



you are attracted to is not necessarily determined by who you are (your sex/gender identity or expression).

For all of us, it is the implication that male and female, masculine and feminine, are not the only choices available to us, and that sex/gender and gender expression are far more diverse than we are used to thinking.

Some basic definitions, courtesy International Foundation of Gender Education and others:

**Biological Sex or Biological Gender:** categorization as male, female, or other based on the shape of genitalia or other biological features (chromosomes, hormones, secondary sex characteristics)

**Assigned Sex or Assigned Gender:** sex recorded at birth, usually on the basis of external genitalia, usually M or F; surgery is sometimes performed in order to make an infant's body conform to the assigned sex (see Intersex)

**Intersex:** biological sex not immediately identifiable as "male" or "female," may have combination of genitalia (penis and ovaries), lack "corresponding" organs (penis but no testes, ovaries but no vagina), or have genitals cosmetically out of the norm (enlarged clitoris). Surgery is sometimes/often performed in order to make an infant's body conform to an assigned sex, male or female

**Sexual Identity:** self-identification as male, female, intersex, or other

**Gender Identity:** self-identification as man, woman, both, neither, multi-gendered or other; masculine, feminine, androgynous, or other; social or cultural category as opposed to biological

**Gender Expression:** behavior, including appearance, through which gender identity is communicated to others

**Transsexual (TS):**

**FTM**—female-to-male, transsexual man (assigned female at birth)

**MTF**—male-to-female, transsexual woman (assigned male at birth)

person who feels their biological or assigned sex and their sexual identity are not in agreement; may choose gender expressions congruent with self-defined sexual and gender identity, may or may not choose (or have access to) medical intervention (hormones, surgery) to bring body into closer alignment with sexual identity

**Transgender (TG):** umbrella term for persons who challenge rigid, socially constructed concepts of sex and gender identity and/or expression; can include: cross-dressers, transsexuals, drag queens and kings, bigenders, intersexuals, androgynes, gender benders, and many more

**Crossdresser:** person who, some portion of the time, dresses in clothing traditionally of the opposite sex, but is satisfied with biological and/or assigned sex/gender and sex/gender identity (often self-identified heterosexual men)

**Bigender:** person whose self-defined sex/gender identity is both man and woman; may choose gender expressions of either or both

**Two-Spirit:** one of many native American terms for persons who were transsexual, transgendered, bigendered, or non-heterosexual (all of which are modern terms that post-date the original native concept...)

**Sexual Orientation:** categorization based on the sex or gender of the persons one is erotically attracted to; heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, omnisexual, pansexual, asexual

**Sex:** (not to be confused with biological sex/gender) a variety of behaviors or activities in which one or more people engage in (most often) for sexual pleasure



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• **Questioning & Coming Out Support Group**  
for lesbian, gay, bi, trans, and questioning adults 23 and up!  
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Peace & Justice Center, 21 Church St., Burlington

The group is open, ongoing, free-of-charge and co-facilitated by supportive health professionals and peers.

• **R.U.1.2? Community Potluck**  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 6-8PM  
R.U.1.2? Office, 1 Steele St. Suite 113 (Wing Building)  
on the bikepath at Burlington's Waterfront

Come check out our new space! Contribute your home cooked (and store-bought) goodies to our monthly Community Potluck. We'll discuss what's new at R.U.1.2? and talk about upcoming events. Beverages and desserts are welcome in addition to salads casseroles and bags of chips! Free.

• **Open-Mic Coffeehouse Evening**  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 7:30-11PM  
Stone Soup Café, 211 College St, Burlington

R.U.1.2? presents an evening of local entertainment at Stone Soup Café on College Street in Burlington. This is a bi-monthly all-ages event and promises to draw large crowds eager to soak in the talents of local poets, comedians and musicians. For \$5 (more if you can, less if you can't) refreshments will be provided.

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