

Primer of Definitions

Meaning of the Words Transsexual, Transwoman, Transman and Transgender:

Many times there exists confusion between the definitions of Transsexual and Transgender. Below are some basic definitions to assist.

A **transsexual** is a person whose inherent sex is opposite to their birth assigned sex [Gender Identity]. Transsexuals typically live full time in their inherent sex and may alter their physical appearance either by hormone replacement therapy [HRT] or Genital Reassignment Surgery [GRS]. Transsexuals can be either female to male (FtM) or male to female (MtF). Given the significant expense and/or Medical Trauma, many transsexuals opt not to have GRS. These transsexuals are referred to as pre or non operative transsexuals. Those having GRS are referred to as post operative transsexuals. Transsexuality, or gender identity, does not define ones sexual orientation.

A **transwoman [MtF]** is a transsexual whose birth assigned sex is male, though inherent ["adopted"] sex is female. She presents and may live full time typically with legal documentation in her inherent female sex. She may or may not have had Genital Reassignment Surgery.

A **transman [FtM]** is a transsexual whose birth assigned sex is female, though inherent ["adopted"] sex is male. He presents and may live full time typically with legal documentation in his inherent male sex. He may or may not have had Genital Reassignment Surgery.

A **transgender** person is one that crosses gender boundaries or a man or woman that periodically adopts the attributes of the opposite sex. Transgender typically refers to ones gender expression, whereas Transsexual typically refers to ones gender [sexual] identity. The sexual preference of a transgender person often varies. Transgender is usually used as an umbrella term and can encompass heterosexuals, homosexuals, transsexuals, transvestites, drag kings and drag queens for example.
