

NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

March 07, 2012

NCAVP Monthly Update: Recent reports of violence affecting LGBTQH communities in the United States

- **4 murders and 11 total incidents reported in February**

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)) is concerned by reports of violence impacting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities across the United States that were reported during the month of February, 2012. This month, NCAVP is including incidents that occurred in December 2011 and January 2012 which were reported to NCAVP in February, 2012. **In total, 11 reported incidents of violence have occurred in Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Washington, DC.**

December 25, 2011: Lacresha A.V. Barnett, 36, [fatally stabbed](#) her longtime partner, Onge'le Marie Barnett, 30, in **Kansas City, Missouri**. Barnett told police Onge'le Marie Barnett's relatives came to her apartment and found her dead in the living room. Lacresha Barnett told police that Onge'le Barnett became angry with her, displayed a knife, and proceeded to choke her. Lacresha Barnett then picked up the knife and stabbed Onge'le multiple times. The Jackson County Prosecutor's Office has charged Barnett with second-degree murder and armed criminal action. NCAVP member, [Kansas City Anti-Violence Project](#), is monitoring this incident and will attend upcoming court dates regarding Barnett's trial.

February 3, 2012: Deoni Jones, 22, a transgender woman of color, and an unnamed person were in an altercation at a bus stop in **Washington, DC**. The unnamed person [stabbed Jones in the face](#) before they were chased off by a third person at the bus stop. Jones passed away at 2:30am at Prince George's County Hospital as a result of her injuries. NCAVP member, [DC Trans Coalition](#) (DCTC), [released a statement](#) alerting their communities to this attack and condemning the media's use of transphobic language in covering this homicide. DCTC also [held a vigil](#) on Tuesday, February 7th in honor of Deoni Jones.

February 4, 2012: Two unnamed men [punched](#) Steven Benoit, who identifies as gay, in the back of the head and chased him for several blocks after he left his work, gay bar Oilcan Harry's, in **Austin, Texas**. Austin Police took a suspect into custody and are still looking for the second suspect.

February 6, 2012: Dorian Moragne, Christopher Cain and Dareal Williams videotaped themselves [jumping, shouting anti-gay slurs, and severely beating](#) Brandon White, 20, who identifies as gay African American man, outside a grocery store in **Atlanta, Georgia**. The men uploaded their video of the attack online. The Atlanta Black LGBT Coalition held a community meeting on February 7th in response to this attack. Local organizers held a press conference on February 8th where White spoke out against the attackers, and also held a rally in the neighborhood where the attack took place on February 11th. NCAVP and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation ([GLAAD](#)) released a [joint blog post](#) supporting local Atlanta LGBTQ communities responding to this incident. Atlanta police arrested Moragne, Cain, and Williams in response to this attack.

February 11, 2012: Ketoine Jamahl Mitchell, 19, and two unnamed women yelled “faggot” at Erin Johnston and Sarah Nordstrom due to their perceived sexual orientation at a fast food restaurant in **Boone, North Carolina**. The three assailants followed Johnston and Nordstrom to their apartment complex where Mitchell then [physically attacked and kicked](#) Johnston and Nordstrom. Johnston required stitches to her mouth and Nordstrom’s cheekbone was shattered as a result of the attack. Johnston was reportedly coughing up blood at the time of the incident. Boone Police arrested Mitchell in connection to this incident. [Equality North Carolina](#) has [responded](#) by calling on the North Carolina state legislature to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the state’s hate crime law and holding a community forum on March 2. [Change.org](#) also [launched a petition](#) calling on the North Carolina legislature to include sexual orientation and gender identity in their hate crime law in support of Nordstrom and Johnston.

February 16, 2012: An unnamed man and an unnamed woman approached Destinie Mogg-Barkalow, who identifies as gay, in the Chapel Lot of Bridgewater State University in **Bridgewater, Massachusetts**. The two asked Mogg-Baralow if she wrote a pro-gay article for the school newspaper and then the unnamed woman [punched](#) Mogg-Barkalow before the two fled. NCAVP member [Fenway Health Violence Recovery Program](#) has reached out to the school to offer support and mental health services to students in response to this incident. Bridgewater State University Pride Center and students organized a rally of approximately 200-300 people to protest this attack.

February 17, 2012: Shane Williams, a student and football player at Colorado Mesa University, argued with girlfriends Chelsea Gallagher and Ashley Davis, yelled homophobic slurs, and then proceeded to pick Gallagher up and [slam her on the ground](#) in **Grand Junction, Colorado**. Gallagher sustained a fractured skull and bleeding from the ear as a result of this attack. Local authorities arrested Williams on charges of second degree assault, possessing a fake ID, and underage drinking. NCAVP member, [Colorado Anti-Violence Program](#), released a [joint statement](#) with [Western Equality](#) and [One Colorado](#) calling for increased resources for violence prevention in response to this attack, and alerting community members to a community forum to be held on March 6.

