These definitions are partial and always changing. This list provides a basic understanding to support further discussion and reading. Please note that identity terms should be chosen by a person for themselves.

**Assigned Sex:** The sex a person is socially considered to be at birth, often based on interpretation of a person’s external genitalia.

**Cisgender:** A term used to describe a person whose gender identity is the same as the sex assigned to them at birth.

**Feminism:** A movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression. (bell hooks)

**Gender Binary:** The separation of females and males into two socially distinct categories that are viewed as “opposite” from one another and diametrically opposed. Gender binarism discourages the crossing and mixing of gender roles and gender identities. Gender binarism reinforces gender-based stereotypes and devalues people with transgender, intersex, or nonbinary identities.

**Gender Expression:** Is how you express your gender through how you dress, walk, talk, and the language you use for yourself (like names and gender pronouns). You can show your femininity, masculinity, androgyny, femme or butch identities, or all or none of these. Your gender expression is not dependent on your gender identity.

**Gender Identity:** Your innermost sense of yourself as a woman or a man or both or neither with identities including agender, genderqueer, gender fluid, etc. Your gender identity is not dependent on your anatomy.

**Genderqueer:** A term used to describe a person whose gender identity is neither woman nor man and is between, beyond, or a combination of genders. A rejection of the social construction of gender, gender stereotypes, and the gender binary system.

**Misogyny:** A cultural attitude of hatred of women and femininity.

**Misogynoir:** The intersection of racism, anti-Blackness, and misogyny that Black women experience. (Moya Bailey)

**Sexism:** The systematic, institutional, pervasive, and routine mistreatment of women and feminine people. This mistreatment creates an imbalance of power in society that renders women and feminine people disadvantaged. The belief that maleness and masculinity are superior to femaleness and femininity.

**Transgender:** An umbrella term that describes people whose gender identity and/or gender expression is different from the sex they were assigned at birth. People who identify as transgender may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms including MTF, FTM, genderqueer, and transgender. Transgender people may claim/affirm their gender identity through hormones and/or surgery; transgender people may claim/affirm their gender identity without hormones and/or surgery. Transgender identity is not dependent on surgery. Transgender identity is not a sexual orientation.

**Transmisogyny:** The intersection of transphobia and misogyny that systematically targets trans women. “When the majority of violence and sexual assaults committed against trans people is directed at trans women, that is not transphobia—it is trans-misogyny” (Julia Serano).