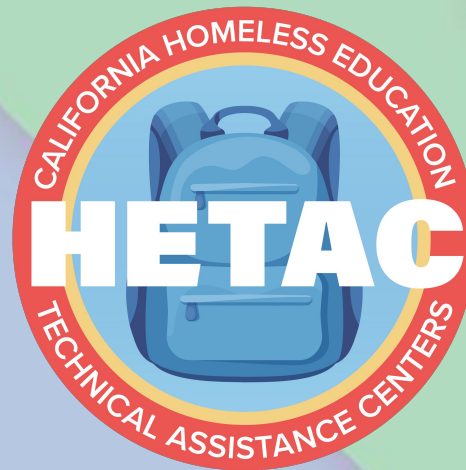
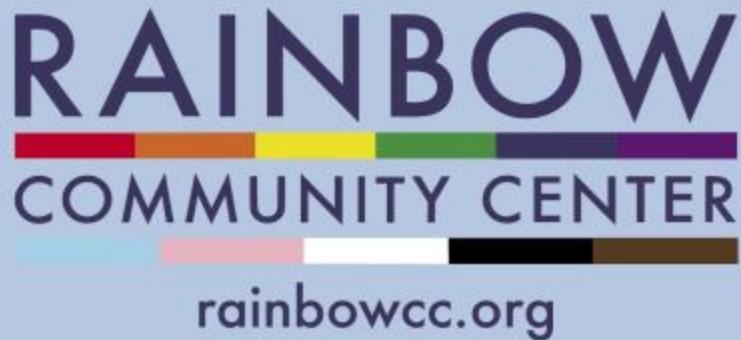


Supporting LGBTQI+ Students Experiencing Homelessness



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Laura Cartwright, Director of Education, laura@rainbowcc.org

Friday, August 12, 2022

Welcome



Welcome from the California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC)



RAINBOW
COMMUNITY CENTER

About HETAC

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- The Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC)
 - Is funded by the California Department of Education to serve as the state's homeless education technical assistance center
 - Is operated jointly by the Contra Costa, Los Angeles, and San Diego County Offices of Education
- Learn more at hetac.org

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Housekeeping

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- ◆ We will be recording today's webinar
- ◆ **Just a reminder to please keep your mic muted until the end of the presentation**
- ◆ Please use the chat feature if you have a question or something you would like to share during the presentation.
- ◆ **We will allow some time for Q& A at the end of the session**
- ◆ The presentation and links to any resources shared will be sent out to registered participants following the training.
- ◆ **The recording of this training and materials will also be posted on the HETAC website in the coming weeks hetac.org**



About Rainbow

~ MISSION ~

Rainbow Community Center builds community, equity, & well-being among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning & Intersex (LGBTQIA+) people & our allies.

~ VISION ~

Rainbow envisions a society that advocates for and celebrates gender and sexual diversity, racial justice, safety, and liberation for all through healing centered engagement.

~ VALUES ~

Authenticity. Bravery. Education. Healing. Liberation.

Transcending Inclusive to Expansive

Rainbow transcends its vision from inclusive to expansive*, as we will be able to represent by centering and reaching a wider scope of Marginalized LGBTQI+ and Intersectional Identities more effectively.

Historically Marginalized & Intersectional LGBTQI+ Identities encompass:

- Transgender and Gender Non-conforming
- Black, Indigenous and People of Color
- Women
- Neurodiversity & Mental Health Abilities
- Physical Abilities
- Body Diversity
- HIV Status
- Elders
- Youth
- Immigrants
- Interfaith
- Familial Composition
- Class/Socioeconomic Status

**inclusive' with its implied power differential, whereas 'expansive' refers to centering power with marginalized people*

Which element are you today?



