

NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

MEDIA ALERT

August 09, 2012

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NCAVP Update: July reports of violence affecting LGBTQH communities in the media in the United States

- **4 murders and 18 total incidents reported in July**

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 July, 2012. This month, NCAVP is including incidents that occurred in May and June 2012 which were reported to NCAVP in July, 2012. **In total, 18 incidents were reported in the media in California, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington DC.** Trends in July reports include unprecedented reports of violence against lesbians (7 reported incidents), an increase in reported intimate partner violence murders (2 reported intimate partner violence murders), and a continuing trend of anti-LGBTQH vandalism (3 reported incidents) from the previous month. The week of July 15th contained the highest number of reports of LGBTQH violence in July, with eight total reports.

Week of July 1, 2012:

NCAVP learned of a hate violence incident that occurred on June 24th, 2012 in **Memphis, Tennessee**. Brandon Hooper, 28, used [anti-lesbian language and punched](#) Jackie Lloyd, who identifies as a lesbian, at the Celtic Crossing bar. Lloyd sustained a broken nose and swollen face as a result of this attack. Local law enforcement arrested Hooper and charged him with aggravated assault in response to this incident.

NCAVP learned of a hate violence incident that occurred on June 25th, 2012 in **Austin, Texas**. A bartender grabbed Gina Adams, who identifies as a lesbian, and [threw her to the ground](#) multiple times after she asked him if there were any drink specials that evening. Austin police did not classify this incident as a hate crime, but Adams stated publically that she believes the attack could have been motivated by the fact that she identifies as a lesbian.

Week of July 8, 2012:

Samual Strouffe, 48, [threatened and attempted to attack a transgender woman, 51, with a crowbar](#) after she refused Strouffe's sexual advances in **Lexington, South Carolina**. The woman was able to flee and contact local law enforcement. Lexington deputies reported that they found Strouffe intoxicated hiding in a neighbor's yard. Local law enforcement arrested Strouffe and charged him with second degree assault and battery and public disorderly conduct.

Comedian Eddie Griffin called Fiona Walshe, an audience member at one of his shows, a "lesbian," that just needed a "good man...I'll volunteer my services," in **Pleasantown, California**. Griffin then began to pump his hips in Walshe's face. According to reports, Walshe then proceeded to toss a glass of wine or champagne at Griffin. Griffin then [poured a glass of water on her, threw the plastic bottle at her, and pelted her with a salt and pepper shaker](#). Walshe has hired an attorney and is interested in suing Griffin for this assault.

Memphis homicide. An unnamed person [fatally shot](#) Marquita Jones, 20, who identified as a lesbian, in **Memphis, Tennessee**. Jones' aunt believes the attack may have been because Jones identified openly as a lesbian. Memphis police have stated they are investigating the shooting as a homicide and will inform the US Attorney's Office if there is evidence that meets the guidelines of a federal hate crime.

Week of July 15, 2012:

Unidentified people [spray painted profanity on the driveway of Dustin Tasso and Matt James, an openly gay couple, broke their car windows, and broke into their home](#) in a series of incidents in **Toomsaba, Mississippi**. Tasso spoke with the local Sheriff's department about these incidents. Chief Deputy Ward Calhoun has stated that an investigation is under way, but that there is little current information for a case.

An unidentified person left a [threatening message](#) on the voicemail of [Casa Ruby](#), a Latina transgender organization in **Washington, DC**. The Spanish-language death threat roughly said that the organization "deserves divine punishment and death." Ruby Corado, the organization's founder, stated that she was upset and worried because she has responded to dozens of funerals throughout the city and hospitals hundreds of times to support survivors of anti-transgender violence.

A 17 year old youth who identifies as a lesbian was walking home from a convenience store with two younger boys when a group of adults yelled, "let's get em," and [physically attacked them](#), focusing on beating the unnamed lesbian in **Louisville, Kentucky**. The young woman's family and friends reported that they feel she was targeted because of her lesbian identity, but the survivors of the incident have said that they did not hear anti-LGBTQH slurs being used. The attackers broke the young woman's jaw in multiple places and knocked several of her teeth out. One of the two boys attacked sustained a concussion as a result of this incident. [The Fairness Campaign](#), a local LGBTQH rights organization released a statement of support for the survivors in response to this incident.

NCAVP learned of the murder of Desean Bowman, 18, on June 2nd, 2012 in East **Baltimore, Maryland**. An unnamed man [fatally shot](#) Bowman, an openly gay man, at a gas station. Bowman was wearing women's clothing at the time of the shooting. The Guardian Angels, a volunteer group of unarmed citizen crime patrollers, [held a vigil](#) for Bowman at Baltimore City

Hall on July 17th. The Baltimore Police Department is currently searching for the suspected shooter. NCAVP released a facebook note alerting our communities to this incident.

