



NCAVP responds to reports of LGBTQH violence across the nation

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) is deeply concerned by the reports of violence impacting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities across the nation. Twelve incidents including three murders occurred within the past month in California, Massachusetts, Michigan, Washington DC, New York, and Vermont. NCAVP extends support to local communities and raises awareness of local programs for reporting, services, and joining the effort to end violence.

California: Daniel Sanchez and two unnamed survivors were [attacked and harassed](#) in the last week of July in the well-known LGBTQ Broadway Corridor neighborhood of Long Beach, CA. Sanchez suffered blows to the face that resulted in broken teeth. “We encourage anyone in the greater L.A. area who has been affected by hate violence to contact us for crime victim services, support and advocacy,” said Jake Finney, Manager of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center’s Anti-Violence Project.

Massachusetts: During the weekend of July 30th, two gay men were allegedly [attacked with a beer bottle and called anti-gay epithets](#) in Provincetown, MA. NCAVP has reached out to local member program, Fenway Health Violence Recovery Program. Fenway Health is available for emotional support and counseling for LGBTQ survivors of violence as well as their friends and family.

Michigan: The brutal [anti-gay beatings](#) of Dennis Lafata in Warren on July 4th, an unnamed victim in Detroit on July 14th, and David Battjes in Grand Rapids on July 27th occurred in Michigan. “Gay and transgender Michiganders should be able to walk the streets of their own communities without fear of violence,” responded Denise Brogan-Kator, Executive Director at Equality Michigan. “It’s time for Michigan to get serious about passing and enforcing a hate crimes law that includes gay and transgender victims,” continued Brogan-Kator.

New York: Camila Guzman, a transgender woman, was found [brutally murdered](#) on August 1st in the East Harlem neighborhood of New York City. “We must work collaboratively to create specific strategies to prevent violence against transgender people of color and to ensure that survivors receive the support they need,” said Ejeris Dixon, Deputy Director, in charge of of Community Organizing and Public Advocacy with the New York City Anti-Violence Project.

Vermont: The [recent murder](#) of Ralph Bell by suspected partner Daniel Whalen in late July is a reminder of the critical need to address domestic/intimate partner violence in LGBTQH communities. Local NCAVP member program, SafeSpace at the R U 1 2? Community Center, has responded by lamenting this death and alerting survivors that they are available for services and support in the Vermont area.

Washington, DC: The tragic [shooting death](#) of Lashai Mclean on July 20th, [recent shooting](#) attack against Tonya Harrell, and [physical assault](#) against a group of five lesbians while being called, “dykes” on July 30th took place in Washington, DC this past month. “The DC Trans Coalition (DCTC) is encouraged by Mayor Grey’s strong stance that the murder of Lashai McClean was a hate crime,” said Vanessa Crowley of DCTC. “DCTC remains concerned about the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) lack of consistent enforcement and accountability around lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender related issues, especially for transgender and gender non-conforming communities in Washington, DC,” continued Crowley

NCAVP extends condolences to the victims, survivors, and families of this recent violence and commends the work of local organizations responding on the ground. “While these incidents are extremely tragic, unfortunately we know that these reports are the tip of the iceberg,” said Chai Jindasurat, NCAVP Coordinator at the New York City Anti-Violence Project. “We are inspired by the work of local NCAVP member organizations to support survivors and prevent violence every day. Violence is a community issue and we call on anti-violence organizations, elected officials, and LGBTQH community members to work together to end violence,” continued Jindasurat.

REPORT VIOLENCE: To report violence and receive support from a local program, visit the [NCAVP member list](#).

GET INVOLVED: [Locate](#) your local anti-violence program and get involved today.

[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 over forty local member programs, as well as affiliate organizations and individuals, who create systemic and social change. NCAVP is a program of the [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#).