Instincts
Grounding
Foundation

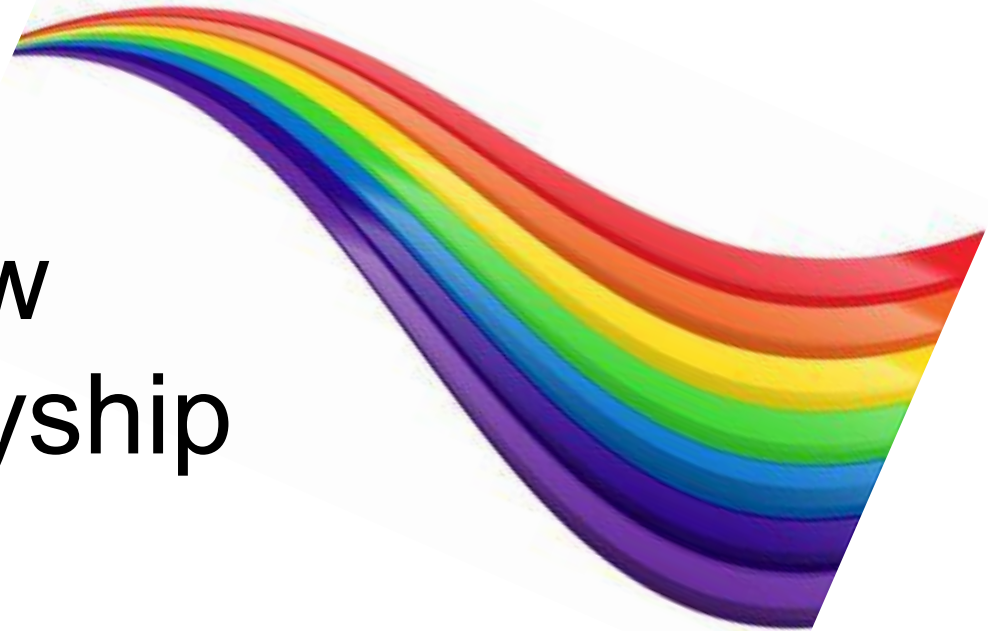
Intellect
Mental
intention
Connection

Willpower
Strength
Energy

Emotion
Intuition
Fluid

Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction
- Intersectionality
- What is SOGIE?
- HETAC Overview
- Prevention & Allyship
- Closing



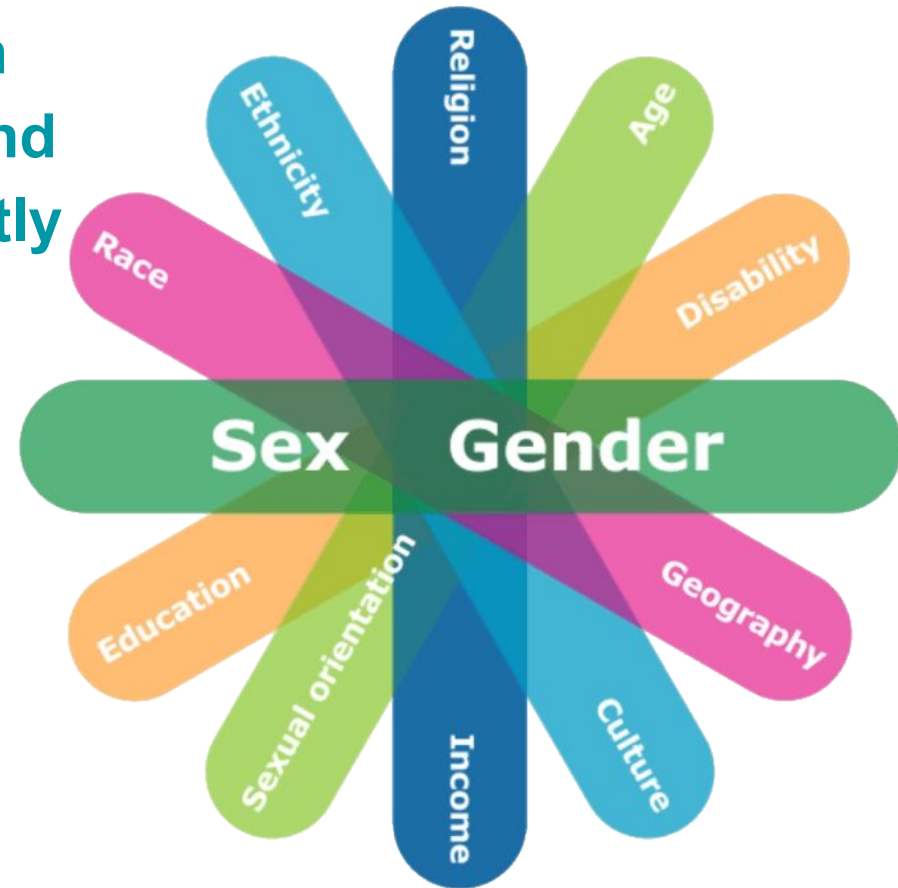
Time for a Poll- Intersectionality



Intersectionality

Multiple identities are interwoven into an individual's experience and cannot be examined independently of each other (Crenshaw, 1989)

Justice and inclusion work must acknowledge the complex relationships between levels of oppression experienced simultaneously



Reflect & Share

Why is the work of centering LGBTQI+ youth important?

