



MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL COALITION OF ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAMS RELEASES 2008 ANNUAL HATE VIOLENCE REPORT

**Violence increases dramatically in Mid-West; number of murders at the highest level since 1999;
NCAVP calls for education and prevention efforts.**

For Immediate Release

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New York- Violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people increased 2% from 2007 to 2008, continuing the trend of a 24% total increase in 2007, according to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)'s 2008 Hate Violence Report. Bias-related murders were at their highest rate since 1999 with 29 known anti-LGBT murders committed in 2008. Reports of violence in Milwaukee increased 64% and Minnesota and Chicago saw increases of 48% and 42%, respectively.

"We are deeply troubled about the 2008 statistics for a number of reasons including the fact that increases in victimization in the Upper Midwest far exceed the national increase of 2%. With Minnesota's 48% increase in 2008 and continued multi-year trend of such increases, we are concerned for the safety of all GLBT Minnesotans even as we continue to work for equality" said Rebecca Waggoner Kloek, Anti-Violence Program Director of NCAVP member organization OutFront Minnesota.

NCAVP, a coalition of over 35 local anti-violence programs across the U.S, releases an annual report on anti-LGBT hate violence. The 2008 annual Hate Violence Report examines data compiled from 2,424 LGBTQ people who experienced hate violence in regions across the country including Chicago, IL; Colorado; Columbus, OH; Houston, TX; Kansas City, MO; Los Angeles, CA; Michigan; Milwaukee, WI; Minnesota; New York, NY; Pennsylvania; Rochester, NY; and San Francisco, CA.

NCAVP's annual Hate Violence Report is the most comprehensive report on violence against the LGBT communities in the United States and used as a resource by community activists, legislators, academics and the media. Each year, the FBI publishes its own report on hate crimes, which includes anti-LGB incidents, but it consistently contains information on far fewer cases than the NCAVP publication because it relies solely on law enforcement reports of such crimes rather than victim service organization data.

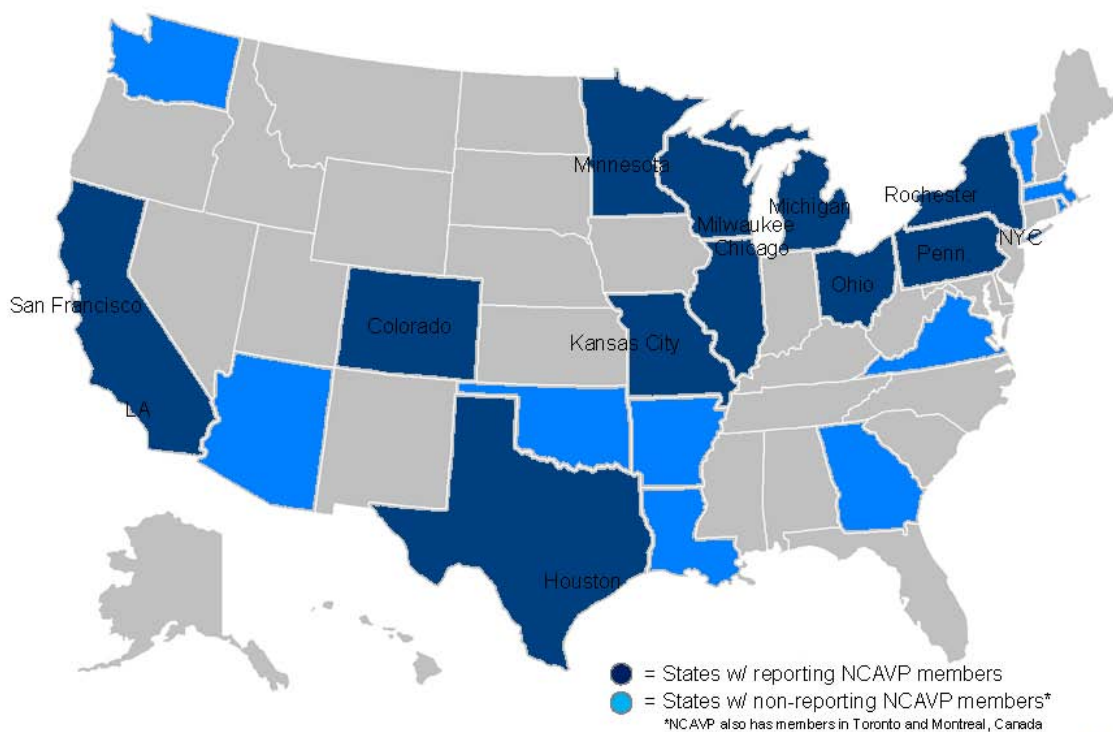
"NCAVP member organizations are a true resource for tens of thousands of LGBT people across the country," said Avy Skolnik, the New York City Anti-Violence Project's Coordinator of Statewide and

National Programs. "This report demonstrates the need for more local programs throughout the United States, particularly in regions where no such resource or program exists."

