

COMMUNITY ALERT



September 30, 2010

AVP mourns the death of Rutgers College student Tyler Clementi; calls attention to disturbing pattern of alleged bullying-related suicides across the nation.

AVP mourns the death of Tyler Clementi, a freshman at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Following the discovery that two fellow students broadcast footage of a sexual encounter between himself and another man, Tyler reportedly jumped from the George Washington Bridge on September 22nd and is presumed dead. Rutgers University freshmen Dharun Ravi, Tyler's roommate, and Molly Wei, have been charged with invasion of privacy and face up to 5 years in jail. Additionally, today the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) [released a statement concerning four youth reported to have died in hate-related suicides](#) over the past two weeks.

"In the last couple of weeks we've seen a string of tragic suicides by young people who were tormented by anti-gay bullying and outing. This is about the stigma and culture of homophobia which would lead someone to think that, when outed publically as gay, the only viable option is suicide," said Sharon Stapel, Executive Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project. "The worst harbinger of inequality is this kind of violence, where people are targeted for who they are and then internalize that shame – though the problem is systemic, not simply individual, this violence takes real lives. The solutions that create equality and thus end the violence therefore also have to be a systemic, pervasive and consistent in our homes, in our schools and in our institutions."

AVP encourages you to report any anti-LGBTQ bias, including hate speech, bullying, harassment, and physical violence, to our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-714-1141** where you can speak with a trained counselor and seek the support you need. We also encourage you to seek out the following **Local Resources:**

- [Pride Center of New Jersey](mailto:info@pridecenter.org): info@pridecenter.org; 732.846.2232
- [Garden State Equality](#)
- The [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#): 24 Bilingual (English/Spanish) Hotline: 212.714.1141; [Online Hate Violence Reporting Form](#)

More information about the New York City Anti-Violence Project can be found at our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).