

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. Governments, 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.

Subordinated groups are social identity groups that are disenfranchised, targeted, or exploited.

Dominant groups are social identity groups that are advantaged, afforded agency, and hold an unearned privilege in society.

For the purpose of this self examination, please identify memberships you claim or those ascribed to you, from the social identity categories below. Below are examples of social identity groupings.

Examples

(Feel free to use your own language for your own identities)

Gender	Man, Woman, Transgender, Gender Queer, Two Spirit
Race	Asian, Native American, Latino/a, Black, White, Mixed race, Bi/multiracial
Ethnicity	Jewish, Chinese, Irish, Puerto Rican, Mohawk, Lebanese, Laotian, Ugandan
Sexual Orientation	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual
Religion	Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Christian, Pagan, Agnostic, Atheist, Native American Church, lfe
Class	Poor, working class, lower middle class, middle class, upper middle class, owning class, ruling class
Age	Child, young person, adult, middle-aged adult, older adult, elderly
Ability	People with disabilities (cognitive, physical, emotional, etc.), temporarily-abled, able
National Origin	Nigeria, United States, Vietnam, Argentina, Turkey, etc.

Social Identity Wheel

(Adapted from "Voices of Discovery", Intergroup Relations Center, Arizona State University)

