

NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

January 09, 2012

NCAVP Endorses National Stalking Awareness Month; Calls for End to LGBTQH Stalking

This January, The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)) stands in solidarity with survivors and victims of stalking in commemorating the 9th annual [National Stalking Awareness Month](#). During this month, NCAVP raises awareness about this form of violence within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities. We also mourn those lives lost to stalking and call for action to end stalking.

Stalking is a series of acts directed at someone designed to cause that person to be afraid. Stalking can take the form of physical attacks, threats, vandalism, burglary, and unwanted communications such as cards, calls, messages, gifts, and/or visits. Stalking can be difficult to identify because it is not a single, isolated incident. Survivors of stalking, like other survivors of violence, may experience physical and or emotional impacts related to this violence. LGBTQH survivors of stalking may also experience additional barriers accessing supportive services such as a fear of reporting due to threats from the stalker to out the survivor's sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV-status, disbelief, indifferent, biased attitudes from law enforcement and service providers, and a lack of appropriate and sensitive resources for LGBTQH stalking survivors.

In the [report](#) *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Intimate Partner Violence in the United States in 2010*, NCAVP members documented stalking as a tactic of abuse within 7.3% of LGBTQH intimate partner violence cases in 2010. NCAVP members also documented the use of stalking as a form of hate violence against LGBTQH people in the [report](#) *Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2010*. In this report, local reporting members identified homophobic, biphobic, and transphobic stalking from neighbors as well as stalking through anti-LGBTQH cyber-bullying and harassment as particularly prevalent issues. Unfortunately very little data exists on stalking within and against LGBTQH communities. Without comprehensive data and documentation of LGBTQH stalking, strategies to address and prevent LGBTQH stalking will not receive the critical resources and attention necessary to reduce and end this violence.

In recognition of Stalking Awareness Month, NCAVP commits to continue to support LGBTQH survivors of stalking by documenting its impact and advocating for political strategies to address and end this violence. NCAVP calls on community members, anti-violence organizations, and public officials to take action in recognition of Stalking Awareness Month to address and end stalking in our communities.

CALL TO ACTION

Participate During Stalking Awareness Month: To receive information on stalking, educational materials, and ideas about how to get involved during the month, visit www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org.

Increase Data Collection: The federal government, state and local governments, schools, universities, police departments, and community organizations should collect and analyze data on LGBTQH stalking to more accurately identify its prevalence and support strategies to address and end this violence.

Eliminate Barriers: Federal, state, and local governments should create laws and policies to reduce barriers to accessing services for LGBTQH survivors of stalking including comprehensive LGBTQH competency training for law enforcement and service providers and comprehensive nondiscrimination policies.

Support Research: NCAVP calls on private and public funders to increase funding to expand research on LGBTQH stalking, available services, and stalking prevention initiatives.

Report Violence: NCAVP encourages anyone who has experienced violence to contact a local anti-violence program for support and to document this violence and encourages all LGBTQH and anti-violence organizations to contribute data to NCAVP's annual national reports.

Get Involved: Join NCAVP in our efforts to prevent and respond to LGBTQH violence. To learn more about our national advocacy, receive technical assistance and support, or locate an anti-violence program in your area, [contact us](#).

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

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