



## The National Indian Education Association recognizes & supports LGBTQ2S Native community members.

On October 12, 2019, at the National Indian Education Association's 50th Annual Convention and Tradeshow, in Minneapolis, MN emergency resolution **2019-#ER – In Support of Native Students, Educators, and Community Members who Identify as LGBTQ2S** was overwhelmingly passed. The resolution states:

*"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association recognizes and supports LGBTQ2S Native students, educators, and community members as a means of building culture-based educational systems where all American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students can be inspired, engaged, and thrive."*

*In support of LGBTQ2S students, educators, and families, NIEA compiled this factsheet, which provides common definitions used within LGBTQ2S communities. It also includes terms, which are considered offensive, derogatory, and/or hateful.*

### Definitions<sup>1</sup>

**LGBTQ2S** – acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and two spirit individuals<sup>2</sup>.

**Lesbian** – a woman whose enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction is to other women.

**Bisexual (Bi)** – a person with the capacity to form physical, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to women and men.

**Gay** – describes people whose physical, romantic, and/or emotional attractions are to people of the same sex.

**Transgender** – describes people whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth.

**Queer** – an adjective used by some, whose sexual orientation is not exclusively heterosexual. Those who identify as queer, often find the terms lesbian, gay, and bisexual to be too limiting, or have cultural connotations, which do not apply to them.

<sup>1</sup> Definitions, unless otherwise noted, are adopted from GLAAD:  
<https://www.glaad.org/reference/lgbtq>

<sup>2</sup> The definition of Two Spirit was developed at the 3rd International Native Gay & Lesbian Gathering in Winnipeg, Canada, 1990. This definition was adapted from the Red Circle Project: <http://redcircleproject.org/strengthening-spirit/>





## Definitions (continued)

**Two Spirit<sup>2</sup>** – a contemporary term used to encompass sexual, gender, cultural, and/or spiritual identity for indigenous people. It may also refer to a third gender. *This term is specific to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and First Nations.*

**Sexual Orientation** – an individual's physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to member of the same and/or opposite sex.

**Coming Out** – a process of self-acceptance. Publicly sharing one's identity may, or may not be part of coming out.

## Derogatory/Hate Speech

**Homosexual** – has a clinical history and is widely used by anti-LGBTQ2S extremists. It suggests, LGBTQ2S individuals can be treated and “cured.”

**Sexual preference** – typically used to suggest being attracted to the same sex is a choice.

**Gay/homosexual/transgender lifestyle** – There is no single LGBTQ2S lifestyle, and suggests sexual orientation and/or gender identity is a choice.

**Gay/homosexual agenda** – is an invention of anti-LGBTQ2S organizations, and seeks to create a climate of fear.

**Closeted** – a person who is not open about their sexual orientation.

**Out** – refers to a person who self-identifies as LGBTQ2S in their personal, public, and/or professional lives.

**Ally** – a person who is not LGBTQ2S, but promotes equality and advocates for LGBTQ2S individuals..

**Special rights** – Anti-LGBTQ2S organizations characterize equal protection as “special rights.”

**Fag, faggot, dyke, homo, sodomite** – these derogatory terms are equal to vulgar epithets used to target other groups.

**Deviant, disordered, diseased, perverted** – – the American Psychological and the American Psychiatric Associations removed LGBTQ2S as a disorder in the 1970s.

For more information contact **Rusty Creed Brown**,  
rbrown@niea.org | 202.847.0035

To read NIEA 2019-#ER –In Support of Native Students, Educators, and Community Member who Identify as LGBTQ2S: <https://bit.ly/3dYdNTz>

For LGBTQ2S Student-Centered Learning Activities, see NIEA's page at: <https://bit.ly/2Tlz27X>

For additional reading: The 2019 National School Climate Survey, The Experience of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Youth in Our Nation's Schools: <https://bit.ly/3dKJyiy>

