



National Advocacy  
for Local LGBTQH Communities

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 1, 2011**

**NCAVP Endorses World AIDS Day; Calls for an End to Violence and Discrimination Against People Affected by HIV and AIDS**

Today, Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)) stands in solidarity with HIV/AIDS-affected communities in commemoration of the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual World AIDS Day. As the global HIV/AIDS crisis continues, NCAVP highlights the impact of HIV/AIDS related violence and calls for actions to address and end this violence.

NCAVP's membership regularly responds to HIV/AIDS related violence through their work supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) survivors of violence across the United States. HIV-related violence can include hate violence and discrimination based on actual or perceived HIV status and stigma. HIV-related violence also occurs as institutional discrimination where service providers may implicitly deny services based on someone's HIV status and may not follow laws around HIV confidentiality. NCAVP is concerned about violence and discrimination that occurs through the criminal legal system, including denial of HIV medication in detention centers and discrimination against HIV-affected people by law enforcement.

In the context of intimate partner violence, HIV-related abuse can be used to control a partner by threatening to out their HIV-status, shaming a partner for their HIV status, threats to expose a partner to HIV, and abuse during HIV-related illness such as withholding medication and interfering with HIV-related medical appointments. HIV-related violence can also include intentionally exposing or infecting people with HIV through sexual violence or HIV-related harassment, and bullying based upon perceived or known HIV-status.

NCAVP members see the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on marginalized communities including communities of color, LGBTQ communities, and low-income communities. These same communities are also disproportionately impacted by hate violence, as shown through NCAVP's [report](#) *Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2010*. Societal discrimination against these communities creates barriers for HIV/AIDS-affected community members when accessing violence response services. NCAVP urges policymakers and advocates to recognize the connections between historical discrimination, HIV risk, and multiple forms of violence and discrimination when crafting strategies to support these communities.

This World AIDS Day, NCAVP commits to continue to support survivors of HIV/AIDS related violence 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 World AIDS Day to address and end HIV/AIDS-related violence.

## CALL TO ACTION

**Participate in World AIDS Day:** Research local World AIDS Day events and visit [worldaidscampaign.org](http://worldaidscampaign.org) for posters, brochures, and images to commemorate the day.

**Eliminate Service Barriers:** Federal, state, and local governments should create laws and policies and enforce existing ones to ensure comprehensive HIV competency training for all direct service providers and other policies and laws to reduce barriers for HIV/AIDS-affected survivors.

**Research HIV/AIDS-Related Violence:** Federal, state, and local governments, schools, universities, researchers, and community organizations should collect and analyze data on the intersections of HIV/AIDS and violence to support strategies to address and end this violence.

**Support Survivors of HIV/AIDS-Related Violence:** [Educate](#) yourself on myths and facts about HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS-related violence; [locate](#) your local anti-violence program to learn more about supporting survivors of HIV/AIDS-related violence.

**Report Violence:** NCAVP encourages anyone who has experienced violence to [contact](#) a local anti-violence program for support and to document this violence.

**Get Involved:** Join NCAVP in our efforts to prevent and respond to HIV/AIDS-related violence. To learn more about our national advocacy, receive technical assistance or 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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