

**WELCOME,
THIS WEB CONFERENCE
WILL BEGIN SOON**

WORKING WITH QUEER IDENTIFIED
STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED
SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
DATING VIOLENCE OR STALKING ON
CAMPUS



CALCASA
CALIFORNIA COALITION
AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT



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1. Welcome & Introductions
2. How to use Webinar Platform
3. Presentation by Terra Slavin and LaDawn Best
4. Q&A
5. Acknowledgements



CALCASA
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Campus Team

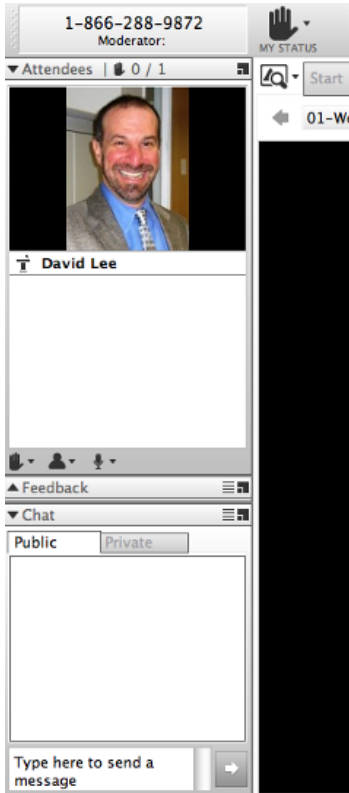
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How to use this technology



- Raise hand
- Text chat
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Please send a private chat message for help.

Call iLinc Technical Support at 800.799.4510.



Text Chat



Is there a LGBTQ specific organization on your campus?





Violence In and Towards the LGBTQ Community

**Terra Slavin, Lead Staff Attorney
&**

LaDawn Best, Client Advocate

Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project

L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center

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L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center

Established in 1971

5 sites

Staff of more than 300 and more than 3000 volunteers

Provides a multitude of social and educational services

- Health and Mental Health Services
- Jeffrey Goodman Primary Care Clinic/Pharmacy
- Transgender Health Program
- Kruks/Tilsner Transitional Living Program
- Legal Services Department/DVLAP
- STOP Partner Abuse/Domestic Violence Program

Terms Associated with LGBTQ Identities and LGBTQ Communities



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

- **Sexual orientation** refers to a person's emotional, romantic and sexual attraction to individuals of a particular gender.
- **Gender identity** describes the gender with which a person identifies (i.e, whether one perceives oneself to be a man, a woman, or describes oneself in other ways).

Why is this Important ?

- There are limited traditional ideas about these categories.
- High levels of violence and discrimination happen to LGBTQ individuals who do not follow traditional gender roles.
- Most homophobic/transphobic attitudes stem from assumptions around gender and sex. Knowing this will increase your ability to assist LGBTQ survivors of violence.

What does LGBTQ mean?

- **The L: Lesbian** – A woman who is predominately or exclusively attracted to women emotionally, physically, spiritually and/or sexually.
- **The G: Gay** – A term identifying a man who is predominantly or exclusively attracted to men emotionally, physically, spiritually and/or sexually.
- **The B: Bisexual** – A term identifying a person who is attracted to men and women emotionally, physically, spiritually and/or sexually.
- **The T: Transgender** – An umbrella term used to describe a continuum of individuals whose gender identity and how its expressed, to varying degrees, does not correspond to their biological sex.
- **Queer** – (1) an umbrella term used to refer to the entire LGBTQQ community. (2) A term identifying individuals that identify as a sexual minority. (3) A term that some straight allies use to self-identify, acknowledging their connection to the community, based upon shared values, supportive behavior, commitment to social change etc...which isn't contingent on their own sexual identity.
- ✓ Note: The L, G and B relate to a person's sexual orientation. The T relates to a person's gender identity

Discussion Question



What kind of terms do LGBTQ people in your community use to describe their identities?

What's most important?

- LGBTQ individuals are incredibly diverse and come from all racial, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Respect how people self-identify however that may be.
- When talking about the community as a whole, we will use LGBTQ.

What about gender differences?

- Gender Matters:

- Transgender people have different issues than do LGB people.
- Lesbian and bisexual women have different issues than gay/bisexual men, due to biology and socialization.

- Why are LGBT people often grouped together?

- The common link is shared stigma and oppression.
- The consequences of stigma and oppression are similar across all of these groups.
- It is important to remember that LGBT are diverse in many other factors in addition to gender.

