

# NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy  
for Local LGBTQH Communities

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 2, 2012**

## **NCAVP Endorses National Sexual Assault Awareness Month; Calls for End to LGBTQH Sexual Assault**

This April, The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)) stands in solidarity with survivors and victims of sexual assault in commemorating the 12<sup>th</sup> annual [National Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#). During this month, NCAVP raises awareness about this form of violence within and against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities and calls for an end to sexual assault.

Sexual assault is an act of violence in which someone conducts sexual activity without another person's consent. Perpetrators of sexual assault exert power and control over survivors through coercion, manipulation, shame, pressure, violating boundaries, and other tactics. Sexual assault can overlap with other forms of violence and can be committed by strangers, acquaintances, friends, family members, and intimate partners. In NCAVP's 2010 [report \*Intimate Partner Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV Communities\*](#), NCAVP members reported that 9.2% of LGBTQH survivors of intimate partner violence experienced sexual abuse from a partner in 2010. Hate-motivated sexual violence may occur when a non-LGBTQH person rapes an LGBTQH person to "cure" their sexual orientation or gender identity. NCAVP members reported that 4.3% of hate violence reports were sexual violence in the [report \*Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2010\*](#). Discrimination against LGBTQH people contributes to LGBTQH sexual violence survivors feeling pressure to not out other LGBTQH people as having committed sexual violence. LGBTQH survivors of sexual assault may experience increased barriers reporting sexual violence 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 disbelief, indifferent, 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, survivors are left with fewer options to receive the support to heal, safety plan, obtain legal remedies and meet basic needs after experiencing sexual violence.

In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, NCAVP commits to continue to support LGBTQH survivors of sexual assault by advocating for political strategies to address and end this violence, documenting its impact, and assisting NCAVP member programs to support LGBTQ sexual violence survivors. NCAVP calls on community members, anti-violence organizations, and public officials to take action in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month to end sexual assault 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 sexual assault 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 sexual assault, available services, and violence prevention initiatives.

**Participate in Sexual Assault Awareness Month:** To receive information on sexual assault, educational materials, and ideas about how to get involved during the month, visit [www.nsvrc.org/saam/sexual-assault-awareness-month-home](http://www.nsvrc.org/saam/sexual-assault-awareness-month-home).

*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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