

What separates the T from the L and G

	Trans Women and Trans Men	Lesbians and Gay Men
Who are we	<p>Someone who changes or wants to change his or her gender presentation. Someone whose chosen “gender identity” is the opposite of their biological sex.</p> <p>Many male transgender people (“trans women”) are heterosexual men who do not undergo sex reassignment surgery. When they have sex with women, it remains heterosexual sex because of the male’s intact penis and his original, unchanged sexual and romantic desire for women.</p> <p>Many female transgender people were lesbians, but strongly identify with masculine gender stereotypes and believe that they will have heterosexual relationships with women once they undergo gender transition.</p>	<p>Someone who is sexually or romantically attracted to someone of the same biological sex. A lesbian has exclusive sexual and romantic desire for women; a gay man has exclusive sexual and romantic desire for men.</p>
External perception	<p>Requires external perception by others for the presented gender to be validated. Without agreement by external observers of the presented gender (i.e., the public also agrees that a male who believes he is a woman <i>is</i> a woman), the person remains a cross-dressing male.</p> <p>Because of this reliance on external perception, proper “gendering” by others is crucial to trans people. “Misgendering” by others is considered a horrible experience and the external observer roundly criticized. However, “misgendering” of a trans person means that the biological sex of that person is correctly identified by an external observer. Which in turn threatens the “gender identity” of that trans* person.</p> <p>Crossing the boundaries of gender norms is a requirement for a transgendered person to be transgendered.</p>	<p>Individuals who are sexually or romantically attracted to someone with the same biological sex are factually homosexual (gay or lesbian). The external perception from others does not affect this one way or the other; thousands of years of history attest to this. Many people who were thought to be heterosexual were in fact homosexual and vice versa. Homosexuality does not have to be externally validated to be a fact.</p> <p>“Misgendering” typically happens to butch lesbians. But in this case, external observers incorrectly identified the biological sex of the lesbian. This is because she does not conform to stereotypes and while this may be upsetting to that lesbian, it does not mean that she is not actually a lesbian.</p>

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Medical and psychological intervention	<p>Often involves a psychological and/or medical diagnosis, artificial hormone treatments, surgery and other medical intervention for the duration of the time someone wants to present as the opposite sex.</p> <p>The idea that it is possible and desirable to change one's biological sex is the core argument of the transgender movement. In this way, individuals' bodies are seen as "wrong" (i.e., it is possible for someone to be "born in the wrong body") and in need of extensive intervention.</p> <p>Psychological distress is seen as a normal personal reaction to being in the "wrong" body and psychological and medical intervention is seen as an imperative. However, that intervention must come in the form of agreement with the idea of the "wrong" body and a method for creating the "correct" body.</p>	<p>Homosexual people do not require medical diagnosis or treatment solely for being homosexual. The idea that a lesbian or gay man should be converted to heterosexual is offensive. And the belief that it is possible to "cure" a person of homosexuality has been completely debunked.</p> <p>Psychological distress is seen as arising from the social and cultural environment; thus the movement seeks to change social and cultural attitudes while leaving each individual alone. The most healthy response for a gay or lesbian individual is to accept themselves and live their lives as gay or lesbian.</p>
Stereotypes	<p>Because this status is dependent on external perception by others, stereotypes of gender (e.g., girls like pink and dresses, boys like blue and violence) are important to the presentation, explanations, arguments, and activities of trans* people.</p> <p>Many trans* support forums and websites are dedicated to "passing" as the opposite sex (i.e., upholding gender stereotypes);</p> <p>Promulgating the concept of "brain sex" -- the idea that every human has an innate, brain-based gender that is or should be expressed through gender stereotypical dress and behavior (to prove that one is the opposite sex of that which they were born as).</p>	<p>Many gay men and lesbians are gender non-conforming (e.g., butch lesbians, feminine gay men), many are androgynous, and many appear typical for their gender. There is no one accepted standard for behavior, dress, "presentation," or other externally-observed phenomena for gay men or lesbians.</p>

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Children	<p>There is a significant, well-funded movement to identify children as young as infancy as “transgendered.” As part of this movement, activists are encouraging parents to put their gender non-conforming children on puberty-blocking artificial hormones. This is in keeping with the idea that people are born with an innate gender that can be determined when a child performs the stereotypical dress or behavior of the opposite sex. Significantly, the message to children is that there is something wrong with their bodies that must be radically changed.</p> <p>Using children in this way legitimizes the idea that gender is innate, so no matter when one decides to transition, it is for the same reason and claiming children can be transgendered proves that the reason is legitimate.</p>	<p>The movement for equal rights for gay and lesbian people works to ensure that children who identify as gay or lesbian also have full rights, as well as safety from bullying. However, the movement does not make any attempt to recruit young children into the movement or otherwise encourage children to becoming gay or lesbian.</p>
Political and legislative implications	<p>The movement for transgender rights has worked to develop legislation that positions “gender identity” as a protected legal class that overrides Sex as a protected legal class and prioritizes a single individual’s “gender identity” over any other person’s physical and legal Sex. What this means is that girls and women do not have the right to sex-segregated spaces such as dorms, locker rooms, and bathrooms. Additionally, some legislation is intentionally conflating “gender identity” with sexual orientation, which muddies the differentiation of interests that the gay and lesbian movement has worked hard to make clear.</p>	<p>The movement for gay and lesbian equal rights does not impact the political position in society or relative legal status of any other group or of individuals.</p>

Source: <http://liberationcollective.wordpress.com/2013/07/31/theres-no-t-in-lesbian/>