

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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

November 17, 2011

AVP A PART OF A HISTORIC MEETING WHERE TRANSGENDER AND LGBTQ ANTI-VIOLENCE ADVOCATES BRIEF OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ON EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENCE

I'm proud to tell you about a historic meeting that I, and other AVP staff, took part in yesterday. On Wednesday, November 16, 2011, AVP, along with other transgender and LGBTQ anti-violence advocates, met with Obama Administration officials to offer strategies for addressing the epidemic of violence against transgender people. Recognizing that violence is an especially horrific reality in so many transgender people's lives, the Administration heard a broad range of policy ideas from the AVP and eight other organizations.

The meeting at the White House was facilitated by the National Center for Transgender Equality's Executive Director Mara Keisling and the team included, among others, Gwendolyn Smith, the founder of the Transgender Day of Remembrance. Gwen shared with the Administration real life stories of transgender people who have faced violence. The group discussed data collection, cultural competency for service providers and law enforcement and funding issues, as well as insuring that federal and federally-funded anti-violence programs and processes are transgender-inclusive. Special focus was given to violence against youth, homeless transgender people and transwomen.

AVP shared the data gathered by National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs member organizations through NCAVP's annual [hate](#) and [intimate partner violence](#) reports and shared our experience about the reality of violence in the lives of transgender and gender non-conforming people. We know that transgender people experience two times the level of assault, harassment and intimidation and comprise 50% of all anti-LGBTQ murder victims, despite only representing 11% of the total victims and survivors reporting violence.

We wanted to let you, our strongest supporters, know of this meeting and to mark and acknowledge the importance of it while also recognizing that there is much work to do. AVP, along with NCTE and our allies, will continue to push the Administration to address the violence that is such a part of transgender lives.