NCAVP member organizations are found in 20 states throughout the country and many are the single resource in their entire state. More than half of the country is without a local anti-violence program in the entire state.

NCAVP makes several key recommendations in the 2008 report, including the need to support increased public awareness, education, documentation, and prevention efforts to end bias motivated violence. NCAVP calls upon elected officials and community leaders must show their commitment to ending violence against LGBT people with resources, support and a willingness to speak out against this violence.

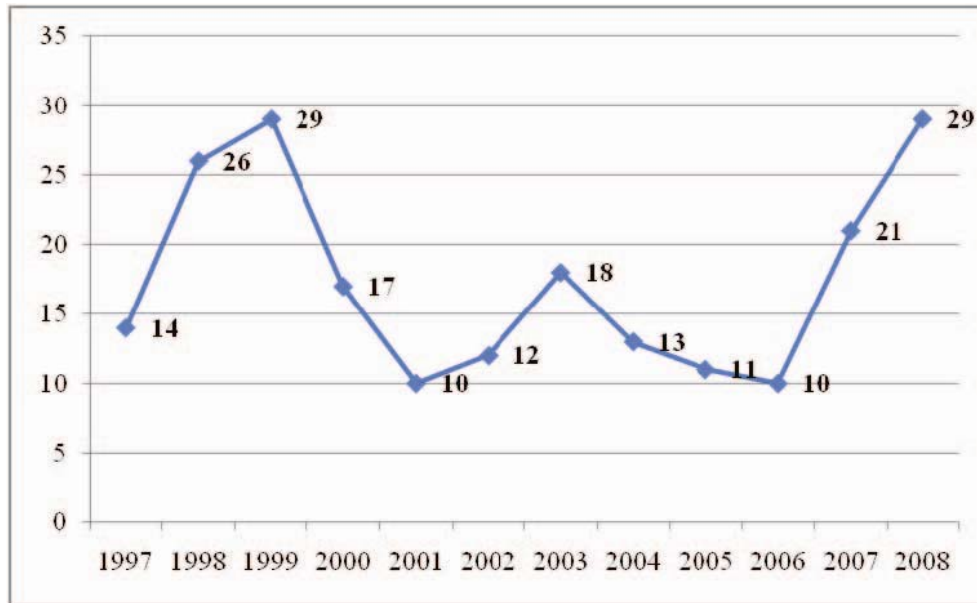
To download a complete version of the report, visit: www.avp.org or www.ncavp.org.



State-by-state distribution of NCAVP members and the 2008 Hate Violence Report



Anti-LGBT Murders since 1997



Contributing Members

1. **Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization-** (614) 294-7867
Press Contact: Gloria McCauley, Executive Director
2. **Center on Halsted Anti-Violence Project-** (773) 472-6469
Press Contact: Laura Velazquez, Anti-Violence Project Manager
3. **Colorado Anti-Violence Program-** (303) 839-5204
Press Contact: Kelly Costello, Director of Victim Services
4. **Community United Against Violence-** (415) 777-5500
Press Contact: Jovida Ross, ext 310, Executive Director
5. **Equality Advocates Pennsylvania-** (215) 731-1447
Press Contact, Amara Chaudhry, ext16, Legal Director
6. **Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley Anti-Violence Program-** (585) 244-8640
Press Contact: Kelly Clark, ext 17, Community Safety Director
7. **Kansas City Anti-Violence Project-** (816) 561-0550
Press Contact: Doug Riley, Executive Director
8. **L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center-** (English): (800) 373-2227; Phone (Spanish): (877) 963-4666
Press Contact: Jake Finney, Lead Victim Advocate
9. **Milwaukee Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center-** (414) 271-2656
Press Contact: Meighan Bentz, Victim Outreach Advocate

10. **Montrose Counseling Center-** (713) 529-0037
Press Contact: Sally Huffer, ext 324, Community Projects Specialist
11. **New York City Anti-Violence Project-** (212) 714-1184
Press Contact: Sharon Stapel, ext 22, Executive Director
12. **OutFront Minnesota-** (800) 800-0350
Press Contact: Rebecca Waggoner Kloek, ext 101, Anti-Violence Program Director
13. **Triangle Foundation-** (313) 537-7000
Press Contact: Melissa L. Pope, Director of Victim Services
14. **Wingspan Anti-Violence Project-** (520) 624-1779
Press Contact: Caz Springer, Media, Communication Manager

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) supports local LGBT organizations in their work to end violence in all its forms against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and communities. www.ncavp.org.