

# BREAKING NEWS



National Advocacy  
for Local LGBTQH Communities

April 3, 2012

## Murder of a Transgender Woman in Detroit

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)) has learned of the [murder of Coko Williams, a transgender woman](#), this morning on the 100 block of Parkhurst Street northeast of Woodward Avenue and McNichols Road in Detroit, Michigan. Witnesses stated that suspects in the killing may have fled the scene. No arrests have yet been made in connection with Ms. Williams' death. It has been widely reported that the murder occurred near Palmer Park in an [area of Detroit known for sex work](#). However, it is not known if Ms. Williams was engaged in sex work at the time of her murder.

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.** Among transgender murder victims, **42% of transgender women killed last year were engaged in sex work at the time of their murder.** NCAVP denounces violence against LGBTQ and all sex workers and seeks to raise awareness of the violence faced by LGBTQ-identified sex workers.

NCAVP is working with its member organization in Detroit [Equality Michigan](#) to offer our assistance with their efforts to support the community during this critical time. NCAVP encourages anyone who has experienced violence to contact a local anti-violence program for support and to document this violence. For help locating an anti-violence program in your area, please [contact us](#) or visit [www.ncavp.org](http://www.ncavp.org).

Join NCAVP in our efforts to prevent and respond to LGBTQH violence. To learn more about our national advocacy, receive technical assistance or support, [contact us](#).

If you are a member of the media and wish to speak with an NCAVP representative, please contact Nusrat Ventimiglia at Equality Michigan at 313-505-6035.

*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 and affiliate organizations who create systemic and social change. NCAVP is a program of the [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#).*

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