

SEX? SEXUAL ORIENTATION? GENDER IDENTITY? GENDER EXPRESSION?

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

TOLERANCE.ORG



SEXUAL ORIENTATION

is our physical, emotional or romantic attraction to others.



GENDER IDENTITY

is a deeply held sense of being male, female or another gender. Gender identity is not related to sexual orientation.



SEX is biological: internal and external reproductive organs and sex chromosomes.



GENDER EXPRESSION

is the way individuals show their gender to the world. Gender expression is not related to sexual orientation.

SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND GENDER EXPRESSION are distinct concepts, but they combine uniquely in each person to make us who we are. Understanding these terms—and how they do and do not intersect—can help us better appreciate and respect the diverse spectrum of our identities.

ILLUSTRATION BY AMELIA WOODWARD



TEACHING
TOLERANCE