



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2012

NCAVP Endorses Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Month; Calls for End to LGBTQH Intimate Partner Violence

This October, The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)) stands in solidarity with survivors and victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) in commemorating the 25th annual [Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Month](#). During this month, NCAVP raises awareness about this form of violence within and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities and calls for an end to intimate partner violence.

Intimate partner violence is a pattern of behaviors where one intimate partner coerces, dominates, or isolates another intimate partner to maintain power and control over the partner and the relationship. Abusive partners exert power and control over survivors through a myriad of tactics including emotional abuse, physical violence, sexual violence, financial abuse, threats, and other tactics. It is estimated that intimate partner violence occurs in LGBTQH communities at similar rates as non-LGBTQH communities. Intimate partner violence is a pervasive and deadly form of violence impacting LGBTQH communities.

In NCAVP's 2011 [report](#) *Intimate Partner Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV Communities*, released on October 10th 2012, **NCAVP documented 19 LGBTQH intimate partner violence murders in the United States in 2011**. This is over three times the amount of documented IPV murders in 2010, and **the highest number of IPV murders ever recorded by the Coalition**. A majority (63.2%) of IPV murder victims were men. According to NCAVP's report, LGBTQH youth and young adults, gay people, and LGBTQH men were more likely to experience injuries as a result of IPV, and transgender survivors and queer survivors were more likely to experience sexual violence within IPV. The report also found that women, LGBTQH youth and young adults, LGBTQH people of color, and LGBTQH youth and young adults of color were more likely to experience physical violence, and that bisexual survivors were more likely to experience verbal harassment from abusive partners. Additionally, More LGBTQH survivors in 2011 (61.6%) were denied access to shelter than in 2010 (51.4%).

LGBTQH survivors of intimate partner violence may experience specific barriers reporting IPV such as fear due to threats from an abusive partner to out the survivor's sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV-status. Additionally, LGBTQH survivors may experience service discrimination, disbelief, indifferent, and biased attitudes from law enforcement and service providers, and a lack of culturally appropriate and sensitive resources.

In 2010 NCAVP and the National Center for Victims of Crime ([NCVC](#)) released the [report](#) *Why It Matters: Rethinking Victim Assistance for LGBTQ Victims of Hate Violence and Intimate*

Partner Violence. This report documented that 96% of victim services and law enforcement agencies said that they did not have specific services for LGBTQ victims of violence. In 2011 NCAVP conducted a survey of its member programs which found that 85% of survey participants responded that they had worked with an LGBTQH survivor of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, or stalking who reported that they were denied services because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. The consequences of not being able to access services for LGBTQH survivors can be devastating and in many cases dangerous. Without appropriate services, IPV survivors are left with fewer options to receive the support to heal, safety plan, obtain legal remedies and meet basic needs.

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

CALL TO ACTION

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](#).

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

Increase Data Collection: The federal government, state and local governments, schools, universities, police departments, and community organizations should collect and analyze data on LGBTQH intimate partner violence 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 violence 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 intimate partner violence, available services, and violence prevention initiatives.

Participate in Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Month: To receive information, technical assistance, or strategies for raising awareness about LGBTQH intimate partner violence in October, [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 and affiliate organizations who create systemic and social change. NCAVP is a program of the [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#).

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