February 19, 2012: Erika Stroud, her sister Felicia Stroud, and her partner Lydia Sanford [attacked a gay man and called him anti-gay slurs](#) after his backpack bumped into them at the Forrest Hills train station in **Boston, Massachusetts**. The three women then proceeded to steal the man’s backpack. The man sustained a broken nose and lacerations to his face as a result of the attack. Boston police are investigating this incident as a potential hate crime. At least one of the attackers [identifies as lesbian](#), and their attorney, Helene Tomlinson, has stated that this cannot be an anti-gay hate crime if the attackers are lesbian. Tomlinson has also recently stated that the man prompted the attack by [using a racial slur](#) against the young women.

February 25, 2012: Christopher Armendariz, 25, reportedly [killed his boyfriend](#) Christopher Armendariz, 37, after a reported domestic violence physical altercation between the two men in **Phoenix, Arizona**. Phoenix police found Lancaster's body inside his home and are currently holding Armendariz in custody.

February 25, 2012: Randy Briggs, 31, [fatally shot](#) Charity Gilbert, 20, and then fatally shot himself at his home in **Montrose, Colorado**. Gilbert was in a romantic relationship with Patricia Briggs, Randy Briggs' ex-wife. Charity Gilbert and Patricia Briggs were apparently at Randy Briggs' home to pick up Randy and Patricia's children for a trip to Missouri when the shooting occurred. Randy Briggs had a prior history of child abuse and domestic violence charges. Montrose Police are declining comment regarding this report at this time.

February 25, 2012: Two unnamed young men [yelled homophobic slurs and threw](#) Cody Rogers, 18, who identifies as gay, on the ground at a party in **Tulsa, Oklahoma**. Other people at the party asked the two men to leave after they were saying homophobic things about Rogers, which prompted the attack. Rogers was knocked unconscious as a result of the attack. Tulsa police have classified this incident as a simple assault. Rogers has started a facebook page [Help Stop the Stomping](#), advocating for Oklahoma to add sexual orientation to their hate crimes law. [Oklahomans for Equality](#) has responded in media stories supporting Rogers and his initiative to change Oklahoma's hate crimes law.

According to NCAVP's [report](#) *Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2010*, there was a 13% increase in reports of anti-LGBTQH violence between 2009 and 2010. Additionally, NCAVP's 2010 [report](#) *Intimate Partner Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV Communities* documented 38.1% increase in reports of LGBTQH intimate partner violence between 2009 and 2010. NCAVP believes that together communities can prevent and end violence impacting LGBTQH people and calls on community members, anti-violence organizations, and public officials to join efforts to end violence within and against LGBTQH communities.

ACTION STEPS

Prevent: NCAVP encourages communities to create programs, campaigns, and curricula to prevent anti-LGBTQH harassment and violence in order to promote safety. NCAVP is available to provide support and resources to communities for their violence prevention efforts.

Respond: NCAVP recommends that funders increase support for LGBTQH survivors of violence by funding LGBTQ inclusive services, and banning barriers to service and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. NCAVP also recommends that community based organizations organize responses to this violence. For technical assistance on community based responses, [contact us](#) or visit www.ncavp.org.

Report Violence: Do you know something that should be included in this update? NCAVP encourages anyone who has experienced violence to contact a local anti-violence program for support and to document this violence. For help locating an anti-violence program in your area or to report violence to NCAVP, please [contact us](#) or visit www.ncavp.org.

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

Contact Information for Responding Organizations

Colorado Anti-Violence Program

Phone: 303- 839-5204

www.coavp.org

DC Trans Coalition

Phone: 202-681-DCTC

www.dctranscoalition.org

Equality North Carolina

Phone: 919-829-0343

www.equalitync.org/

Fenway Health Violence Recovery Program

Phone: 617-927-6250

www.fenwayhealth.org

Kansas City Anti-Violence Project

Phone: 816-561-0550

www.kcavp.org

One Colorado

Phone: 303-839-5204

www.one-colorado.org

Oklahomans for Equality

Phone: 918-743-4297

www.okeq.org

Western Equality

Phone: 970-242-8949

www.westernequality.org

NCAVP is providing all information available regarding these reports and is not responsible for the complete accuracy of the specific details pertinent to allegations, police investigations, and criminal trials. Initial reports of these incidents come from media reports of LGBTQH violence and not direct service provision from NCAVP member programs. NCAVP has reached out to local organizations in these areas and is offering assistance to support their anti-violence efforts.

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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