

Help keep Vox free We're 71% of the way to reaching our goal for our September campaign to support our clear and accessible policy coverage. Will you help us get there by making a gift today?

Yes, I'll Give

# Myth #2: Sexual orientation is linked to gender identity

By German Lopez | @germanrlopez | german.lopez@vox.com | Updated Nov 14, 2018, 4:09pm EST

Part of **Transgender people: 10** common myths

Equal rights battles and advocacy efforts have brought together gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and genderqueer people over the past several decades. But that doesn't mean that the basis for these identities is the same — in fact, sexual orientation and gender identity are very different.

Sexual orientation is who someone is sexually attracted to. Gender identity is who someone

#### Most Read

- 1 1 winner and 3 losers from Fox's dud of a second GOP debate
- **2** The Republican debate is fake



is. They are, as trans woman and former Olympian athlete Caitlyn Jenner explained to **ABC News's Diane Sawyer**, "apples and oranges."

Still, this remains a very common misconception. But a transgender person can identify as a woman, even though she was assigned male at birth, and be gay (attracted to other women), straight (attracted to men), bisexual, asexual (sexually attracted to no one), or attracted to a traditionally undefined gender. Trans men, gender nonconforming people, and genderqueer people can also be sexually attracted to men, women, both, no one, or another preference.

Mara Keisling, a trans woman and executive director of the **National Center for Transgender Equality**, **acknowledged** that this concept can be difficult to explain. "If somebody was living as a man dating women, and now they're living as a woman dating women, what does that mean? They were straight; now they're gay," Keisling said. "But did their sexual orientation change, or were they always attracted to women?"

This infographic, put together by **Trans Student Educational Resources**, helps
break through some of that confusion by
showing how a person's gender identity and

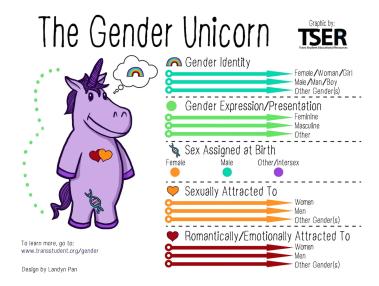
Each week, we explore unique solutions
to some of the world's biggest
problems.

Email (required)						

By submitting your email, you agree to our Terms and Privacy Notice. You can opt out at any time. This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google Privacy Policy and Terms of Service apply. For more newsletters, check out our newsletters page.

SUBSCRIBE

expression fall outside characteristics like sexual orientation and sex assigned at birth:



Trans Student Educational Resources

You've read 1 article in the last 30 days.

#### Will you join us?

Our biggest supporters are our readers - and we're so grateful to everyone who has made a contribution during our September campaign. We're less than 1,000 contributions away from reaching our goal for the month, which in turn will allow us to say yes more often when our incredible journalists come to us with questions they want to answer and projects they want to pursue. Will you make a contribution before the month ends and support our policy coverage through 2024 and beyond?



## Transgender people: 10 common myths

Myth #1: Transgender people are confused or tricking others

Myth #3: Letting trans people use the bathroom or locker room matching their gender identity is dangerous

Myth #4: Transitioning is as simple as one surgery

Myth #5: All trans people medically transition

Myth #6: Transgender-inclusive health care is expensive

Myth #7: Children aren't old enough to know their gender identity

Myth #8: Transgender people are mentally ill

Myth #9: Transgender people make up a third gender

Myth #10: Drag queens and kings are transgender

### Sign up for Vox Recommends

Get curated picks of the best Vox journalism to read, watch, and listen to every week, from our editors.

Email (required)	
	SUBSCRIBE

By submitting your email, you agree to our Terms and Privacy Notice. You can opt out at any time. This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google Privacy Policy and Terms of Service apply.