is a delicate matter: confidentiality and sensitivity must be employed. As members of media, care must be taken and due diligence must be employed to avoid direct or indirect "outing" or disclosure of a person's SOGIE (actual or perceived).

LGBT Children

Often overlooked are cases of children who at a young age, are "perceived" to be LGBTs. They are entitled to protection as children under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as to their status, expression, and even their sexuality. As children they are exceptionally vulnerable, and extra care must be given to ensure they are not exposed to harm or ridicule.



THE RAINBOW RIGHTS PROJECT

Unit 203 Eagle Court Condominium, #26
Matalino St., Brgy. Central, Quezon City,
PHILIPPINES

(+632)433-0149

rainbowrightshilippines

@RRRightsPH

rainbowrightshilippines@gmail.com

R-Rights is a member of AMARC (World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters) - Asia Pacific, APWLD (Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development), WHRD-IC (Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition), Philwomen on ASEAN, and Alternative Law Groups, Inc. (ALG). It

About

The Rainbow Rights Project (R-Rights), Inc. is an LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) legal organization in the Philippines that provides its services for free to the community. R-Rights is composed of a team of gay and lesbian lawyers and gender activists from diverse fields, who understand the needs and language of the ever-changing LGBT community. Some are teachers, writers, artists, media professionals, financial experts, and business entrepreneurs all contributing to creative (and realistic) mix that enables R-Rights to recognize and highlight successful LGBTs in their own respective areas of specialization, as well as utilize each member's unique talents and skills.

What We Do

Engagements with the Government

- Memorandum of Understanding with the Philippine Commission on Human Rights, 2013
- Gender Sensitivity Trainings for Government Agencies including the Philippine National Police Women's and Children's Protection Center
- Policy Workshops/Consultations with Government Agencies

Collaboration and consultation with academic institutions, women's human rights groups, media-related organizations, and other advocacy groups

Publication of learning resource materials

- Kwentong Bebot: Lived Experiences of Violence and Discrimination Against Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgender Women in the Philippines (Awarded: 2014 Felipa de Souza Award for Courage in Action)
- LGBT Paralegal Manual
- Handbooks:
 - (1) Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity: Access to Justice Through Anti-Discrimination Ordinances - A Handbook on Selected Anti-Discrimination Ordinances on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Rights (2015)
 - (2) Diversity in the Workplace - A Handbook on Creating LGBT-Inclusive Workplaces in the Philippines (2015)
- Infographics:
 - (1) Violence Against Lesbians, Bisexual and Transgender Women (2014)
 - (2) A Study of the Anti-Discrimination Ordinances in Quezon City, Dagupan, Angeles, Davao, Agusan del Norte, and Cebu (2015)
- Rainbow Cards - contains first-aid knowledge on LGBT legal concerns such as but not limited to, criminal, civil, and labor laws
- Human rights and SOGIE-related research

Engagements with the Community and other Advocacy Groups

Rainbow Exchanges and Dyke Dialogues - forums on specialized LGBT topics

- Gender Sensitivity Trainings and Paralegal Training for LGBTs (organized and otherwise)
- LGBT Organizations in Private Corporations
- Regional LGBT Organizations (Davao, CDO, Bacolod, Metro Cebu, Metro Baguio, and Metro Manila)