



**LGB ALLIANCE**

**DON'T**

**CALL**

**ME**

**QUEER**

A survey of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals  
about language and its impacts...

## **LGB Alliance exists to tackle the discrimination faced by lesbians, gay men and bisexuals and to support and uplift same-sex attracted people to live happy and fulfilled lives.**

It was formed, in large part, because the organisations that were once entirely focused on the needs of same-sex attracted people broadened their remit to include people who describe themselves as 'trans' or 'queer' or who claim another of the many identities that fall under the '+' symbol.

We believe that LGB people have specific needs – distinct from those who may describe themselves as TQ+ – and that we deserve specific representation.

LGB Alliance agree it is laudable to seek to support all marginalised people and it is right that every individual is able to look to a charity or dedicated support organisation to ensure that they are treated fairly and so are able to live their lives with equity, dignity and respect. But it is inevitable that an attempt to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse group under a single umbrella serves all of its subjects poorly.

## **TALKING FROM BOTH SIDES OF THEIR MOUTH**

It is standard practice for the government, broadcasters and businesses to employ the aggregate or umbrella term, LGBTQ+, and to assume that lesbians, gay men and bisexuals feel included and supported as a result.

Many of those organisations use 'Queer' as a shorthand and they do so at the behest of the UK's largest and most influential gender lobby groups.

Our survey was commissioned in response to concerns from LGB people who suggested that the needs and rights of same-sex attracted people are negatively impacted by the use of 'Queer' and LGBTQ+ because the gender-identity ideology they represent is inherently homophobic.

They asked:

*How can LGBTQ+ organisations support a lesbian who wants her social event to be women-only, AND a male person who identifies as a woman and insists he must be allowed to attend.*

*How can LGBTQ+ organisations argue that children should not be bullied for being gender non-conforming, AND suggest that boys who play with dolls may really be girls and should be given drugs, and even surgery, to resemble the opposite sex.*

*How can LGBTQ+ organisations argue that homosexuality is valid AND that a gay man who will not consider a relationship with a female, who identifies as male, is a bigot.*

In practice, the organisations which advise our schools and universities, the NHS, our police forces, broadcasters, local authorities, businesses and even the judiciary cannot meet the needs of all of those they purport to support – their objectives are sometimes in direct opposition to each other – and they, instead, prioritise their TQ+ constituents at the direct expense of LGB people.

## **TIME FOR CHANGE**

LGB Alliance would argue that our rights as same-sex attracted people, which have been hard-won over decades, represent a desire to be treated equally in society.

TQ+ lobbyists, instead, seek the reordering of society to erase the notion of sex in a way that also erases homosexuality, as a distinct class, and so disadvantages same-sex attracted people.

We call on the government, broadcasters, national institutions, charities, businesses and academia to de-couple same-sex attracted people from the gender-identity ideology, that has homophobia at its core, by ending their use of LGBTQ+.

There is a recent precedent.

The Inclusive Britain report published 31 March 2021 found that aggregate terms like BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) were no longer helpful and took no account of the differing needs and outcomes of those included under that umbrella, and should be dropped.

The findings of the report were adopted, and BAME is no longer used in government.

Now it's right that LGBTQ+ be abandoned too.

## **HOW TO TAKE ACTION**

Join us in urging the Government Equalities Office to split the LGB from the TQ+. Take a look at the survey responses at the end of this leaflet to see why others agree with you – that it's time for change.

- Write to: The Minister for Women and Equalities, Kemi Badenoch MP, House of Commons, SW1A 0AA
- Write to your own MP
- Share your letters with us to promote on our website
- Look out for our campaign on social media
- Speak up for LGB people whenever you can

## SURVEY METHODS

**Sample:** On 4th May 2023, a link to a Google Form survey was emailed to 7,021 LGB Alliance supporters. These were individuals who subscribed to the LGB Alliance newsletter, had attended one or more LGB Alliance events or who had made donations to the charity.

2,133 responses were received. This response rate of 30% is reasonable for a survey of this type.

**Questionnaire and screening:** The landing page explained the survey was for lesbian, gay and bisexual supporters of LGB Alliance. The aims were described as, 'to help us understand the attitudes that LGB Alliance supporters have around common terms used to categorise LGB people. The findings of this survey will help us advocate more effectively for the needs of LGB people.' It was explained that the survey would be kept confidential in accordance with GDPR, and that their personal information is protected by law. A contact email was provided for those who wanted more information.

