

# COMMUNITY ALERT



## **Domestic violence does happen in LGBTQ relationships and yesterday it led to the tragic murders of two victims of this violence**

**June 17, 2010**

The New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP) was saddened and shocked to learn that jail guard Kim Wolfe has been arrested in connection with the murder of her ex-girlfriend Stacie Williams. According to police, Wolfe shot and killed Stacie Williams outside of her place of work, Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, Long Island, before driving to a relative's house where she allegedly killed her own uncle, wounded her grandfather and kidnapped her niece for protection as she fled. Wolfe has been apprehended and is now in police custody.

Domestic violence is far more common than people realize in LGBTQ relationships and, at its most extreme, can end tragically in murder. "It is often difficult to talk about violence that occurs in our relationships," said Sharon Stapel, Executive Director of AVP, "but at AVP we know that domestic violence - ranging from verbal abuse to physical injury, and including control of finances, medical care and access to our family, friends and children - occurs within the LGBTQ communities with the same frequency as in the heterosexual community: in an alarming 25 to 33% of our relationships. As a community we must openly and honestly discuss this problem and create an environment where victims of domestic violence can access the support they need to be safe."

LGBTQ victims and survivors of domestic violence often lack the access to resources and support that heterosexual victims and survivors have. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, which AVP coordinates, and the National Center for Victims of Crime recently released a groundbreaking report, [\*Why It Matters: Rethinking Victim Assistance for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Victims of Hate Violence and Intimate Partner Violence\*](#), describing widespread gaps in victim services for LGBTQ victims of crime in the United States and recommending changes and improvements.

If you or anyone you know has ever felt unsafe in a relationship or are concerned about the domestic violence services available to you as a member of the LGBTQ communities, AVP is here to safety plan with you and support you. Please call us on our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) Hotline at (212)714-1141**.

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

Please forward this e-mail to your friends and urge them to stay safe.

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*The New York City Anti-Violence Project is dedicated to eliminating hate violence, sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected communities through counseling, advocacy, organizing, and public education.*