Mental Health Impact

THE TREVOR PROJECT National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health 2022

45% of LGBTQ respondents seriously considered attempting suicide in the past twelve months and more than half of **transgender and nonbinary youth have seriously considered suicide.**

60% of LGBTQ youth who wanted mental health care in the past year were not able to get it.

71% of transgender and nonbinary youth reported that they have experienced discrimination based on their gender identity.

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/>

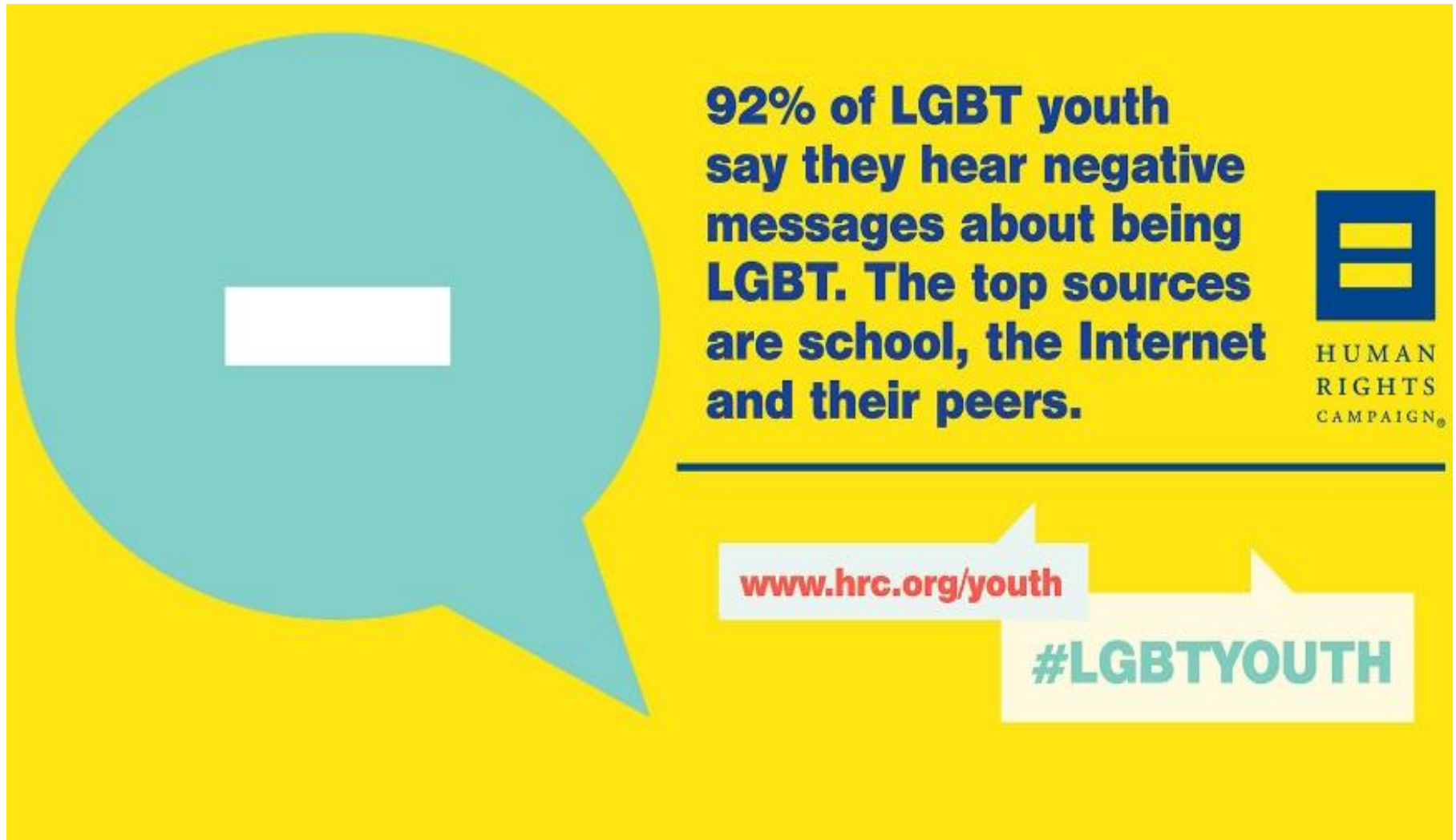
LGBTQI+ in Foster Care

THE TREVOR PROJECT National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health 2022

