

COMMUNITY ALERT



Serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,
Queer and HIV-affected Communities

October 6, 2011

AVP deeply concerned about treatment of Justin Adkins

On October 1, the NYPD arrested Justin Adkins and other Occupy Wall Street protesters who had marched onto the Brooklyn Bridge. [Writing publically about his arrest](#), Justin describes that he was singled out by police because he is a transgender man. Justin reports being verbally harassed by officers, isolated from the rest of the people he was arrested with, and treated differently from the others with regard to bathroom accommodations and food provisions. Justin stated, *"I was handcuffed to a railing next to a restroom for at least 8 hours, made fun of, and not given food. No human deserves to be treated this way. What happened to me should be investigated thoroughly and I want to make sure that no one else has to go through the ordeal that I did in police custody."* AVP is deeply concerned and is working to support Justin Adkins around this incident. We recognize that these conditions can put LGBTQ people—and especially transgender community members in danger. We are also reaching out to the NYPD and other community groups to determine how we can best support our community.

AVP knows that large-scale public actions, like protests, have specific consequences for LGBTQH communities and other communities as well. Today we share **safety tips*** and resources that can be useful for our community members. Please use them, share them with friends and be safe. If you need support regarding any incident of violence please call our 24-hour hotline at (212) 714-1141.

Keeping yourself safe

- **Be aware of your surroundings:** locate establishments and have exit strategies to seek help if you feel unsafe.
- **Trust your instincts:** if you feel threatened or unsafe, remove yourself from the situation as quickly as possible.
- **Use words** to alert bystanders of what's going on.
- **Have a safety plan (AVP can help):** let someone know your plans, such as who you'll be with and if your plans change. Brainstorm in advance ways that people can support you.
- **Leave a trail and use your tech:** program AVP's hotline information and other important numbers into your phone; let people around you know when you are leaving a place; text yourself or friends about where you'll be or where you are; save messages on Facebook, MySpace, OKCupid, Grindr, etc.

Getting Support

- If possible, **consider medical attention** after any incident; violence can create many physical and emotional impacts.
- **Document the incident:** take photos of any injuries; keep records of emails, texts, calls.
- **Take care of yourself** by utilizing supportive friends, partners and family.

Police Violence

- **If you are harassed or attacked** by the police, get their name, document descriptive information about the officers, and badge/car numbers.
- **You do not have to consent to a search** (of yourself, your car or your house). Do NOT try to stop the police from searching you. Instead, repeat out loud, "I do NOT consent to this search."
- **You have the right** to watch and document police activities. Take video and pictures at a safe distance to capture an incident.

Reporting Violence

AVP encourages you to report violence that you experience or witness, including hate violence, sexual violence, police violence, or domestic/intimate partner violence to our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-714-1141** where you can speak with a trained counselor and seek support. You can also [report violence anonymously online](#) via our website. Find out more about the New York City Anti-Violence Project at our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page.

**AVP thanks the Audre Lorde Project and People's Justice for Community Control & Accountability for sharing this information.*