

LGBT Elders:

Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Resource Sheet

Sexual assault (SA) and domestic violence (DV) are difficult to address, triage, treat, and prevent in populations that are given the greatest amount of attention - heterosexual women victims. However, anyone, of any age, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, income level, religion, etc. can be a victim of violence committed against them by an intimate partner, friend, caretaker, acquaintance, or stranger.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) elder victims of sexual assault or domestic violence are a "nested" population that are frequently overlooked and/or ignored. Issues facing LGBT elders may be different than non-LGBT individuals, as well as non-elders. For example, police often do not recognize domestic violence between two people of the same gender (i.e. they only recognize DV when there is a perceived male perpetrator and female victim). Police and others also have difficulty recognizing elders who may be in domestically violent relationships (the misperception is that elders are "too frail" or somehow wouldn't be interested or able to perpetrate violence against another person, especially not another elder). These two facts added together result in MANY LGBT elders being totally ignored and not receiving needed intervention services.

The Network/La Red notes that 1 in 4 LGBT people are battered by a partner. This figure is comparable to other studies which estimate that domestic violence occurs in 12-36% of gay male relationships (a statistic similar to that of heterosexual women victims).

Online Articles: Elder Abuse / Trans+ Primer*

Lesbian, Gay Male, Bisexual and Transgendered Elders: Elder Abuse and Neglect Issues

www.forge-forward.org/handouts/tgelderabuse-neglect.html

Still the only article published in the professional literature devoted to LGBT elder abuse issue, this article (which originally appeared in the Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect (The Haworth Maltreatment & Trauma Press, Vol. 9, No. 2, 1997), briefly defines the social, psychological, and legal environments of lesbian and gay elders, and discusses in greater depth the range of abuse specifically targeted at lesbians and gay men, including focus on topics such as internalized homophobia, legal barriers, and fear of authorities. A separate section on transgender elders covers definitions, non-congruent bodies, and transphobia. The paper closes with practical suggestions on how to serve LGBT elders successfully and respectfully.

Transgender Elders and SOFFAs: A Primer for Service Providers and Advocates

www.forge-forward.org/handouts/TransEldersSOFFAs-web.pdf

This paper is one of very few articles specifically focused on aging trans and SOFFA (significant others, friends, family and allies) issues. The paper covers definitions, the social implications of transition, issues specific to transitioning in later life, the role mental and physical health professionals play in transition, SOFFA issues (focusing specifically on spouses and partners, parents, children, friends, co-workers, neighbors and clerks), health care issues in later life, legal and financial issues in later life, and social concerns. The final section discusses implications for service providers and advocates, including a discussion of the challenges involved in integrating heterosexual (self-identified and/or perceived) trans people and SOFFAs into groups traditionally focused on lesbians and gay men.

** Note: Does not explicitly address elder abuse, domestic violence, or sexual assault.*

LGBT Elder websites (not specific to violence)

SAGE

www.sageusa.org/

Welcome to SAGE in New York City, the nation's oldest and largest social service agency for LGBT seniors. Our web site is quite comprehensive and we welcome you to browse it as time permits.

HIV over 50

www.hivoverfifty.org/

The National Association on HIV Over Fifty (NAHOF) was founded at the National Conference on AIDS and Aging in October of 1995 in New York City. Our mission is to promote the availability of a full range of educational, prevention, service and health care programs for persons over age fifty affected by HIV.

LGAIN (American Society on Aging: Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network)

www.asaging.org/networks/lgain/index.html

The Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network (LGAIN) works to raise awareness about the concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) elders and about the unique barriers they encounter in gaining access to housing, healthcare, long-term care and other needed services. LGAIN seeks to foster professional development, multidisciplinary research and wide-ranging dialogue on LGBT issues in the field of aging through publications, conferences, and cosponsored events. LGAIN welcomes the participation of all concerned individuals regardless of age, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Pride Senior Network

www.pridesenior.org/index.htm

Pride Senior Network's mission is "to encourage and promote services which foster maximum health, well being, and quality of life for the aging lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender community through advocacy and education and research."

Transgender Aging Network (TAN)

www.forge-forward.org/TAN/

The Transgender Aging Network (TAN) exists to improve the lives of current and future trans/SOFFA (significant others, friends, family and allies) elders.

LGBT Elders

LGBT SA/DV Resources online:

Community United Against Violence

www.cuav.org/

Working to end violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) communities.

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs

<http://www.avp.org/>

Coalition of over 20 American lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender survivor programs.

Northwest Network

www.nwnetwork.org/

Resources on concerns of bisexual, trans, lesbian & gay survivors of abuse and dating violence.

The Network/La Red

www.thenetworklared.org/english/index.html

Formerly known as the Network for Battered Lesbians and Bisexual Women, was founded in 1989 to address abuse issues in queer women's and trans communities.

Survivor Project

www.survivorproject.org/

Resources on concerns of trans and intersex survivors of violence and abuse

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