LGBTQ youth who reported having been in foster care had **3X** greater odds of reporting a past-year suicide attempt compared to those who had not

LGBTQ youth who had been in foster care had nearly **4X** greater odds of being kicked out, abandoned, or running away due to treatment based on their LGBTQ identity compared to those who were never in foster care

Negative Messages



Educational Impact

- Increased absenteeism
- Lower academic achievement
- Fewer plans for post-secondary education
- Poorer psychological well-being
(i.e. higher levels of depression and lower self-esteem)

Disparities in Homelessness

LGBTQIA+ Youth are **120%** More Likely to Experience Homelessness than non-LGBTQIA+ youth.

It is estimated that **7%** of youth in the United States are LGBTQIA+, while **40%** of youth experiencing homelessness are LGBTQIA+.

<https://truecolorsunited.org/portfolio/serving-our-youth/>

Protective Factors for Youth

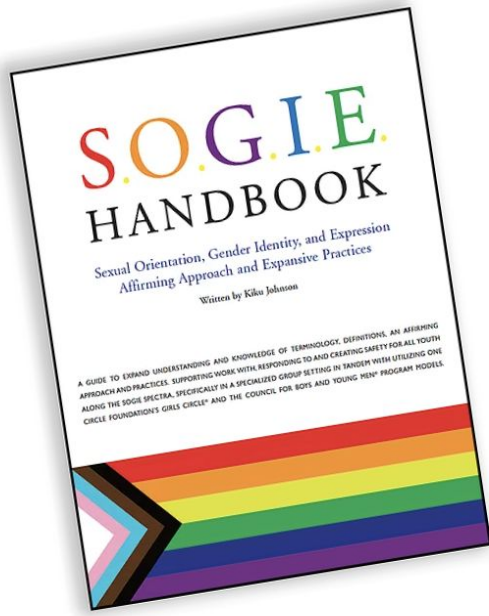
THE **TREVOR** PROJECT National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health 2022

1. Transgender and nonbinary youth who report having their chosen name and pronouns respected by all or most of the people in their lives attempted suicide at **half the rate** of those who did not
2. LGBTQ youth who had access to spaces that **affirmed their sexual orientation and gender identity** reported lower rates of attempting suicide.
3. Among LGBTQ youth with a history of foster care, those who reported **attending an LGBTQ-affirming school had more than 50% lower odds of reporting a past-year suicide attempt** compared to those who attended a school that was not LGBTQ-affirming
4. LGBTQ youth who have at least **one supportive adult** reported lower rates of attempted suicide

Time for a Poll- SOGIE



SOGIE Handbook



S.O.G.I.E Handbook FREE Download Now Available!

Open source, free, and downloadable, **SOGIE Handbook** written by Rainbow's Executive Director! **Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression Affirming Approach and Expansive Practices** for anyone who connects with anyone and wants a helpful tool. Funded by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and supported by the New York State Department of Health and Cornell University.

DOWNLOAD



Spanish

https://www.rainbowcc.org/_files/ugd/9d1850_a564143cc04a472581dffa5f6a56aad9.pdf

English

https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/sexual_violence/docs/sogie_handbook.pdf

What is SOGIE?

SEXUAL ORIENTATION is a person's physical, romantic, emotional, aesthetic, and/or other form of attraction to others. Gender identity and sexual orientation are not the same.

Who you love or are attracted to.

