

# HOT TOPICS – MAY 2022

## PANSEXUAL & PANROMANTIC AWARENESS DAY

This month's Hot Topic looks at the term 'Pansexual' and the celebration of 'Pansexuality Visibility Day'

Let's start this important Hot Topic by considering what the terms 'Pansexual' and 'Panromantic' actually mean. Are you familiar with this term already or do you know someone who identifies as pansexual or panromantic?



Here is a definition of pansexual -

"Pansexuality is the romantic, emotional and/or sexual attraction to people regardless of their gender. Like everyone else, pansexual people may be attracted to some people but not others, but the gender of the person does not matter. People of any gender identity can and do identify as pansexual" [Source: [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com)]

And here is a definition of panromantic –

"Panromantic is a romantic attraction to people regardless of their gender. Panromantic people can be romantically attracted to people of every gender identity. And people of any gender identity may identify as panromantic" [Source: [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com)]

When is Pansexuality Visibility Day?

**May 24th** is Pansexual Visibility Day. Much like Bi Visibility Day, when bisexual people remove their invisibility cloaks and instead don their fetching bi vis jackets, Pan Visibility Day is a day to celebrate and recognise those who identify as pansexual. To help you do that, here's 5 things you should know.

1. The word pansexuality originally comes from Greek. Pan means 'all', and is related to words like panorama. Pansexual people aren't attracted to all other people, but they are attracted to people of all genders. This is different from being attracted to everyone; in the same way that a heterosexual woman will not be attracted to all men and a lesbian woman will not be attracted to all women, pansexual people will experience attraction to specific people and not others.
2. It's nothing to do with saucepans or frying pans. Pansexual people have nothing against old jokes but the one about being sexually attracted to pans isn't just old, it's also just not funny.
3. Pansexuality is different from bisexuality but the two aren't mutually exclusive. Being bisexual means being attracted to more than one gender, while being pansexual means being attracted to people regardless

of gender. Pansexuality and bisexuality are not in conflict. In fact, some bisexual people also identify as pansexual, and vice versa. Pansexuality is included under the bisexual umbrella, which covers anyone who experiences sexual or romantic attraction to more than one gender.

4. There are lots of famous pansexual people! Recently, the fabulous Janelle Monáe came out as pansexual, saying 'I'm open to learning more about who I am'. Other notable pansexual people include Miley Cyrus, Angel Haze, Laci Green and of course the not-quite-superhero Deadpool.

5. Being pansexual is just one part of who someone is. A pansexual person may also be trans, or disabled, or a person of colour, or all three. Pansexual people come in all ages and sizes and enjoy a range of activities and hobbies. On pansexual visibility day it's important to remember that we're celebrating pansexual people from all backgrounds and all walks of life".

[Source: [LGBT Foundation - 5 things you should know on Pansexual Visibility Day](#)]

"The pansexual pride flag has three horizontal stripes: pink, yellow and blue. According to most definitions, the pink represents people who are female identified, the blue represents people who are male identified, while



the yellow represents nonbinary attraction" [Source: [Flags of the LGBTIQ Community | OutRight Action International \(outrightinternational.org\)](#)]



So, now you have a better understanding of the terms 'pansexual' and 'panromantic', discuss with your PDC what challenges this might present to you as a police officer. Are there any relevant protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and what can you do to ensure that individuals you deal with, who identify as pansexual or panromantic, feel respected and valued?

The following sources may assist in developing your understanding further of this Hot Topic:

- [LGBT Foundation - 5 things you should know on Pansexual Visibility Day](#)
- [Flags of the LGBTIQ Community | OutRight Action International \(outrightinternational.org\)](#)
- [Pansexuality: What Does It Mean? \(webmd.com\)](#)