

# INSTEAD OF...**SAY...**

SPEAKOUT

Be comfortable using terms like “gay,” “lesbian,” and “LGBTQ,” and avoid exclusionary language

<b>Instead of...</b>	<b>Say...</b>	<b>Why?</b>
<b>Homosexual</b>	<b>Gay or Lesbian</b>	“Homosexual” has a clinical history, and tends to be used derogatorily
<b>Sexual preference</b>	<b>Sexual orientation</b>	“Preference” and “lifestyle” imply an element of choice
<b>Gay lifestyle</b>	<b>Gay lives / LGBTQ lives</b>	There is no such thing as a single “gay lifestyle”
<b>Gay marriage</b>	<b>Marriage equality</b>	“Gay marriage” narrows the issue
<b>Gay agenda</b>	<b>Equal rights / LGBTQ rights</b>	A unified “gay agenda” and “special rights” for LGBTQ people do not exist
<b>Boyfriend / girlfriend</b>	<b>Significant other</b>	An individual’s sexual preference may not match what you assume it to be
<b>Transsexual</b>	<b>Transgender</b>	“Transsexual” is a medical term; transgender is more holistic

**If you don’t know what to say, ask.**

Never let fear of misspeaking keep you from learning, or from making your voice heard.

*Individual people may have different language preferences. It’s always best to ask.*