How do you tell if someone is LGBTI?

It’s not always possible to tell whether someone is LGBTI just by looking at them. Like the rest of society, LGBTI people, as individuals, express themselves and live in many different ways. People should not be defined by the clothes they wear or how they behave, but instead by the way they feel and how they see themselves.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE and LGBTI PEOPLE

LESBIAN – A woman who is emotionally, romantically and sexually attracted to other women.

GAY – A man who is emotionally, romantically and sexually attracted to other men.

TRANSGENDER – A person who’s gender identity is different from their biological identity. For example, a biological male who describes himself as a woman in a man’s body or vice versa.

INTERSEX – A person who is born with the reproductive or sexual anatomy that does not fit the typical definitions of female or male. Some intersex people may also have different variations of hormones or chromosomes (the natural chemicals or genetic makeup of our bodies). Intersex people are not born with two complete sets of genitalia.

HETEROSEXUAL – A person who is emotionally, romantically and sexually attracted to persons of the opposite sex.

HOMOSEXUAL – A person who is emotionally, romantically and sexually attracted to people of the same sex. However, many homosexual persons prefer the use of the terms gay or lesbian.

BISEXUAL – A person who is emotionally, romantically and sexually attracted to both men and women.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION – The emotional, romantic and sexual attraction of someone of the same sex or opposite sex, or both sexes.

GENDER IDENTITY – A person’s own inner sense of being male or female (or both or neither) or transgender. Their gender identity may or may not correspond to their body or designated sex or both, or how society sees them.

LESBIAN, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex.
Silence Breeds Violence: It’s time for a remix

How will I know if I am in an abusive relationship?

Abuse is not always physical and it can, therefore, be quite confusing to tell if you are being abused. There are other types of abuse, such as verbal, psychological, sexual and financial. If your partner constantly does something that hurts you or makes you unhappy (and you’ve spoken to them about it time and time again) then they are being abusive. Partners are meant to make the quality of your life better, not break you down. It may be hard for you and it may hurt really badly, but you need to end these types of relationships or you will face constant heartache and can completely lose who you are on the inside.

If you are not sure that you are in an abusive relationship, but are constantly unhappy, talk to someone you trust. Do not suffer in silence.

What should I do if my child, friend or colleague is being victimised because of their sexual orientation or gender identity?

Be there to provide love, support and assistance. You can also help them lodge a complaint of unfair discrimination at the equality court based at the nearest Magistrates Court. Seek assistance from Chapter 9 institutions such as the South African Human Rights Commission and Commission for Gender Equality. You can also send loveLife a PLZ CAL ME on 083 323 1023 for counselling and emotional support or contact the toll-free Stop Gender Violence Helpline on 0800 150 150 for referral services.

Will I get HIV if I have homosexual sex?

A person’s risk of contracting HIV is determined by their sexual behaviours, NOT sexual orientation. It is important for ALL people – whether homosexual or heterosexual – to always practice safe sex.

Is it still domestic violence if a gay man hits his partner or if a lesbian hits her partner?

Of course! Any type of violence in the household is domestic violence – it doesn’t matter if you are in a homosexual or heterosexual relationship. Someone who resorts to violence does so for power in the relationship: to show that they are in control of you. It is not healthy to be with a person who abuses you in any way because as they become more and more desperate to control, the abuse will probably get worse. Put an end to violence the moment you first see the signs, make it clear that you will not tolerate it and if your partner does not like that then end the relationship – it will be for the best, believe us.

Why is it important to deal with hate crime?

Criminal behaviour cannot be tolerated in society. No matter what our beliefs and views are in life, we all have a part to play in putting an end to it. When a person believes that they can get away with a crime because people are too scared to report them, they will continue to hurt people in our communities, our family members and neighbours – and who’s to say that they won’t try their luck with you next?

Victims of a hate crime may experience serious emotional, physical and psychological harm and trauma after being attacked. There are many organisations that offer support in your time of need. Nobody should ever suffer alone. In cases where people are sexually assaulted, it is important to seek emergency treatment that prevents HIV infection. During assault you might be exposed to HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. To reach the nearest organisation to you for legal, medical and counselling assistance, contact the toll-free Stop Gender Violence Helpline on 0800 150 150 (available 24 hours, seven days a week).

“Silence Breeds Violence: It’s time for a remix”