The first two questions were screening questions. Non-supporters were screened out at Q1: 'This survey is for LGB supporters of LGB Alliance. Before we start the survey, can you confirm you are a supporter of LGB Alliance?' Those who indicated they were not a supporter, didn't know, or preferred not to say were screened out. A scan of responses to the open-ended questions suggested there were a tiny number of individuals who appeared to be detractors rather than supporters of LGB Alliance who continued with the survey. All those who answered 'yes' at Q1 were included in the analysis as they would not have altered the results due to their very small numbers.

Q2 screened out those who were supporters of LGB Alliance but who were non-LGB. This left a final usable sample of 1,709 LGB supporters of LGB Alliance.

**Analysis:** Data was analysed using SPSS descriptive and cross-tabulation analysis. Open ended responses were not coded or analysed but (anonymous) transcripts of responses were provided.

In this report, where results do not sum to 100%, this may be due to multiple responses, software rounding, and the exclusion of don't knows/ not stated/ other.

**Generalisability:** It is important to note that these findings represent the views of LGB Alliance LGB supporters, they are not generalisable to the LGB population in the UK as a whole.

## Online survey with lesbian, gay and bisexual supporters of LGB Alliance

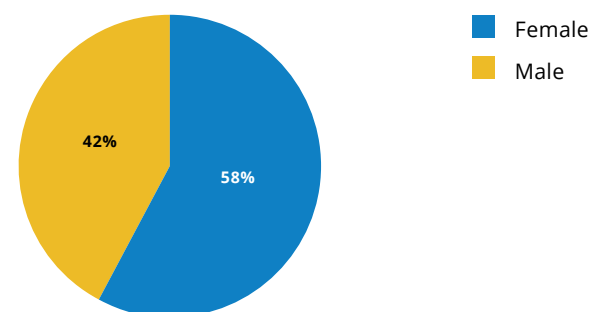
May 2023

### KEY FINDINGS

#### Sexual orientation and sex

##### Q: What is your sex?

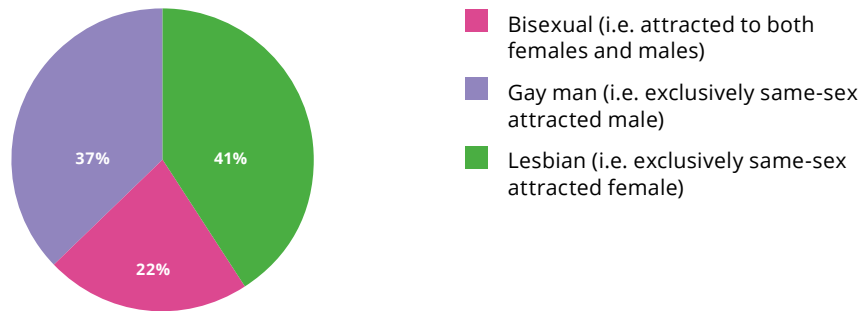
Figure 1



**Figure 1** shows that more women than men participated in the survey. Around three in five (58%) respondents were women. This reflects previous LGB Alliance supporter research which has shown similar male to female ratios.

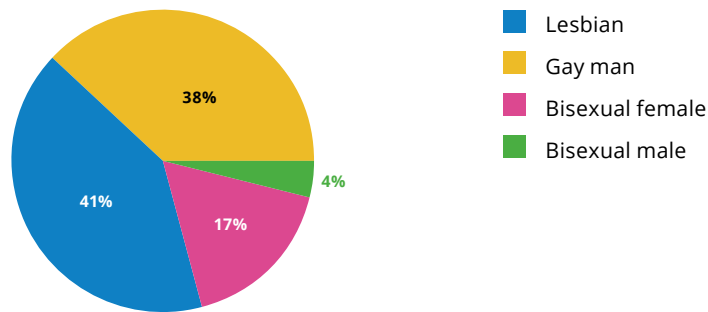
**Q: Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?**

Figure 2



Turning to sexual orientation (**Figure 2**), lesbians comprise the largest group of respondents (two in five, 41%). The next largest category are gay men who made up one in three (37%). Of the total, 22% are bisexual. Again, this reflects previous LGB Alliance supporter research which showed broadly similar sexual orientation ratios.

