

# Common Terms

**Sexual Orientation:** The desire for intimate emotional and sexual relationships with people of the same sex (homosexual), the other sex (heterosexual), or both sexes (bisexual).

**Gender Identity:** A person's sense of being male or female.

**Gay:** The adjective used to describe people who are physically, romantically, and/or emotionally attracted to people of the same sex.

**Lesbian:** A woman whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional and/or spiritual attraction is to other women.

**Bisexual:** An individual who is physically, romantically, emotionally and/or spiritually attracted to men and women.

**Transgender:** An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from sex they were assigned at birth.

**Transsexual:** A person who has changed, or is in the process of changing, his or her physical sex to conform to his or her internal sense of gender identity.

**Heterosexism:** The assumption that everyone is heterosexual, and that heterosexuality is superior to homosexuality or bisexuality.

**Questioning:** A term or period where an individual re-assesses (however privately or openly) the orientation/identity that they have either asserted for themselves, or been brought up as.

**Intersex:** Describing a person whose biological sex is ambiguous.

**LGBTQA:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Ally.

# Resources

## Local Community

**NEPA Rainbow Alliance:** [www.gaynepa.com](http://www.gaynepa.com)  
[www.facebook.com/neparainbow](http://www.facebook.com/neparainbow)

**NEPA Parent, Families and Friends and Gays:**  
[www.nepaflag.com](http://www.nepaflag.com)

**Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition (PSEC):**  
[www.facebook.com/pages/The-Pennsylvania-Student-Equality-Coalition-PSEC/217161971643855](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Pennsylvania-Student-Equality-Coalition-PSEC/217161971643855)

**PA Diversity:** [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org)

**Caring Community:**  
[http://www.caringcommunities.us/about\\_us](http://www.caringcommunities.us/about_us)

**Equality Pennsylvania:** <http://equalitypa.org>

## National

**National Gay Lesbian Task Force:** [thetaskforce.org/](http://thetaskforce.org/)

**Human Rights Campaign:** [ww.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

**Parent, Families and Friends of Lesbian And Gays:**  
[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

**National Black Justice Coalition:** [www.nbjcoalition.org](http://www.nbjcoalition.org)

**LGBTQArchitect:** [architect.lgbtcampus.org/](http://architect.lgbtcampus.org/)

**Consortium:** <http://www.lgbtcampus.org/>

**Femme Noir - for Lesbians of Color:** [www.femmenoir.net](http://www.femmenoir.net)

**Gay Asian Pacific Support Network:** [www.gaspn.org](http://www.gaspn.org)

**National Hispanic Gay and Lesbian Assoc.:** [www.llego.org](http://www.llego.org)

**Campus Pride:** [www.campuspride.org](http://www.campuspride.org)



*Supporting  
the LGBTQA  
Community*



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## What is SAFE SPACE?

Surveys indicate that a majority of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (GLBTQA) students do not feel safe at school out of fear for personal safety.

Students who can identify a supportive faculty/staff member or student group are more likely to feel a sense of belonging at their school than those who cannot. For many students, the presence of allies to whom they can turn for support—or even the simple knowledge that allies exist—can be a big factor in developing to improve school climate. Safe Space programs increase the visible presence of students and adult allies who can help to shape a school culture that is accepting of all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or any other difference.

## Mission of LCCC's SAFE SPACE Program

- To foster an inclusive environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning students, and their allies.
- To provide educational opportunities, advocacy, and programming for students, faculty, and staff on the LCCC campus.
- To aspire that Safe Space will help develop and support inclusive understanding of gender and sexuality, as well as foster a community that is open, safe, and supportive.

## How Do I Find A SAFE SPACE Member?



The sign above is given to faculty/staff members who have participated in the LCCC Safe Space training. This sign allows the campus community to identify programs and know that they can speak freely with these individuals about LGBTQA issues.

### ***INTERESTED IN SAFE SPACE ALLY TRAINING OR LGBTQA AWARENESS TRAINING?***

Contact: Diversity Initiatives at LCCC  
570-740-0393 or 570-740-0498  
email: [Diversity@luzerne.edu](mailto:Diversity@luzerne.edu)

## What Can You Do As An Ally?

- Display your Safe Space Sticker! The sticker indicates that, within your office or room, homophobic and heterosexist comments and actions will not be tolerated silently, but instead will be addressed in an educational and nonthreatening manner. The sticker does not indicate whether or not you are LGBTQA; it merely states that you are an Ally.
- Support policies that bring equity to and give open support to LGBTQA issues.
- Encourage others to become a part of Safe Space.
- Attend Safe Space training to further increase your knowledge and awareness.
- Pay attention to the words people use to describe themselves. Not everyone identifies as gay, lesbian, homosexual.
- Do not assume that a gay, lesbian, or bisexual person is attracted to you just because they have disclosed their sexual identity.
- Respect people's privacy. Do not "out" someone.
- Speak out against statements and jokes that attack LGBTQA people. Letting others know that you find anti LGBTQA statements and jokes offensive and unacceptable can go a long way towards reducing homophobia.