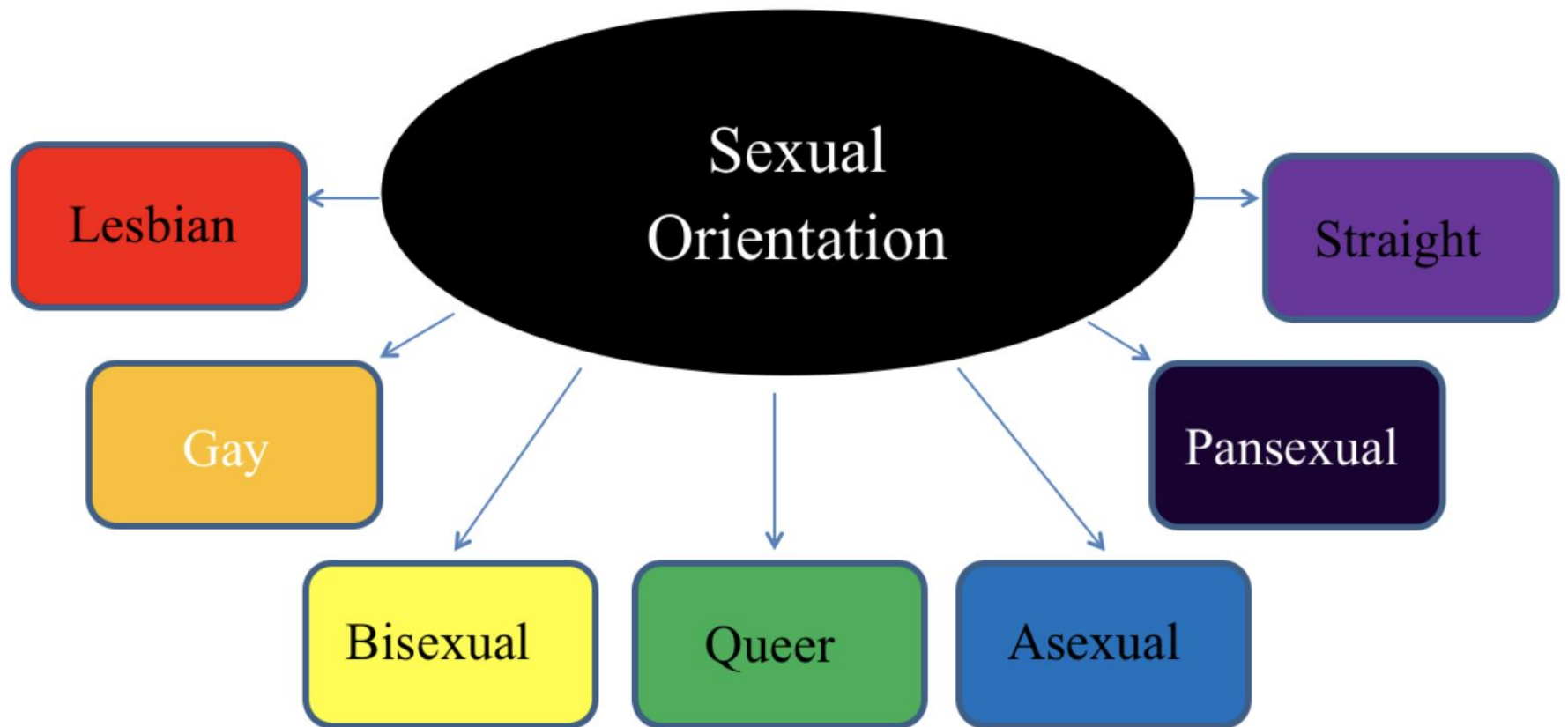
GENDER IDENTITY refers to the individual identification of a person's gender, as defined by that person, and can differ from their sex assigned at birth. It is one's internal sense of being a "man or woman", neither of these, both, or other genders.

Deeply held sense of who you are.

