

# NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy  
for Local LGBTQH Communities

## **NCAVP saddened by recent LGBTQH intimate partner violence murders**

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) is saddened by recent murders due to intimate partner violence\* within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities. Four murders have occurred in Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, and Washington State within the span of a month. NCAVP, through our coordinated efforts, is working to bring to light the lethal dangers of LGBTQH intimate partner violence.

Vermont: on July 19, 2011, the body of [Ralph Bell](#) was found under a railroad bridge in Burlington, Vermont. Bell's partner, Daniel Whalen, is the lead suspect in the murder investigation. Local NCAVP member program, [SafeSpace](#) at the R U 1 2? Community Center, has responded by lamenting this death and alerting survivors that SafeSpace is available for services and support in Vermont.

New York: On August 1, 2011, Camila Guzman, a transgender woman, was found [brutally murdered](#) in her East Harlem apartment in New York City. Guzman's boyfriend of four months, Equan Southall, 25, has confessed to committing the murder. The [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#) has responded by organizing a vigil in honor of Guzman, encouraging survivors to call their hotline for support or to report violence, and calling on the community to openly and honestly discuss intimate partner violence.

Massachusetts: On August 9, 2011, the body of Casey Taylor was found beneath the stairs of partner [John Lacey](#)'s porch in Winthrop, Massachusetts. Lacey stands accused of murder. This marks the third murder of a gay man as a result of intimate partner violence reported in Massachusetts in 2011. Massachusetts community advocates are organizing a vigil in response to these tragedies. NCAVP member programs [The Network/La Red](#) and [Fenway Health Violence Recovery Program](#) are available for LGBTQ intimate partner violence advocacy services in Massachusetts.

Washington: On August 11, 2011, Eric Cooper, 29, and son Cooper Chen, 2, were found [stabbed to death](#) in their Seattle home. Cooper's partner and Chen's father, Louis Chen, is being held on murder charges. [The Northwest Network](#) of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse in Seattle has responded by organizing a community gathering and memorial. The Northwest Network remains resolute in their commitment to transform the conditions that foster violence and to ensure that all survivors of abuse have access to community advocacy and support.

It is estimated that one in four LGBTQH people will experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime. The most recent [report](#) on intimate partner violence issued by NCAVP shows a 15% increase in reports of intimate partner violence in LGBTQH relationships across the country in 2009. NCAVP's national report on LGBTQH intimate partner violence in 2010 is set to be released in October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. If you are concerned about your relationship or someone you know, contact your local [anti-violence program](#) or [NCAVP](#).

*[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](#).*

**Fenway Health Violence Recovery Program**

Hotline: 617.927.6250

[www.fenwayhealth.org](http://www.fenwayhealth.org)

**The Network/La Red**

Hotline: 617-742-4911

[www.tnlr.org](http://www.tnlr.org)

**New York City Anti-Violence Project**

Hotline: 212.714.1184

[www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org)

**The Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse**

Hotline: 206.568.7777

[www.nwnetwork.org](http://www.nwnetwork.org)

**SafeSpace at the RU12? Community Center**

Hotline: 802-863-0003

[www.ru12.org/safespace](http://www.ru12.org/safespace)

*\*NCAVP defines intimate partner violence as a pattern of behavior where one intimate partner coerces, dominates and isolates the other intimate partner in order to maintain power and control over the partner and over the relationship. Intimate partner violence is also known as domestic violence, partner abuse, and dating violence.*

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