

BREAKING NEWS



Serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,
Queer and HIV-affected Communities

March 16, 2012

AVP statement on the verdict in the Tyler Clementi Case

Tyler Clementi's death has brought national attention to the epidemic of LGBTQ youth suicide and [today's verdict](#) in the Dharun Ravi case reminds us of the work that we have to do to address the safety of all young people. While the focus today is on the verdict and imminent sentencing, AVP wants to encourage all of us to think about the larger culture in which anti-LGBTQ bullying occurs.

We live in a country where LGBTQ youth are ostracized and shamed. We must address the root causes of bullying by making all people in this country feel safe, loved and accepted for who they are. We are capable of recognizing and appreciating the talent and gifts that all young people bring to our lives, and we do them - and ourselves - a disservice when we withhold this appreciation because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. We praise young people for their independence and autonomy but stigmatize and reject them when they decide to tell us who they are. The solution to LGBTQ bullying and suicide will not be found in courtrooms but in each of us when we decide to celebrate young people for all of who they are.

AVP encourages you to report violence you experience or witness to our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-714-1141** where you can speak with a trained counselor and seek support, or you can [report violence anonymously online](#) via our website.

Find out more about AVP at our [website](#), get regular updates on our ongoing work on [Facebook](#), and [get involved](#) and make a difference!