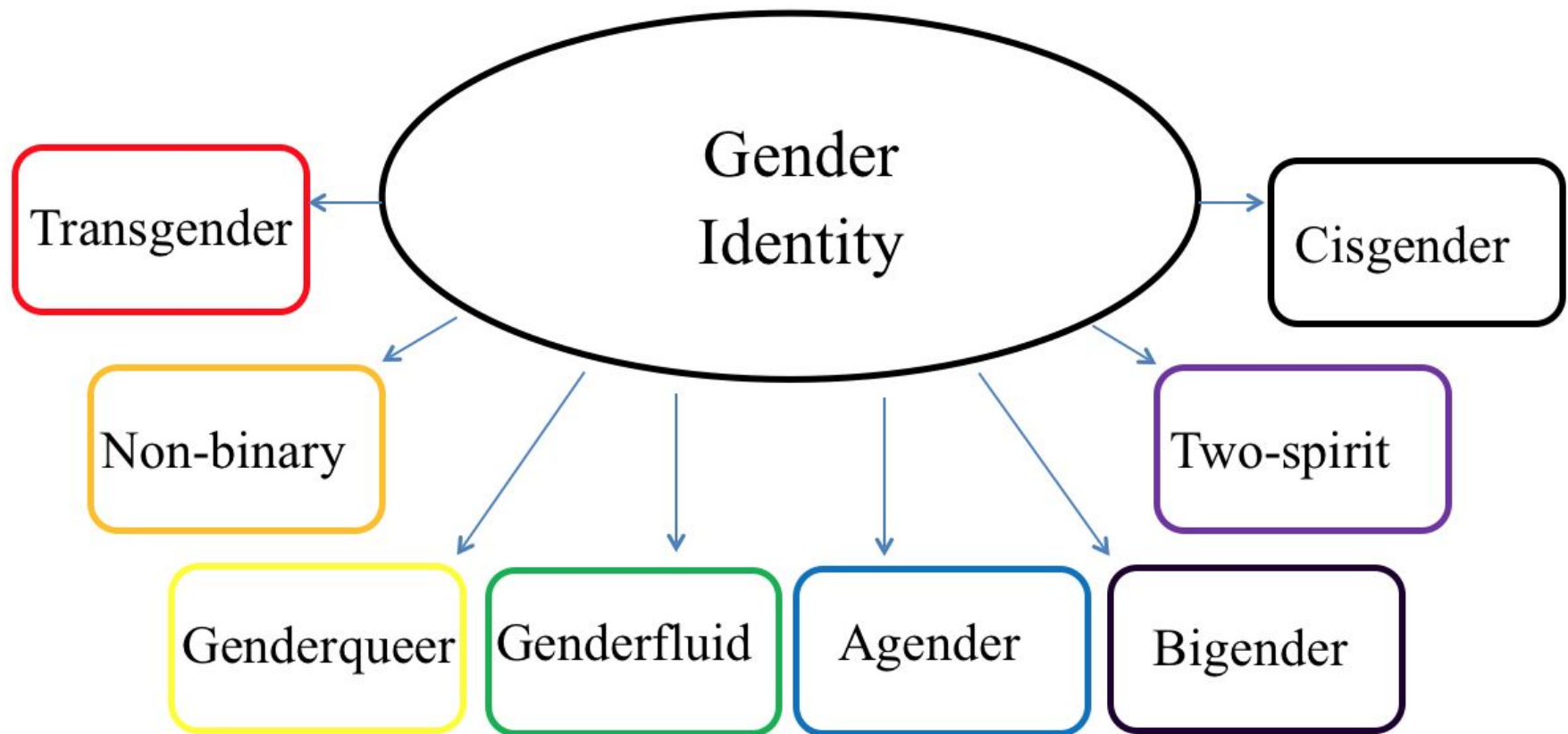
GENDER EXPRESSION refers to the way one expresses their gender identity. It is the physical manifestation of one's gender identity through clothing, hairstyle, voice, body shape, etc.

How you communicate your gender to the world.

Sexual Orientations



Gender Identities



LGBTQI+ Umbrella Terms

Queer is an umbrella term for the LGBTQI+ community. It can refer to an individual's sexual orientation and/or gender identity. It is an identifier for all non-heterosexual and non-cisgender identities. Not everyone will be comfortable with the word queer because of its derogatory historical context, but is being reclaimed as a positive way to identify.

Transgender refers to an individual whose gender identity is not the same as their sex assigned at birth. This may include identities such as trans man, trans woman, genderqueer, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people.



HETAC's Purpose

Homeless Education Technical Assistance Centers

HETAC provides support and technical assistance to 24 Northern CA and 58 overall COEs throughout California in a regional approach to ensure they have the capacity, resources, and tools required to support their local educational agencies (LEAs) with implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

(Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 11431 et seq.)

