

Social Identity Groups

Social identity groups are based on the physical, social, and mental characteristics of individuals. They are sometimes obvious and clear, sometimes not obvious and unclear, often self claimed and frequently ascribed by others. For example, racial groupings are often ascribed as well as self-claimed. Government, schools, and employers often ask an individual to claim a racial identity group or simply ascribe one to an individual based on visual perception. Other social identities are personally claimed but not often announced or easily visually ascribed such as sexual orientation, religion, or disability status.

For the purpose of this self-examination please identify the memberships you claim or those ascribed to you. Below are examples of social identity groupings. Since issues of social identity often are the basis of much social conflict, it is reasonable to expect that even the terms we use to describe them may cause disagreement. So feel free to use your own preferred terms for the material below.

Gender • Woman • Man • Transgender • Post-Gender	Sex • Intersex • Female • Male	Sexual Orientation • Lesbian • Gay • Bisexual • Pan-Attractional • Heterosexual • Queer • Attraction • Questioning	Race • Asian Pacific Islander • Native American • Latina/x • Black • White • Bi/Multiracial
Race • Irish • Chinese • Puerto Rican • Italian • Mohawk • Jewish • Guatemalan • Lebanese • European-American	Religion/Spirituality • Hindu • Muslim • Buddhist • Jewish • Christian • Pagan • Agnostic • Faith/Meaning • Atheist • Secular- humanist	Social Class • Poor • Working Class • Lower-Middle Class • Upper-Middle Class • Owning Class • Ruling Class	Age • Child • Young Adult • Middle-Age Adult • Senior
Nation(s) /or Citizenship • United States • Nigeria • Korea • Turkey • Argentina	Tribal or Indigenous Affiliation • Mohawk • Aboriginal • Navajo • Santal	(Dis)Ability • People with disabilities (cognitive, physical, emotional, etc.) • Temporarily able-bodied • Temporarily disabled	

Marginalized Group: social identity groups that are disenfranchised and exploited
Privileged Group: social identity groups that hold unearned privileged in society

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As you reflect on your own identities, consider these guiding questions:

- 1.Identities you think about most often
- 2.Identities you think about least often
- 3.You identities you would like to learn more about
- 4.Identities that have the strongest effect on how you perceive yourself
- 5.Identities that have the greatest effect on how others perceive you

Gender	Sex	(Dis)Ability	Race
Ethnicity	Religion or Spirituality	Language	Age
National Origin and/or Citizenship	Tribal or Indigenous Affiliation	Socio-Economic Status	Sexual Orientation