

NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

April 06, 2012

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

- **4 murders and 14 total incidents reported in March**

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 March, 2012. This month, NCAVP is including incidents that occurred in February 2012 which were reported to NCAVP in March, 2012. **In total, 14 reported incidents of violence have occurred in California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and Washington, DC.**

February, 2012: Inmates at Orleans Parish Prison (OPP) [raped an incarcerated transgender woman](#) at knifepoint in **New Orleans, Louisiana**. The woman tested HIV-negative upon entering the prison but later tested HIV-positive after being sexually assaulted. The Southern Poverty Law Center ([SPLC](#)) requested that the woman be transferred out of the male housing where she experienced the assault. SPLC is suing OPP on behalf of the woman. NCAVP member, [BreakOUT!](#), is engaged in continued advocacy to reform OPP including collecting stories from members on their experiences with OPP, [providing testimony](#) at a community forum, and participating in the [OPP Reform Coalition](#).

February 25, 2012: A nightclub bouncer and an unidentified man held down Timothy Reyes, who identifies as gay, and then proceeded to [punch him and call him anti-gay slurs](#) outside Fubar nightclub in **West Hollywood, California**. Reyes allegedly assaulted five patrons inside Fubar prior to this incident. The [L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center](#) provided media advocacy on violence against LGBTQH people in response to this incident.

March 2, 2012: A friend of John Laubach, 57, [discovered him dead](#) with his hands tied to a bed and his mouth duct taped in his Chelsea apartment in **New York City, New York**. The New York City Anti-Violence Project ([AVP](#)) released a statement [denouncing](#) the victim-blaming language from media reports covering this incident. AVP also sent out safety tips for community members and is conducting ongoing outreach in response to this death. Edwin Faulkner, 30, and Carlos Martinez-Herrera, 26, were [arrested in Florida](#) in relation to this homicide.

March 6, 2012: Herbert Van Stephens, 53, and his partner, John E. Atkinson, 25, [stabbed each other multiple times](#) in a domestic violence altercation in their home in **Chicago, Illinois**. Atkinson later died as a result of being stabbed more than 50 times in the chest and abdomen. Van Stephens was hospitalized in critical condition as a result of his injuries. The Cook County Prosecutor's Office has [charged Van Stephens](#) with one count of first-degree murder.

March 11, 2012: Three unnamed people called a gay man, 31, and his cousin Aaron Woodland "faggies," and then [shot the gay man](#) at the International House of Pancakes restaurant in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of **Washington, DC**. The survivor was treated for a gunshot wound to the liver. The assailants fled the scene after the shooting. The Metropolitan Police Department of Washington DC has listed the incident as a hate-related assault with intent to kill. NCAVP member, [DC Trans Coalition](#), released a [statement](#) condemning this and other incidents of LGBTQH violence in the area. NCAVP member, [Gays and Lesbians Opposing Violence](#), has provided media advocacy and a community alert in response to these incidents. Local community members organized a [silent march](#) attended by over [600 people](#) in response to this violence.

March 12, 2012: Two unnamed young men attacked and [knocked a transgender woman unconscious](#) in **Washington, DC**. The survivor later stated that she feels she was targeted because of her transgender identity. The Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, DC are not investigating this incident as a hate crime due to a lack of evidence to indicate anti-transgender bias.

March 12, 2012: A group of men [yelled anti-gay slurs, attacked, and dragged](#) a gay man, 29, along the street in **Washington, DC**. The survivor required surgery to repair a broken jaw as a result of the blows to his head and face. The Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, DC is investigating this incident as a hate crime. The survivor later spoke out against this attack in an [interview](#) with the Washington Post.

March 13, 2012: Five men exited a car, approached two gay Black men, 20 and 27, called them "fags and sissies" and [beat them unconscious with baseball bats](#) in **Dallas, Texas**. The Dallas Police Department is investigating this incident as a hate crime. NCAVP member program, [Resource Center Dallas](#), is providing media and law enforcement advocacy in response to this incident.

March 14, 2012: Paul Anthony Martinson, 39, and an unnamed man approached a gay couple holding hands and [called them anti-gay slurs](#) which resulted in a physical fight between the men and the couple in **Portland, Oregon**. The assailants then smashed in the couple's car windows, slashed their tires and seats, and fled. Portland police later arrested Martinson in relation to this incident.

March 16, 2012: Javier Menendez Cuesta Daniel, 36, discovered close friend, Rosita, a transgender woman, [dead with multiple stab wounds](#) in her apartment in **Miami, Florida**. NCAVP released a [Breaking News Alert](#) in response to this homicide. Close friends and neighbors have expressed their mourning and that Rosita was "well loved."

March 18, 2012: Jeffrey Lee, 23, and two unnamed young men [attacked](#) Tim Miller and his partner David as they were taking a walk in the French Quarter of **New Orleans, Louisiana**. New Orleans Police arrested Lee in response to this incident and the Orleans Parish District Attorney is considering prosecuting it as a hate crime.

March 27, 2012: Four men [yelled anti-gay slurs and repeatedly punched](#) Michael Bustin and his friend, who both identify as gay, in the face in **Oxford, Ohio**. Bustin and his friend were on their way home from a drag show at Miami University when the incident occurred. Local reporters have noted that a similar anti-gay attack occurred last year after the same drag show. Miami University responded by sending a bulletin to the community. The Dean of the university also reached out to Bustin directly.

March 27, 2012: Maria Linares, 48, [fatally shot](#) her long-term female partner during an argument in **Miami, Florida**. Her partner stabbed Linares during the altercation. Linares is in critical condition at Kendall Regional Medical Center. NCAVP released a [Breaking News Alert](#) in response to this homicide and is working with The Lodge/Victim Response ([the Lodge](#)) with their efforts to support the community during this critical time.

March 29, 2012: Wanda Derby, 71, [repeatedly hit a man](#), 25, with her cane and then proceeded to choke him because she perceived was gay and HIV-positive in **Richland Hills, Texas**. Derby attacked the man as her son was moving into his apartment. The man's mother intervened in the attack and Derby hit her in the face. Richland Hills Police have charged Derby with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, enhanced as a hate crime, and assault causing bodily injury.

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

BreakOUT!

504-522-5435

www.youthbreakout.org

DC Trans Coalition

202-681-DCTC

www.dctranscoalition.org

Resource Center Dallas

214-540-4455

www.rcdallas.org

Gays and Lesbians Opposing Violence

202-682-2245

www.glovdc.org

New York City Anti-Violence Project

212-714-1184

www.avp.org

L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center Anti-Violence Project

323-993-7653

www.lagaycenter.org

The Lodge/Victim Response, Inc.

305-693-0232

www.thelodgemiami.org

Southern Poverty Law Center

334-956-8200

www.splcenter.org

Resource Center Dallas

214-540-4455

www.rcdallas.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](#).

###