The provisions of this Act are designed to improve the educational stability, access, support, and academic achievement of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Rainbow's HETAC Goals

- Create technical assistance (TA) and consultative profiles based on county identities, culture, and landscape.
- Create District metrics to progress improvement towards Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) education, affirmation, and fluency, participation, and educational outcomes for youth.
- Provide TA in collaboration with CCCOE to the COEs throughout the state, by helping identify local CBOs that are best poised to support LGBTQI+ homeless youth and other marginalized homeless children and youth.
- Work collaboratively to model best practices, such as with the County Public Health and Behavioral Health Department including the Continuum of Care Planning and Policy Manager of the Homeless Program of CCC Health Services.
- Uplift, Affirm, and Celebrate LGBTQI+ Youth, Allies, and Community!**

Houseless Transitional Youth Program Impact

“If it wasn’t for getting in touch with Rainbow I would have killed myself, to be honest. I wouldn’t be alive today. I’m truly grateful to them for my life—to be able to speak, to eat, to have a job, to give back to the community that I love and that I’m so passionate about. That’s how Rainbow has changed my life: I’m still living.” —Marie, age 24



[Learn more about Marie - Mercury News: New program helps LGBTQ youth find stability, housing \(2019\)](#)

[Mercury News: Rainbow Center works to support LGBTQI+ community.](#)

[Concord-based program helps homeless youth find places to start anew \(2020\)](#)

[East Bay Times: Rainbow Community Center is a lifeline for East Bay LGBTQI+ youth seeking acceptance for who they are \(2021\)](#)

What Are the Causes?

Family conflict and rejection are the most common causes of homelessness for LGBTQIA+ youth



- Forced out ran away
- Family Issues
- Aged out of foster care
- Abuse
- Family Poverty



Notice The Signs



- ☐ Sleeping in class
- ☐ Wearing the same clothes
- ☐ Hygiene and general cleanliness
- ☐ Absenteeism
- ☐ Taking extra food from cafeteria
- ☐ Hunger
- ☐ Substance abuse
- ☐ Linger around campus
- ☐ Stealing and petty theft
- ☐ Issues with family connection
- ☐ Change in mood or personality

Ally Spectrum

Behold, the Straight for Equality Ally Spectrum®:



<https://www.straightforequality.org/allyspectrum>

Prevention and Allyship

- ❑ **Read the SOGIE Handbook and continue personal learning**
- ❑ Identify dedicated staff to support LGBTQIA+ youth
- ❑ **Make spaces affirming! Post flags and LGBTQIA+ images in spaces where youth and families/caregivers will see it**
- ❑ Interrupt witnessed anti-LGBTQIA+ bias
- ❑ **Include LGBTQIA+ people in curricula**
- ❑ Create systems to ask for pronouns and names
- ❑ **Provide ongoing training and learning opportunities for all staff to grow in their understanding of the diversity and unique needs of LGBTQIA+ youth**
- ❑ Forward communicate and educate on policies that exist to protect LGBTQIA+ youth
- ❑ **Provide LGBTQIA+ Parent Education and resources to families and those who care for youth**
- ❑ Add pronouns to email signatures, bios, name badges, etc
- ❑ **Connect with the leaders of the Gender and Sexualities Alliance (GSA) or Rainbow Club at every school in your district. If you don't have one, help it get started!**

Progress Pride

#Pride

PROGRESSIVE PRIDE FLAG



WELT NACHRICHTENSENDER



May 2021

The Intersex-Inclusive Pride Progress Flag

created by
Valentino Vecchietti
(She/They)

introduced by advocacy group
Intersex Equality Rights UK.

HETAC LGBTQIA+ Resource List

<https://tinyurl.com/HETACresources>



Points of Collaboration

- ❑ Counselor and Social Worker SOGIE Training
- ❑ Educator SOGIE Training
- ❑ Administrators SOGIE Training
- ❑ LGBTQI+ Laws & Legal Training
- ❑ LGBTQI+ Curriculum support and guidance
- ❑ SEL-based LGBTQI+ Affirming Curriculum
- ❑ Ongoing LGBTQI+ Professional Learning Communities
- ❑ Parent Education
- ❑ Resources including *Gender Affirming Kits, Queer Affirming & Educational Libraries, Classroom Activity Sets, and more*
- ❑ Train the Trainer for GSA and Affinity Groups
- ❑ LGBTQI+ Consultation
- ❑ Policy Review

Rainbow practices a trauma-informed/healing-centered, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) approach.