Figure 3

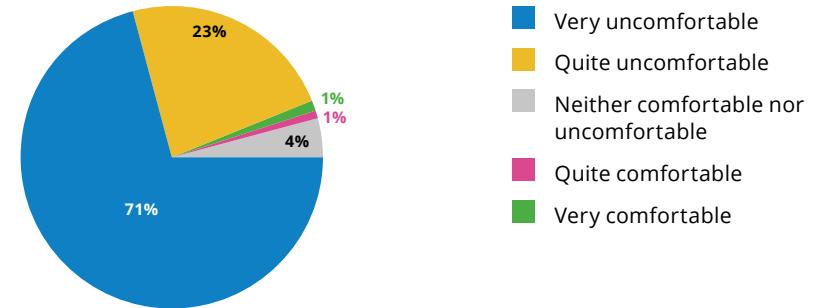


Examining sexual orientation by sex (**Figure 3**), we can see there are more bisexual female respondents (17% of the full sample, 81% of bisexuals surveyed) than bisexual males. Only 19% of bisexuals sampled are male (4% of the full sample).

**Comfort being categorised under the LGBTQ+ umbrella**

**Q: As a lesbian, gay or bisexual person, to what extent do you feel comfortable being categorised under the LGBTQ+ umbrella?**

Figure 4



**Figure 4** shows that nearly all LGB supporters of LGB Alliance – 94% – feel either quite or very uncomfortable being categorised under the LGBTQ+ umbrella. Only 2% feel very or quite comfortable. It reveals that most of those who are uncomfortable feel ‘very’ uncomfortable, with 7 in 10 (71%) feeling this way. Around a quarter (23%) feel ‘quite’ uncomfortable. Only 1% of the entire sample feel ‘very’ comfortable being categorised under the LGBTQ+ umbrella.

**Q: As a lesbian, gay or bisexual person, to what extent do you feel comfortable being categorised under the LGBTQ+ umbrella?**

Figure 5

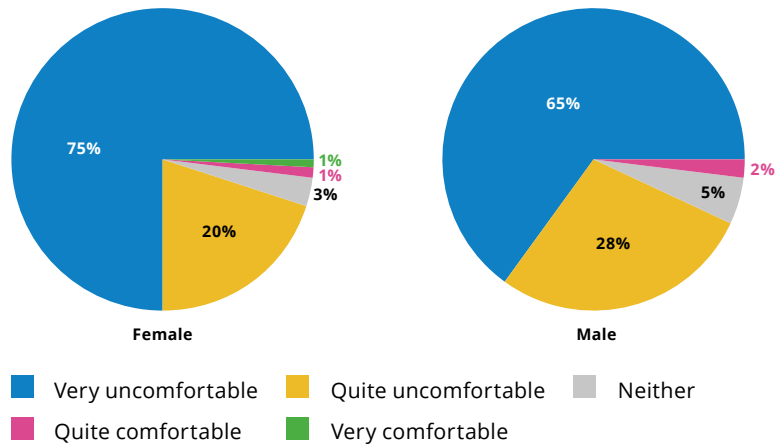
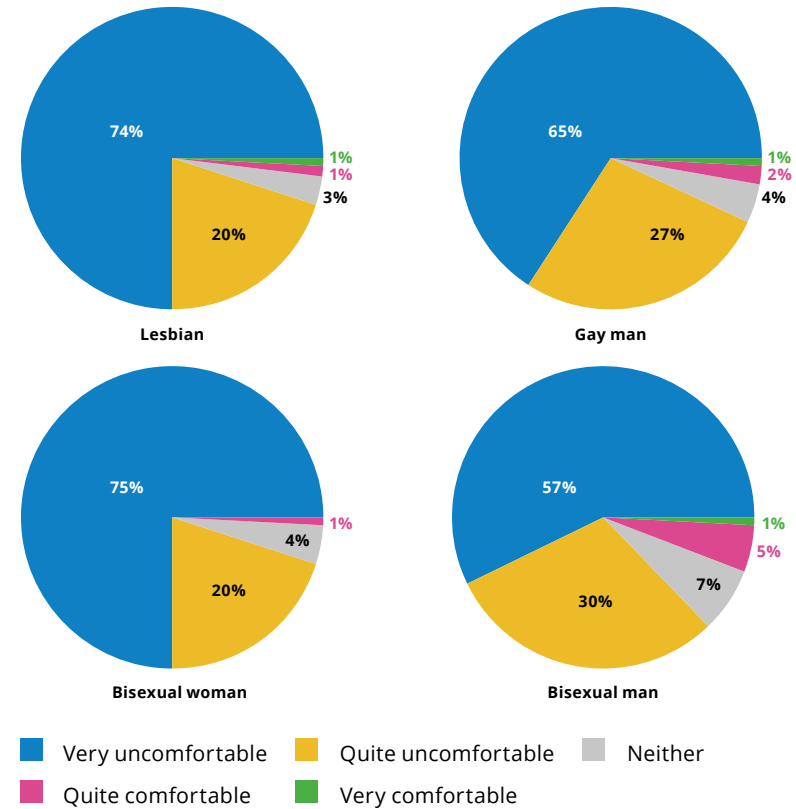