The Impact of Oppression and Stigma on LGBTQ Individuals



What is?

- **Stigma** refers to the negative societal attitudes and general climate of hostility and exclusion for a subgroup of the population.
- It is based on negative stereotypes about LGBTQ people
- It leads to homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, heterosexism, gender normativity, and internalized oppression.

Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia

- **Homophobia** is the fear of feelings of love for and/or sexual attraction between members of the same sex.
- **Biphobia** is the fear of feelings of love for and/or sexual attraction to both sexes.
- **Transphobia** is the fear of people who transgress social expectations of gender conformity.
- ✓ Note: Homophobia and biphobia refer to the many ways that people are oppressed on the basis of sexual orientation. Transphobia refers to the many ways that people are oppressed on the basis of gender identity and expression.

What is?

- **Heterosexism** is a belief that male/female sexuality is the only natural or moral mode of sexual behavior.
- **Heterocentrism:** An assumption (often subconscious) that everyone is heterosexual and the attitudes associated with this assumption. Heterocentrism often shows up in less intentional ways in every day life.
- Example: A woman says she is going on a date. Many people (who have nothing against same-sex dating) will ask, “What’s his name?” or “Is he cute?” assuming it is a heterosexual date.

What is externalized oppression?

- Interpersonal and institutional oppression by people who are not LGBTQ
 - Example of externalized interpersonal homophobia: Two men hug and quickly pull away, saying, “People are going to think we’re a bunch of queers!”
 - Example of externalized institutional heterosexism: legal prohibition of same-sex marriage.

What is externalized oppression?

- Interpersonal and institutional oppression by people who are not LGBTQ
 - Example of externalized interpersonal transphobia: A mom tells her son that he needs to get a haircut otherwise everyone is going to think “he is a girl.”
 - Example of externalized institutional transphobia – laws that allow people to discriminate on the basis of gender identity.

What is internalized oppression?

- Internalized: oppression felt and expressed by LGBTQ people
 - Example of internalized homophobia: A gay man sees an effeminate gay man and says, “They make us all look bad.”
 - Example of internalized transphobia: A trans man sees a drag queens at Pride and feels ashamed.

Stigma...

- **Stigma** results in adverse affects on...
 - Employment
 - Family relationships
 - Peer relationships
 - Self-esteem and self-concept
 - Mental Health (depression, anxiety, substance abuse, suicide)
 - Vulnerability to violence (hate crimes and domestic violence)

Coming Out

What is “**Coming out?**”: The process of telling others about your sexuality and/or gender identity; a complex, difficult and life-long series of events.

“

One of the most difficult aspects of coming out is that it is a never-ending process, each new situation requires another telling. In the main, as sexual orientation isn't visually obvious and the assumption is often made that people are all heterosexual, this is a fairly constant and exhausting process [13].

”

[13] Brown, H.C. (1998.) *Social work and sexuality: Working with lesbians and gay men.* Basingstoke, BASW/Macmillian.

Stigma...

- Dealing with stigma has been linked to higher rates of:
 - Mental Health disorders
 - Depression and anxiety disorders
 - Suicidal ideation and attempts
 - Substance abuse
 - These are risk factors for a host of chronic physical and mental health conditions.

Substance Abuse

- Rates of substance abuse are higher in the LGBT community than in the general population.
- Gay/Bi/MSM report higher use of methamphetamine and other stimulant drugs than do Lesbian/Bi /WSW (who report mostly alcohol and marijuana use.) For some men substance use is linked to sexual activity.
- Transgender women who are sex workers also report higher levels of stimulants and other illicit drugs.

Types of Violence Experienced by LGBT Individuals

- Bias Attacks (Transgender and Gay Bashing)
- Harassment at Home / Illegal Evictions
- Employment Discrimination / Workplace Harassment
- Police Misconduct & Abuse
- Rape & Sexual Assault
- Bullying in Schools
- Hate Mail / Phone & E-mail Harassment
- Pick-Up Crimes
- Domestic Violence & Intimate Partner Abuse
- Other

Issues and Challenges Unique to LGBTQ Domestic Violence



What is Dating Violence/Domestic Violence?

Dating Violence/Domestic Violence is a pattern of behavior where one intimate partner tries to maintain power and control over the other person in a relationship. This includes but is not limited to: Physical, Verbal, Emotional, Mental, and Sexual Abuse. Some examples of abusive behaviors are:

Physical Abuse: includes pushing, shoving, pinching, scratching, hitting, kicking, slapping, and hickeys.

