



# Gender and Sexuality Expression in Ojibwe People

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# Two-Spirit

□ *Niizh Manidoowag*

**THE TERM TWO-SPIRIT** [was created] because we had lost our traditional words to describe ourselves. It comes from the Anishinaabemowin word niizh manidoowag. It describes somebody who has two spirits; **TO CARRY BOTH MASCULINE & FEMININE SPIRITS.**

**KILEY MAY**

Hotinonhshón:ni Mohawk, two spirit, storyteller, actress, educator

#PRIDE



# TWO-SPIRIT

THE TERM TWO-SPIRIT IS AN UMBRELLA TERM FOR LGBTQ+ NATIVE AMERICANS

I HEAR SO MANY PEOPLE WHO WILL SAY, 'I'M TWO-SPIRIT. I'M BOTH MALE AND FEMALE,' WHO ARE NON-NATIVE. IT'S OFFENSIVE. IT'S A PRIVILEGE WHITE PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE THAT THEY'RE USING.

BECAUSE OF THE WESTERN THOUGHT THAT WAS IMPOSED ON OUR COMMUNITIES, WE DIDN'T HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF SAYING WHO WE WERE. AND IT'S TAKEN US A LONG TIME TO FINALLY FIND THAT VOICE.  
- BEVERLY LITTLE THUNDER

# Past

Christian leaders, stand on our soil and claim: "gay marriage" has never occurred here. Over 130 tribes in every region of North America performed millions of same-sex marriages for hundreds of years. Their statements are both hateful and ignorant. Your "homosexual," was our "Two Spirit" people... and we considered them sacred.



# Present





# Work Cited



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