Figure 5 shows that more women (75%) than men (65%) feel very uncomfortable being categorised under the LGBTQ+ umbrella.

However, when 'very and 'quite' uncomfortable are combined, male (93%) and female (95%) LGBT supporters show similarly high levels of discomfort.

Figure 6

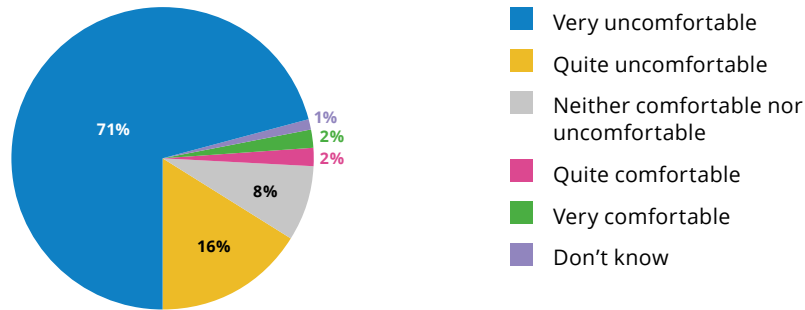


These sex differences are reflected in patterns across sexual orientations (Figure 6), with lesbians and bisexual women who support LGB Alliance more likely than gay men or bisexual men to feel uncomfortable being categorised under the LGBTQ+ umbrella. On the whole, there are few differences between lesbians, gay men, and bisexual women: 95%, 92%, and 95% respectively are 'very' or 'quite' uncomfortable. Gay men are more likely than lesbians or bisexual women to be 'quite' rather than 'very' uncomfortable. Bisexual men overall are slightly less likely to be very uncomfortable (57%) than other groups, but still their overall discomfort is high (87% very or quite uncomfortable).

**Comfort being categorised as 'queer'**

**Q: As an LGB person, to what extent do you feel comfortable being categorised as 'queer'?**

Figure 7

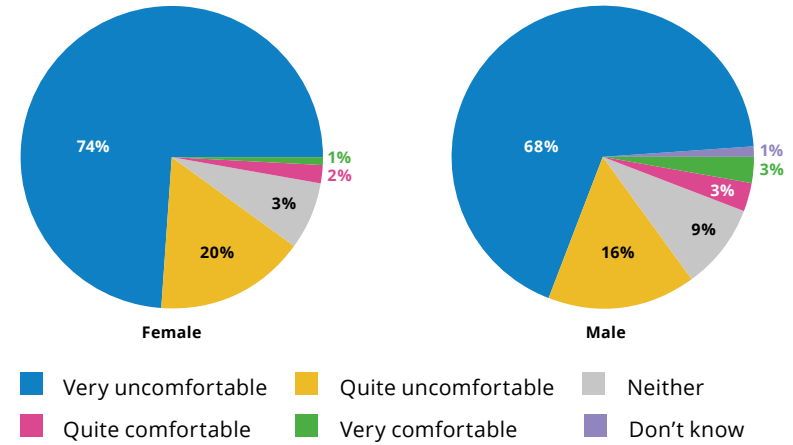


Most respondents (87%) feel either quite or very uncomfortable being categorised as 'queer' (**Figure 7**). This is slightly fewer than those who are uncomfortable with being categorised under the LGBTQ+ umbrella (94%, Figure 4).

Looking at the split between those who feel 'quite' uncomfortable and those who feel 'very' uncomfortable, most (7 in 10) respondents feel 'very' uncomfortable being categorised as 'queer'. A further 16% feel 'quite' uncomfortable.