Verbal Abuse: includes name-calling, yelling, screaming, insulting, swearing and sarcasm.

Emotional Abuse: includes constant criticizing, threatening, threatening to out one's gender identity or sexual orientation, public humiliation, controlling behavior and jealousy.

Mental abuse: includes destroying things that belong to you, making you dress a certain way, hiding hormones or medications, not letting you have friends, punching walls, stalking, and not letting you leave.

Sexual Abuse: includes sexual advances after being told no. Unwanted or uncomfortable touching, calling someone sexually derogatory names and rape.

Domestic Violence/Dating Violence

- Current research confirms that battering is just as prevalent (occurring in 25-33% of relationships) and just as harmful and dangerous among LGBTQ people as among non-transgender heterosexual people (NCAVP 2009 National Domestic Violence Report).
- The main differences are that there are fewer resources for individuals experiencing LGBTQ DV, and that the abuser may use threats to reveal their partners sexual orientation or gender identity in order to gain power and control over their partner.

Myths and Reality

- **Myth:** Women are less capable of being violent than men. Gay men are not real men and therefore also not as capable of being violent as heterosexual men. In other words, *“You fight like a girl.”*
- **Reality:** Incidences reported by female, male and transgender survivors to staff at the LA Gay & Lesbian Center include emotional and psychological abuse as well...

“You fight like a girl!”

- Feet hammered while asleep.
- Arm wrenched out of socket.
- Hit in the head by a brick
- Eardrum ruptured by blows to the head with a shovel.
- Gunshot wound to shoulder - not allowed to seek medical assistance for hours.
- Ribs broken and then gun held to head for 2 hours
- Forced to kneel on broken glass.

Issues & Challenges that LGBTQ DV Victim/ Survivors May Face

- Fear that the abuse will not be taken seriously because it is occurring within an LGBTQ relationship.
- Lack of acknowledgement and support from other LGBTQ individuals who may not be aware of the fact that DV in LGBTQ relationships occurs and is dangerous.
- Fear of re-victimization by law enforcement, criminal justice, and social service workers based on one's sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Example: Denial of Restraining orders. Being told by a judge, "You two girls just need to stay away from one another. Is it that hard to just be friends? No more catfights girls!"

Issues & Challenges that LGBTQ DV Victim/ Survivors May Face Cont..

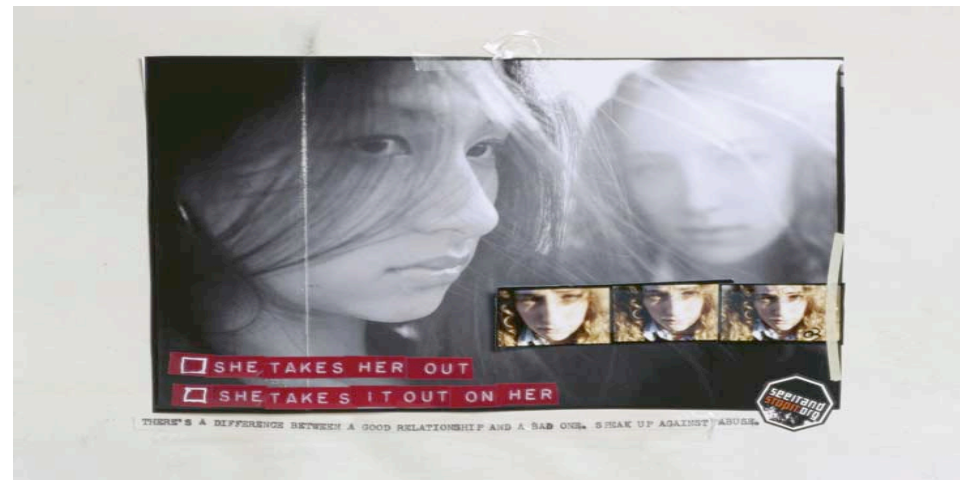
- Fear of being outed to friends, family, employers and/or employees or being “outed” by shelter staff or being denied safety & shelter due to gender or the shelter allowing the batterer in because they didn’t screen.
- Being asked to expose genitalia in order to determine their gender.
- Denying access to medical treatment or hormones, hiding or discarding hormones, binders, clothes...
- Fear that the abuser will convince people that they are the victim. Same sex relationships are often not considered to be an acceptable family or partnership.
- Fetishizing or eroticizing trans partner without their consent
- Telling partner they deserve abuse or will never find another partner who treats them better.
- Touching body parts victim doesn’t want touched or calling body parts by names offensive to the victim.

