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Pride flags

There are many pride flags for communities, identities, groups and subcultures under the LGBTIQ+ umbrella. Here are some of the most common and what they stand for.

This information is correct as of when we developed it but is subject to change as language shifts and we increase understanding. In addition, as the term LGBTIQ+ covers a diverse group of people and communities, individuals will have their own interpretations of each flag and its meaning. If you think we need to update document, please email contact@meridianact.org.au.

Flags for LGBTIQ+ communities as a whole



Rainbow pride flag

The traditional rainbow pride flag is recognised worldwide as a symbol of LGBTIQ+ pride, visibility, solidarity and liberation. Although the original flag had 8 stripes, it was simplified down to 6 in 1979. The colours reflect the diversity of the LGBTIQ+ community and the diversity of human sexuality and gender.

There is also the **Philadelphia Pride Flag**, which updated the iconic rainbow banner to represent people of colour through the inclusion of black and brown stripes.



Progress pride flag

This design builds upon the rainbow pride flag by representing marginalised groups within LGBTIQ+ communities to emphasise inclusion and acknowledge that those communities face disproportionate harm. The additional elements are in the shape of an arrow pointing forward to represent inclusive progress into the future.

- > Black and brown represent LGBTIQ+ communities of colour.
- > The black also represents people impacted by HIV.
- > Pink, light blue and white represent the trans and gender-diverse community.

A version developed in 2021 integrates the intersex yellow with purple circle into the chevron.

Flags related to attraction



Lesbian pride flag

Various flags are used to represent lesbians, but one of the most common is sometimes called the 'sunset' flag. The colours represent inclusive gender expressions and aspects of being a lesbian, including independence, community, love, sex, femininity and unique relationships lesbians have to womanhood.

Lesbian definition: A woman or feminine non-binary or gender-diverse person who is sexually and/or romantically attracted to only or primarily women.



Gay men's pride flag

Various flags are used to represent gay men, but one of the most common features:

- > turquoise and green colours representing community, healing and joy
- > white for people who are gender-diverse or or who have innate variations in sex characteristics
- > blue through purple representing pure love, strength and diversity.

Gay definition: A man or masculine non-binary or gender-diverse person who is sexually and/or romantically attracted to only or primarily men. However, the term has been embraced by a large portion of the community and many people use it to describe their sexuality.



Bisexual pride flag

The combination of pink and blue into a merged purple stripe represents attractions to both the same and different genders to a person's own. This flag was developed to address the erasure or dismissal of bisexuality.

Bisexual definition: A person who feels physical, sexual, emotional and/or romantic attraction towards people of both the same and different genders to their own. They may not necessarily feel attracted to more than one gender at the same time, to the same degree or in the same way.



Pansexual pride flag

The pink and blue colours represent sexual, emotional and/or romantic attraction, regardless of sex or gender, and the yellow portion in between is for non-binary attraction, such as to androgynous, agender and gender-fluid people.

Pansexual definition: A person who feels physical, sexual, emotional and/or romantic attraction towards people people regardless of their sex, gender identity or expression.



Asexual pride flag

The colours represent the different forms of asexuality that people experience.

- > Black represents asexuality.
- > Gray represents greysexuality and demisexuality.
- > White represents allosexuality or allies.
- > Purple represents the community as a whole.

Asexual definition: A sexual orientation or an umbrella term that describes people who experience no or low sexual attraction to others. People may experience this lack of attraction to different degrees. Asexual people can still choose to have relationships that are sexual or otherwise.

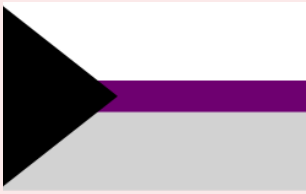


Aromantic pride flag

The shades of green represent aromanticism because, on the colour wheel, green is the opposite of red, the colour most commonly associated with love and romance.

Aromantic definition: An aromantic person is someone who experiences little or no romantic attraction to other people. People may experience this lack of attraction to different degrees. Aromantic people can still choose to have relationships that are romantic or otherwise.





Demisexual pride flag

This flag uses the same colour scheme as the asexual pride flag but with a distinct design for demisexual people.

Demisexual definition: People who tend not to experience sexual attraction immediately but rather only after a strong emotional bond forms. The amount of time that a demisexual person needs to know another person before developing sexual attraction towards them varies from person to person.

Flags related to gender



Transgender pride flag

This flag was designed so the pattern looks 'correct' no matter how it's flown: a deliberate message that trans lives and identities are valid in every direction. The baby blue and soft pink represent masculinity and femininity respectively, while the white represents people whose gender is undefined or who are transitioning.

Transgender (trans) definition: An umbrella term for people whose gender differs from the expectations placed on the sex they were assigned at birth. This includes binary trans people (trans men and trans women) and non-binary trans people.



Non-binary pride flag

The stripes symbolise different ways people can express their gender:

- > Yellow represents people outside the gender binary
- > White represents people with multiple genders
- > Purple represents people who identify as a blend of male and female
- > Black represents agender people.

Non-binary definition: An umbrella term describing people who feel that the rigid division between masculinity and femininity does not fit their gender identity. It encompasses a range of other terms people may use for their gender, such as genderqueer, bi-gender, agender or genderfluid.



Gender-queer pride flag

This flag provides a clear, recognisable symbol for identities that challenge or exist outside conventional gender norms.

- > As a mixture of blue and pink (traditionally associated with masculinity and femininity), lavender represents androgyny, as well as queerness.
- > White represents agender people
- > Chartreuse is the inverse of lavender and represents those whose identities are defined outside of, and without reference to, the binary.

Gender-queer definition: Someone whose gender identity doesn't fit the usual ideas about gender and can't be neatly categorised within traditional definitions.





Gender-fluid pride flag

This flag represents the wide variety of genders and how they can change. The pink and blue represent femininity and masculinity respectively, while the purple (as a mixture of the two) represents both femininity and masculinity. This is accompanied by black denoting a lack of gender and white representing all genders.

Gender-fluid definition: Someone whose gender identity changes over time. They be any gender or combination of genders at any given time, and this can vary in response to different circumstances or at random.

Flags related to sex characteristics



Intersex pride flag

The yellow and purple were chosen to avoid traditional gender coding, and the unbroken circle represents wholeness, completeness and bodily autonomy.

Intersex definition: An umbrella term that describes the ways people can have innate variations of sex characteristics (such as genitals, gonads, chromosomes, and/or hormones) that are not commonly regarded as unambiguously 'male' or 'female'. Some variations might be observed from birth or during puberty; some might not be detected until later in life or at all.

Flags for subcultures



Leather pride flag

The leather pride flag indicates a preference for kink. Although used mostly by gay men, it has become a unifying symbol for members of the leather, BDSM, and fetish communities irrespective of sexual orientation.

Leather subculture definition: This subculture is somewhat hard to define as it encompasses a wide variety of activities. In general, they all involve 2 things: leather and sex, although in modern times it's also used for BDSM (which doesn't necessarily include leather) or people who really like wearing leather clothing (but not necessarily for a sexual purpose).



International Bear Brotherhood flag

This flag was designed to represent the bear subculture within the LGBTIQ+ community. The colors of the flag symbolise the colours of bear fur found on animals throughout the world.

Bear definition: Bears are typically gay or bisexual men with a larger build and significant body hair. Bear culture encompasses the values of body positivity, genuine connection and inclusive community building that welcomes diverse expressions of authentic, 'down to earth' masculinity.

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