

# A Message from the Executive Director



May 27, 2011

Dear Friends,

Yesterday, the White House issued a [historic public statement](#) about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) victims and survivors of violence. In this statement the White House announced a new grant from the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) that focuses on improving anti-violence services for LGBTQ people. The White House cited a study by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), a program of the New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP), and the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC).

This White House statement is a result of the hard work of NCAVP, a national coalition of more than 40 dedicated LGBTQ anti-violence programs, to engage with our national leaders and advocate for the inclusion of LGBTQ survivors in all of their work. Because of this work, we have seen a firm and clear commitment from the White House and the Department of Justice, and in particular OVC and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), to make all anti-violence work LGBTQ-inclusive.

NCAVP commends the White House for its public support of LGBTQ anti-violence work and OVC for issuing a request for proposals that specifically – and explicitly – focuses on violence as it impacts LGBTQ communities. NCAVP also works closely with the New Beginnings Initiative, a collaboration of expert organizations, coordinated by the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce, designed to push concrete federal administrative and regulatory policy changes that affect the lives of LGBTQ people and eliminate discrimination from federal policies. NCAVP's member programs work every day to support LGBTQ people who face violence and this White House statement and the OVC work is a testament to their strong advocacy to create safety for all people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Stapel".

Sharon Stapel  
Executive Director