

NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

MEDIA ALERT

June 07, 2012

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

- **1 murder and 16 total incidents in May**

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 May, 2012. This month, NCAVP is including incidents that occurred in April 2012 which were reported to NCAVP in May, 2012. **In total, 16 incidents were reported in the media in Arizona, California, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.**

April 26, 2012: Two unnamed men were caught on video [yelling anti-LGBTQH slurs and beating](#) two other patrons at a Waffle House in **Columbus, Ohio**. The attack resulted in one man being knocked unconscious and the other sustaining broken facial bones. The attackers fled the scene after the attack. Ohio police are currently searching for the attackers. NCAVP member program, Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization ([BRAVO](#)), has been working to support one of the survivors. Gloria McCauley of BRAVO, has told media that hate violence incidents like this are common, even in progressive cities like Columbus.

April 30, 2012: Two men approached Kelsey Pollock, 23, and her cousin Kyle Kelly, asked her if she was a boy or a girl, called her a "he-she" and other anti-LGBTQH slurs, and [physically attacked](#) both Pollock and Kelly in **Stillwater, Oklahoma**. Stillwater police arrived at the scene and arrested the two men. Stillwater Municipal Court has charged the two men with assault and public intoxication. Kelly and Pollock have stated that they do not wish to press charges. The local Stillwater Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays ([PFLAG](#)) held a meeting to discuss violence against LGBTQH people in response to this incident.

Week of May 07, 2012: An inmate in a **Norfolk, Virginia** jail mocked Janelle Phares', a transgender woman inmate, and [non-consensually touched her chest](#) while in her holding cell. Phares has stated that she did not feel comfortable reporting the assault while in custody because a deputy at the jail had made a mockery of her transgender identity when she came

into custody. Phares has reported that she will wait to potentially file a warrant and lawsuit against the other inmate and the city until her petty larceny charge is settled.

May 13, 2012: Pastor Charles L. Worley of Providence Road Baptist Church was videotaped condemning President Obama's support of same-gender marriage and calling for LGBTQH people to be [put in a pen and electrified until they were killed](#) in **Maiden, North Carolina**. Community members responded by [protesting](#) outside the church. [OutRaleigh Clergy](#), coalition of LGBTQH-affirming faith organizations in Raleigh, North Carolina, released a statement denouncing Pastor Worley's violence-inciting message.

May 13, 2012: Marcus Wilson, 18, was arrested and charged with the [death](#) of Christopher Ashton Martin, 30 in **New Port Richey, Florida**. According to local police, Wilson and Martin were drinking in Starkey Wilderness Park. Wilson told police he fell asleep and when he woke up Martin was performing oral sex on him. Wilson then allegedly shot Martin to death with Martin's gun, left his body in the park, and fled the scene with Martin's wallet and car. NCAVP released a [breaking news alert](#) in collaboration with member program, [The Lodge](#) in Miami, in response to Martin's death.

May 14, 2012: An unnamed teacher at the Luzerne County School District videotaped Jared Swank, an openly gay student and his transgender identified date dancing at prom and then showed it to other students in **Hanover, Pennsylvania**. The other students then [mocked and bullied](#) him. The Luzerne County School Board held a meeting to discuss this incident and issues of bullying against LGBTQH youth and have announced that they will investigate this incident.

May 14, 2012: Khyran R. Delay, 34, called openly gay high school student Darnell Young, 17, an [anti-LGBTQH slur and then proceeded to push and punch](#) him in a mall in **Indianapolis, Indiana**. Arsenal Tech High School expelled Darnell Young, 17, in April when his mother gave him a stun gun to take to school to defend himself from persistent anti-gay bullying and violence at school. Indianapolis Police arrested Delay, and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office has charged Delay with a misdemeanor count of battery.

May 15, 2012: An unidentified person called the Los Angeles Police Department and threatened that they were going to "[blow up the LGBT building](#) in **Washington, D.C.**" National LGBTQH organizations with office space in Washington DC were evacuated including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Center for Transgender Equality, the National Black Justice Coalition, Human Rights Campaign, National Center for Lesbian Rights, and Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network. The Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department conducted an investigation and found no hazardous materials in these organizations' offices.