Barriers for youth in dating violence

- First relationships, lack of awareness, not understanding the differences between healthy, unhealthy and domestic violent behavior
- Compounded issues because of family and school pressures
- Lack of confidentiality, fear that parents, others will be involved
- Small Campus Spaces

Why Do We Get Into Violent Relationships?

- Lack of QPOC role models
- Have a “Romantic” view of love- (QUEER Utopia)
- Past family violence
- Have no one to turn to for help
- Feel pressured by friends to be in a relationship
- Feel that it cannot be domestic violence because it is happening in a queer relationship.



Reminder

Domestic violence occurs in approximately 1 in 3 relationships regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education, religious affiliation, political ideology, physical ability etc.

Domestic violence crosses all boundaries and does not discriminate.

Sexual Violence in LGBTQ Communities



Prevalence

Individuals of the LGBT community experience sexual assault by someone they know at similar rates to the heterosexual community and are at greater risk for being sexually assaulted by a stranger as a victim of a hate crime.

Issues That Are Unique to LGBTQ Sexual Violence Survivors

- Survivors who are not 'out' may find sharing and/or reporting the rape especially difficult or even impossible.
- The uncertainty of knowing the level of sensitivity of resources may make reaching out for support very difficult.
- Fear that they are betraying their LGBTQ community, which is already under attack, by accusing another LGBTQ person of sexual assault.
- Internalized homophobia may compound the complexities of strong emotions after rape.
- Gay/bi male survivors may face the fear of not being believed and/or being ridiculed because of the stereotype of men never rejecting a sexual opportunity.
- Lesbian/bi women may face the fear of not being believed if they are raped by a female because of the myth that "women don't do that sort of thing."

What we know...

It is common for perpetrators to use sexual violence as a way to punish and humiliate someone for being LGBTQ.

- A common example of this is when individuals who think they can “change” a woman’s sexual orientation specifically target lesbians and bisexual women for sexual violence.

LGBTQ people are at approximately the same risk as non-transgender heterosexuals of being sexually assaulted by someone they know.

- 52% of participants in a study of sexual coercion in gay/lesbian relationships reported at least one incident of sexual assault/coercion.
- In this study, gay men reported 1.6 incidents per person on average; in comparison to the 1.2 incidents per person reported by lesbians.

Waldner-Haugrud, Lisa K., & Vaden Gratch, Linda. (1997). Sexual Coercion in Gay/Lesbian Relationships Descriptive and Gender Differences. *Violence and Victims*, 12 (1), 87-98. University of Minnesota, Morris Violence Prevention Center. (www.morris.umn.edu/services/ViolencePrevention/Lgbt%20sexual%20assault%20pamphlet.pdf).

Assumptions About Sexual Violence and LGBTQ People

- LGBTQ people are often identified as outsiders, sexual deviates, and are often labeled as perpetrators of sexual violence
- LGBTQ people are often labeled as:
 - Pedophiles
 - Promiscuous (Gay men) or Asexual (Lesbians)
 - “Freaks” or inherently abusive involving strange sexual practices
 - People who just had bad experiences with the ‘opposite’ sex
- These assumptions impact how LGBTQ-related sexual violence incidents are treated by first responders

A Note About Transgender People

- Questions about a transgender client's sexual organs, sexual-reassignment surgery status (many transgender people never have sexual reassignment surgery), hormone status or any other clearly private matter as a way to establish a client's identity are inappropriate in all circumstances.
- As in any other situation, these questions are intrusive and embarrassing. If a definition of the transition process is necessary for a legal theory or remedy, practitioners should explain to the client why they are asking an admittedly personal and invasive question.
- Transgender clients face pervasive and often violent discrimination in attempting to go about the everyday business of their lives. They may be understandably wary.

