



NCAVP Alarmed by Trend of Violence Against Transgender People in Washington, DC

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)) is alarmed by the attack on Tonya Harrell, a second incident in two weeks where a transgender woman was targeted for violence in Washington, DC. In the early morning hours of Sunday, July 31, 2011, Tonya Harrell was shot at by a suspect who approached her asking for change. Ms. Harrell was not struck and was able to escape uninjured. The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) considers this incident to be nearly identical to what they believed took place in the tragic shooting death of Lashai Mclean in the same neighborhood on July 20, 2011, and are investigating both attacks as potential [hate crimes](#).

NCAVP is highly concerned by these incidents. According to [Metro Weekly](#), Washington DC ranks as having the highest rate of transgender murders in the United States between 1995 and 2006. NCAVP's [report](#) *Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2010* found that transgender people of color are at increased risk of violence and murder and have less access to anti-violence services and support. The report also shows that transgender women in particular are less likely to report violence to the police.

NCAVP stands in solidarity with Tonya Harrell and local LGBTQ organizations, including the DC Trans Coalition (DCTC), Transgender Health Empowerment (THE), Gays and Lesbians Opposing Violence (GLOV) at The DC Center for the LGBT Community, and the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE). Together, these partners call on the MPD, community members, and anti-violence organizations to advocate for an increase in support and safety to end violence against transgender people.

ACTION STEPS

Report Violence: NCAVP encourages anyone who has experienced violence to contact a local anti-violence program. For help locating an anti-violence program in your area, please contact us at info@ncavp.org.

Get involved: Join NCAVP in our efforts to prevent and respond to anti-LGBTQ violence. Contact us at info@ncavp.org to learn more.

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 over forty local member programs, as well as 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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