

# NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy  
for Local LGBTQH Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NCAVP Stands in Solidarity with CeCe McDonald; Calls for Reduced Sentence

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)) stands in solidarity with CeCe McDonald, a young African American transgender woman who recently took a plea bargain of second degree manslaughter in response to being [violently attacked](#) by a group of people in a racist and transphobic hate violence incident in June 2011 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Despite being the survivor of this incident of violence, CeCe McDonald was the only person arrested for acting in self-defense and allegedly fatally stabbing one of her attackers. McDonald now faces up to 41 months in prison. NCAVP and our allies denounce this unjust charge and call on Hennepin County to reduce her sentence.

Transgender women of color face severe and deadly hate violence in the United States. NCAVP's most recent [report](#), *Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2010*, documented 27 anti-LGBTQH murders, the second highest yearly total ever recorded by the coalition. **Transgender women made up 44% of the 27 reported hate murders in 2010, while representing only 11% of total survivors and victims.** Transgender people represented a higher proportion of hate violence survivors with serious injuries (11.8%) as compared to non-transgender men (6.2%) or non-transgender women (1.3%).

NCAVP is concerned that McDonald will be placed in a men's prison facility due to transphobic prison housing policies. McDonald may face increased risk of violence based on her transgender identity if placed in a men's facility. The Hennepin County judicial system has the option of a downward departure in sentencing including home monitoring and a reduced sentence. NCAVP re-commits our stance that McDonald was unjustly arrested and faced biased and discriminatory charges and treatment throughout this case. Hennepin County dropped the charges against survivors of violence who acted in self-defense and killed their assailants in three similar cases. In placing harsher charges and sentencing on McDonald, Hennepin County is supporting transphobic violence and reinforcing a transphobic culture.

NCAVP calls for Hennepin County to reduce CeCe McDonald's sentence, consider her safety in her facility placement, and for community members, anti-violence organizations, and public officials to take immediate action to support survivors of transphobic violence.

## **ACTION STEPS**

**Report Violence:** NCAVP encourages anyone who has experienced violence to contact a local anti-violence program. For help locating an anti-violence program in your area, please [contact us](#).

**Get involved:** Join NCAVP in our efforts to prevent and respond to LGBTQH violence. [Contact us](#) to learn more.

*NCAVP works to prevent, respond to, and end all forms of violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities. NCAVP is a national coalition of local member programs, affiliate organizations and individuals who create systemic and social change. NCAVP is a program of the [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#).*

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