Other Campus Challenges

- Internet
- Social Media
- Pick-up Crimes
- Small Spaces and Tight Community
- Age

Scenario

- John is 19 years old and a sophomore at College. He is an average student, very shy and stay to himself. He began dating Rick who is 21, popular, and on the school's soccer team about 6 months ago. John is incredibly reluctant for others, including his school or family to know that he is dating another guy. His father still resides in Mexico and has threatened that if he ever found out one of his sons was gay, he would kill them.
- John met Rick at a study session and at first everything was great. However, when John wasn't able to attend a soccer game because of a class assignment, Rick became furious, claimed he was seeing someone else, and threatened to out him to his family. Since then Rick regularly texts John 20-30 times an hour when they are not together and when John doesn't respond, he will show up at his dorm room demanding that John answer the door. When John approached Rick about this behavior he slammed him into the wall in his dorm room and let him know that he was his boyfriend and that he better not leave him or else. Last night John went to Rick's dorm after a game that the team lost, he accused John of cheating and then forced John to perform oral sex.
- John has only confided to one friend, Eva, about what is happening with Rick and she urged to go to the campus police, but John is undocumented and worried that if he draws attention to himself, he will be deported. John is also unable to concentrate on his schoolwork and his grades are suffering.

SCENARIO

QUESTIONS

1. What are the major barriers facing John?
2. How do these barriers affect his ability to access help with the system?
3. What strategies will you use to overcome these barriers /what advice will you give to John?

Legal Remedies/Solutions

- School-Based
- Restraining Orders
- Immigration
- Privacy
- Criminal Justice
- Housing/Employment
- Safety Throughout

General Legal Barriers

- Homophobia and transphobia of court actors; problems of judicial discretion and biased juries
- Discomfort being out—decline legal action
- Myths that men can't be raped and women can't rape
- Problems with police
- Evidentiary problems
- Service of process
- Credibility issues
- Consent issues

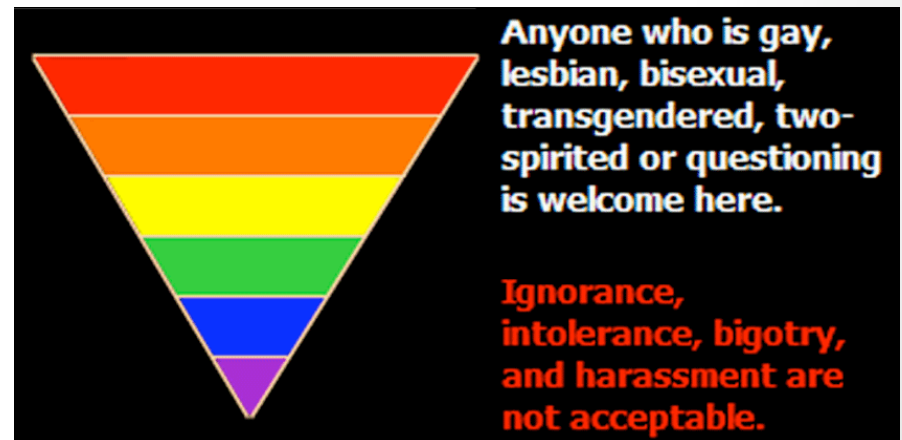
Recommended Practices



Fostering a Welcoming Environment Where it is Safe to Self-Identify as LGBTQ

- Foster an environment where a person's LGBTQ identity is welcomed, acknowledged, and respected.
- Avoid judgment and spotlighting LGBTQ identity.
- Display LGBTQ-welcoming materials in the office and shelter environments (e.g., rainbow flag, sticker or banner):

Pride



Clues and Cues of Safety: Verbal Language

Generally:

Use gender neutral language on intake forms:

- Partner rather than boyfriend, husband
- They, rather than he or she
- Person rather than man, woman
- Relationship status rather than marital status
- Parent or Guardian, rather than Mother, Father

And, Respect a Client's Self-Determination to Be "Out" or Not...

- "Passing" and being "closeted" are both protective measures to preserve dignity and prevent harassment and violence.
- *'Passing' or being 'closeted' [also] means denying the essence of oneself and denying or disowning partners [12].*

Tracking LGBTQ Identity

- Note the language the clients use to refer to themselves regarding identity, pronouns, relationships, and their abusers.
- Use that language yourself, even when you are not in the client's presence.
- If you are not sure about the meaning of something, ask.
- If you are not sure if it's ok to use a particular word, ask.
- Remember to keep the focus on care rather than indulging in questions out of curiosity.

How can I become an ally?

1. Challenge homophobic/bias statement and “jokes”
2. Respect people’s language choice
3. Never assume someone is out
4. Do not make assumptions based on heterosexist gender roles
5. Please don’t “Quiz the Queer Kid”
6. Speak Out about discrimination

Question and Answer

Use the text chat to ask Terra Slavin and LaDawn Best a question



For more information, please contact:

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