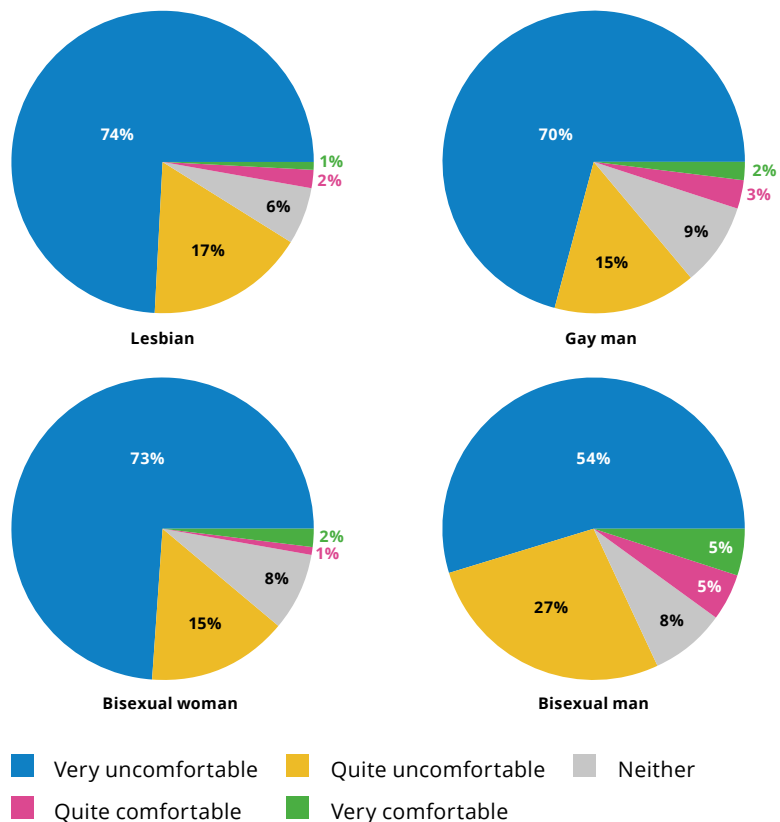
A small percentage (13%) either feel indifferent (neither comfortable nor uncomfortable), or comfortable with being categorised as queer – 8% feel neither comfortable nor uncomfortable, and 4% feel either quite or very comfortable.

Figure 8



**Figure 8** suggests that, again, female respondents are slightly more likely to feel uncomfortable with the word 'queer' than male respondents, with 74% of women feeling very uncomfortable versus 68% men.

Figure 9



These sex differences are also reflected in the patterns among different sexual orientations (**Figure 9**). Although most bisexual male respondents are uncomfortable –81% feel either quite or very uncomfortable – they are less likely than other groups to feel very uncomfortable being categorised as queer. While over half (54%) of bisexual male respondents feel very uncomfortable, almost three quarters (74%) of lesbian respondents do so. Gay men and bisexual women are also more likely to say they feel very uncomfortable, at 70% and 73% respectively.

## WHY DO LESBIANS, GAY MEN AND BISEXUALS FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE LGBTQ+ UMBRELLA

This is a small selection of responses to the open-ended questions we received.

- LGB are sexualities. T is about gender. They're different and sometimes have needs that are mutually exclusive which creates internal conflict. Therefore groups that include all LGBTQ+ can't advocate for some of the letters included in there. Indeed the T voices seem to now drown out the rest. As a lesbian I feel marginalised and like I don't belong in a community that used to be very important to me. I feel ostracised and isolated.
- What does the plus stand for? Pretending I am a dog if I wish to? It's ridiculous.
- Am not trans.
- Because as a woman who is in a marriage to another woman I feel that I am now lost. My needs and voice drowned out by an increasingly loud and unrepresentative group of trans people and people hitching their wagon to the trailer I've been driving for years. My voice is lost. Bi women and lesbians are lost.
- Erasing my identity.
- Feel no longer represented.
- I associate the TQ+ with the current climate of gender ideology. Which I experience as being authoritarian and aggressively enforced. I've got nothing against trans people and have friends that are trans.
- I don't feel represented by LGBTQ+ orgs or staff networks.
- I feel that lesbians are being marginalised by the LGBTQ+ groups and in many ways we have become invisible. I have spent my life campaigning for gay rights and am saddened that we no longer seem to have a voice.
- I fully support trans and other TQI people in their fight for recognition and equality. But I believe TQI issues are essentially different from those of LGB people. Merging the two confuses the picture.
- I still believe that LGB folk have still to fight for equality and recognition. The umbrella subsumes us and the movement seems to now be totally focused on the TQI community. I support their rights, but their fight is different from mine. It feels like they jumped on our coattails but somehow managed to grab the steering wheel.
- It negatively impacts on my rights as a gay man.
- It's becoming a meaningless & much ridiculed string of and... and.... and.