May 16, 2012: A neighbor of Tawana Williams and Stacy Baker, an openly lesbian couple, called them while away on their honeymoon to tell them that their [house was on fire](#) in **Novi, Michigan**. Someone allegedly wrote anti-LGBTQH slurs inside their home while they were away. Local law enforcement are investigating this incident as a possible hate crime. NCAVP member program, [Equality Michigan](#), released a [statement in support](#) of Williams and Baker in response to this incident. Equality Michigan is also collecting donations to support Williams and Baker to meet their immediate needs during this time.

May 24, 2012: A group of people yelled anti-gay slurs at an unnamed man and his friend. A person within the group produced a knife and [stabbed the unamed man in his side](#) in **Los**

Angeles, California. The LAPD is investigating this incident as a hate crime and are currently asking for the public's assistance in identifying the offenders.

May 24th or 25th 2012: Luka Rocco Magnotta, 29, [fatally stabbed](#) Jun Lin, 33, a University student from China that Magnotta previously dated in **Montreal, Quebec**. Magnotta reportedly dismembered Lin's body and sent his limbs to various Canadian political parties. Magnotta then fled to Europe, where international authorities [arrested](#) him in Berlin, Germany on June 4th.

May 25, 2012: An unknown suspect(s) [set fire](#) to the office of Women with a Vision (WWV), a nonprofit organization that provides advocacy and services to women and transgender people, in **New Orleans, Louisiana**. Investigators have stated that there had been a break in and that multiple fires had been set. Representatives of Women with a Vision feel that the fire may have been set in opposition to their work.

May 26, 2012: A group of young men approached Max Pelofske, 21, and asked him if he was gay at a high school graduation party in **Kelsey Township, Minnesota**. Pelofske answered that he was gay and then a group of nine young men proceeded to throw him to the ground and repeatedly [punched and kicked](#) him. Pelofkse was able to run away and call authorities. Emergency responders took him to the hospital where he was treated for his injuries. Louis County authorities arrested two men, 18 and 19, in response to this attack. NCAVP member program, [OutFront Minnesota](#), released a [statement](#) condemning this violence and alerting their community that they are available as a resource during this time.

May 26, 2012: Two men approached an unnamed man, 18, and his two lesbian friends who were holding hands, and made derogatory comments toward them outside Plano Sports Authority in **Plano, Texas**. The unnamed man then allegedly stepped in to defend his friends, and the two men [kicked and beat him with a gun](#) before fleeing the scene. The man took himself to a local hospital where he received several stitched for cuts on his face. The man's mother has publically condemned this violence as well as the local police response, stating that she feels Plano just wants to pretend that it didn't happen. The [Collin County Gay and Lesbian Alliance](#) is working with local law enforcement and held a community meeting in response to this incident.

May 27, 2012: Pastor Curtis Knapp of New Hope Baptist Church was recorded giving a sermon [calling for the government to kill LGBTQH people](#) in **Seneca, Kansas**. After significant media coverage of this sermon, Pastor Knapp [stated](#) he "[doesn't] think homosexuals have anything to worry about," adding, "My hope is for their salvation, not for their death."

May 30, 2012: Harrassing neighbors have forced Roy and Felix, an interracial gay couple, to stay with their family in **Gilbert, Arizona**. The couple reported that they have experienced [ongoing harassment](#) from neighbors including banging on windows, burning bushes, racist and anti-gay notes left on their cars, and breaking into the family home and writing graffiti on the house's walls. The family has had a meeting with the Gilbert Hate Crimes Unit in response to these incidents.

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

Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO)

866-86-BRAVO

www.bravo-ohio.org

Equality Michigan

866-962-1147

www.equalitymi.org

The Lodge/Victim Response, Inc.

305-693-1170

www.thelodgemiami.org

OutFront Minnesota

612-822-0127

www.outfront.org

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Stillwater (PFLAG)

866-526-4074

Collin County Gay and Lesbian Alliance

www.ccgla.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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