

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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

Dear friends,

I wanted to let you know about some great progress with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that is of tremendous importance to our LGBTQ communities. VAWA, introduced as S. 1925 by Senators Leahy and Crapo, provides the greatest source of programming and funding for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the United States. It is up for reauthorization and – for the first time ever – **is explicitly inclusive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer survivors of violence**. AVP, with our National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), has worked hard and worked closely with women’s groups and the Senate, as well as the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the national LGBT Bar Association, the Center for American Progress and others, to assure that these explicit protections for LGBTQ survivors stay in the bill. Last month, S. 1925 passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with the LGBTQ provisions intact.

Just this week, the New York City Council passed a resolution supporting S. 1925 and AVP’s NCAVP Coordinator, Chai Jindasurat, [spoke at the press conference](#) after [testifying at an earlier hearing](#). The City Council recognized the importance of not just reauthorizing VAWA, but also of passing the specific bill, S. 1925, because it contains the most inclusive protections for all survivors of violence, including LGBTQ survivors.

**S. 1925 will be debated on the Senate floor – possibly as soon as next week.** The bill is under attack because of the inclusion of LGBTQ people as well as for protections for immigrants and Tribal women. We know that LGBTQ survivors, especially those who are immigrants or Tribal women, will be best served if all of these protections stay in the bill. AVP will continue to work to pass a bill that is inclusive of all survivors.

This is an exciting time for LGBTQ anti-violence work: we have transformed the national debate on these issues from one that has sought to exclude us to one in which we are insisting on recognition and inclusion. This is just the beginning – if S. 1925 passes the Senate we still have a ways to go with the House of Representatives – but it is a critical step in assuring that every person in this country can seek the support they need to live without fear of violence.

Thank you, as always, for your support of AVP and for your advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ people!

Best,

Sharon Stapel  
Executive Director