- As a gay man I have nothing in common with trans or queer people. Don't agree with the alphabet soup situation.
- Dilution of LGB rights.
- I am frightened to speak as I find many of the woke brigade exceedingly touchy and aggressive. I long for an atmosphere of quiet, intelligent discussion.
- I don't want to be associated with a lot of the things the TQ+ folk are doing.
- I fundamentally do not accept the ideology on which the modern trans identity is based. Sex matters. Science matters. Too many of those who include themselves in LGBTQ etc. aggressively refuse to accept lesbians as women attracted to other (biological) women. I find that illogical but also threatening. I no longer feel safe being herded together with people who, yet again, do not accept me. It is retrogressive.
- Q+ has been hijacked by people who are likely heterosexual but want to be seen as 'different'.
- Today it seems more of a political identity than a neutral description. I'm not at ease with some of what this political brand represents.
- Because we are being force teamed with people who are against us and who are threatening our progress.
- I believe in science, truth, honesty, authenticity, free speech and supporting women and the LGBTQ+ umbrella is now standing for delusion, pseudo science, deception, criminalizing speech, and codifying and promoting deep misogyny.

### **WHY DO LESBIANS, GAY MEN AND BISEXUALS FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE TERM 'QUEER'?**

- As a lesbian I do not use the word "queer" to describe myself or identify my sexual orientation: I am same-sex attracted, not same-gender attracted. I do not consider that I have a 'gender identity' but I am gender non-conforming. I am happy to fight to protect and defend the human rights of all people including trans people but I do not wish to be subsumed into a cult of 'gender identity' which I find oppressive and retrogressive in terms of reinforcing sexist gender stereotypes.
- Aside from LGB people being categorised with the transgender community under the same collective term, on a personal level as a gay man who has experienced discrimination, certain terms which have in recent years been increasingly used such as "queer" makes me uncomfortable as this term in my school years (only

ten years ago) was used in a derogative term and manner. As someone that is in their mid twenties and a masculine gay man, many of the people that subscribe to the "Q+" terminology are not accepting of gay men like me.

- Because I am not queer I am a lesbian and I am not non binary I am butch.
- Because the queer movement doesn't represent me, I think they are doing more harm than good.
- For a start I've always disliked the term 'Queer'. Almost as bad as 'Poof'. Trans, Intersex, Non Binary, Polyamorous, Gender Fluid, etc., etc. are not a 'problem' for me but they need set up their own agenda, support, charities etc. They are not LGB. Simple. They need to stop invading our spaces and charities.
- Homosexuality has very little to do with transgender, so it is not clear what the connection is, other than one of solidarity. I still don't know what a "Queer" or a "+" is or why I should support them.
- I am uncomfortable with the term queer community and this is used extensively in my work place. I also feel that the LGBTQ+ often centre the TQ more than the LGB.
- I am very concerned about being lumped in with Q and + people - who are they? I am happy to link with T brothers and sisters, but worried about being lumped in with "gender-fluid" and "non-binary" folks.
- I do not agree with the Q letter being used and do not accept there is such a thing as multiple genders.
- I do not believe that Gender is fluid. Gay Men and Lesbians have fought hard for recognition of same-sex rights and these need to be protected. Queer theory undermines the stability of this category.
- I do NOT like being referred to as Queer and resent this being forced on me, and the trans group is so broad that some trans people are hostile and overtly homo and bi phobic.
- TQ+ is very different from LGB. The word "queer" has come to have almost no meaning in terms of sexual or gender identity, and I find it degrading. My sex is female and sexual orientation is lesbian, these are clearly defined terms with no ambiguity, and I am proud of them. I don't feel any allegiance with trans or "queer" people.
- I have absolute love & support to those under the rainbow and I'm happy to love & support all but as a gay man I relate to LGB. That is what I identify as & that is the group I believe I should be identified with.



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