NCAVP learned of a hate violence incident that occurred on Pride weekend in **Manhattan, New York** at the end of June. A group of women leafleting near Central Park in opposition to the treatment of the city's carriage horses [were called homophobic and racist slurs](#) by one of the carriage drivers. The [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#) released a [breaking news alert via facebook](#) in response to this incident.

Kenneth J. Fazzina, 52, entered the home of his neighbor, Richard Treitner, and [slashed him in the abdomen](#) in **Pine Hill, New York**. Treitner shared the story of his attack with the local paper, the Watershed Post, stating that it was a "homophobic panic attack," that he and Fazzina had been intimately involved in the past, and that since that time, Fazzina has been threatening his life. The [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#) released a [breaking news alert via facebook](#) in response to this incident.

An unidentified person or persons [drove by and shot](#) the window of Greg's, a gay bar in **Indianapolis, Indiana**. According to bar patrons, the car was a Mercury or Lincoln. Phil Denton, a manager at Gregs, believes the shooting was hate violence and that the bar has experienced anti-gay vandalism before. Indianapolis Police have reported that there are no suspects or witnesses regarding this incident.

A small group of unnamed people scrawled "fag" on Jon Ferguson's car and threw something in it that [caused an explosion](#) as he approached them in **Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**. Ferguson openly identifies as gay. Ferguson called 911 and was rushed to the hospital where he was treated for first and second degree burns on his face, arms, and torso. The Oklahoma City Fire Department has classified the attack as arson and local police say they have no suspects.

Week of July 22, 2012:

Three unnamed men broke into the home of Charlie Rogers', who identifies as gay, [bound her wrists and ankles, carved anti-LGBTQH epithets into her skin, dumped gasoline on her floor, and set it on fire](#) in **Lincoln, Nebraska**. Rogers crawled naked and bleeding to a neighbor's home for help. Local community supporters organized a vigil on the evening of July 22nd evening attended by more than 500 people at the Nebraska state capitol building. that drew more than 500 participants to the state capitol building. [Oulinc](#), an LGBTQH rights organizations in Lincoln, [released a statement](#) of support for the survivor, and held a community forum on LGBTQH violence in Lincoln on July 24th. Rogers [spoke out publicly](#) following reports that her story was not true, calling for attention and justice for LGBTQH survivors of hate violence. Lincoln Police are investigating this incident as a hate crime.

A group of men [jumped and severely beat](#) Michael Joel Hall and his partner, Michael Roike in **Washington, DC**. A nearby woman and her boyfriend intervened, causing the attackers to leave. Hall sustained a broken cheek and other facial injuries as a result of this attack, and underwent surgery at Howard University Hospital on July 23rd. The Metropolitan Police Department are investigating this incident as a hate crime, and have made no arrests. Friends and family of Hall and Roike set up a facebook page to raise money to help Hall pay for his medical expenses.

NCAVP learned of the death of Craig Douglas Wolfe, 63, on June 15th, 2012 in **North Bay Village, Florida**. Dwayne LeBarr Jr., 18, [strangled and fatally beat his lover](#), Douglas Wolfe. LeBarr then drove to a UPS packaging store and sent himself a package containing his bloody clothes and a laptop belonging to Douglas Wolfe. Miami Dade police are currently searching for LeBarr who is in hiding, and are charging him with second degree murder and grand theft.

Three young people dragged Jeana Terry, who is openly gay, out of her home and began [punching and kicking her](#) while using anti-LGBTQH language in **Cape Girardeau, Missouri**. Terry has stated that for months her and her partner have experienced anti-gay slurs and harassment from their neighbors. Terry sustained a concussion and bruising as a result of this attack. Local police responded and arrested at least one of the juveniles.

Week of July 29, 2012:

NCAVP learned of the murder of Brandy M. Stevens, 20, on May 17th, 2012. Jade N. Olmstead, 18, and her girlfriend, Ashley M. Barber, [fatally beat and then buried](#) Stevens in **Cochran, Pennsylvania**. Olmstead and Barber have confessed to her murder and will be arraigned on August 24. Barber and Olmstead are being held at the Crawford County Correctional Facility in Saegertown, Pennsylvania. NCAVP released a [breaking news alert](#) in response to this homicide.

According to NCAVP's [report](#) *Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2011*, there were 30 anti-LGBTQH hate murders in 2011, the highest number of hate violence murders ever recorded by NCAVP, despite a 16% decrease in overall reports of hate violence. 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.

Contact Information for Organizations Responding to Incidents

Casa Ruby

www.casaruby.org

The Fairness Campaign

502-893-0788

www.fairness.org

New York City Anti-Violence Project

212-714-1141

www.avp.org

Outlinc

www.outlinc.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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