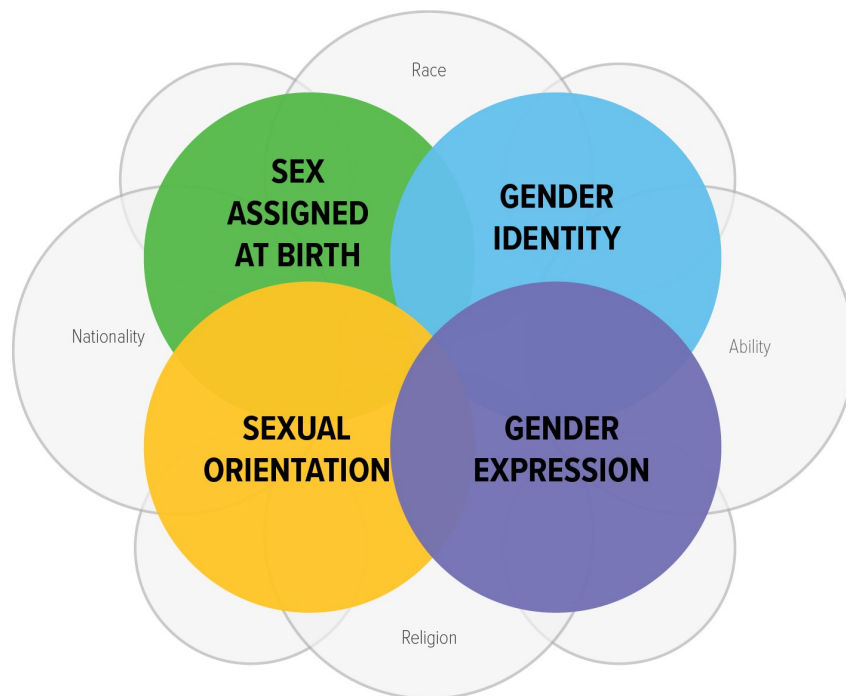




LGBTQ Identities—How Do We Talk About Them?

When referencing the LGBTQ community, it is often specifically about a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex assigned at birth, and/or some combination of those. However, there are many other facets that make up human diversity, including race, religion, nation of origin, ability, and so much more. Each of these different components of who we are impact one another, and more importantly, impact how we experience the world and the systems we live within. This is at the very core of an important theoretical concept called Intersectionality, a coin term by Kimberlé Crenshaw, a Black lesbian feminist legal scholar, in 1989.*



Sex Assigned at Birth: Biological and physiological characteristics that define human beings, including internal/external reproductive organs, hormones, and chromosomes.

Gender Identity: A person’s internal perception of their gender, and how they label themselves as man, woman, or something else. This language is based on how strongly they identify with the options for gender related to their culture.

Sexual Orientation: The type of sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction one feels for others. This is often described based on a person’s own identified gender and the gender(s) they are or are not attracted to.

Gender Expression: Our external display of gender, through a combination of dress, demeanor, social behavior, and other factors.

*Crenshaw, Kimberle (1989). *Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics*. *The University of Chicago Legal Forum* 140:139-167.

