

# Valentine Road: Trans/LGBQ youth and violence

## Reflect and create

*Valentine Road* can be a difficult film to watch. Many of you will have seen reflections of yourself, your family, or your friends, or your community in the film. We know you or someone you care about might be experiencing bullying at school; abuse at home; fear of violence in your community; or racism, homophobia or transphobia in day-to-day life. There are no simple answers to these painful challenges. Most of us, however, want to live in a world that is more kind and less cruel.

We can all take steps to create that world. We can stand up or seek support when we see injustice or harm to others. We can treat everyone like we wish to be treated. We can reach out for help for ourselves. Some suggested places where trans\*, gender non-conforming and gay/lesbian/bi/queer youth can seek support are listed on the back of this flyer.

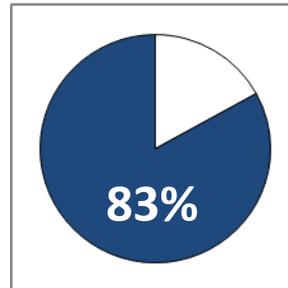
## The Facts

Research confirms that:

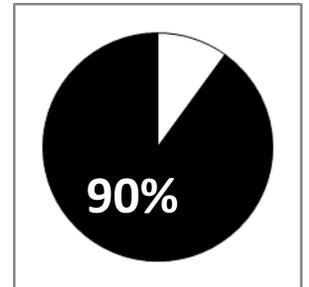
- 1 in 7 youth have been bullied;
- Up to 1 in 4 have experienced child abuse or neglect;
- Around 1 in 10 individuals are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT); and
- More than 9 in 10 LGBT youth experience bullying or fear of anti-LGBT harassment or violence.

Trauma reactions might include:

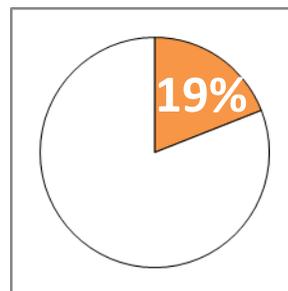
- Dissociation ("checking out");
- Disruptive behavior (distracting themselves from their own emotions, or trying to attract attention);
- Flashbacks (or intrusive thoughts);
- Overwhelming emotions (terror, fear, rage, hopelessness); and
- Suicidal thoughts or actions



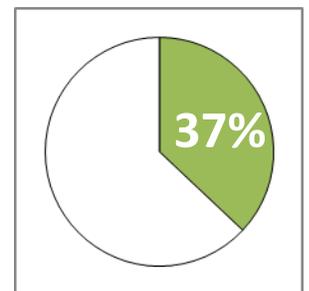
School staff who never or only sometimes intervene when LGBT youth are bullied or harassed



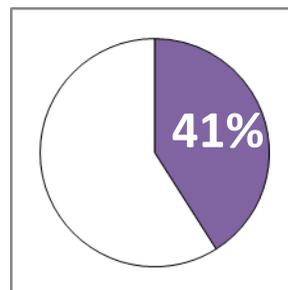
LGBT students who were harassed in the last year



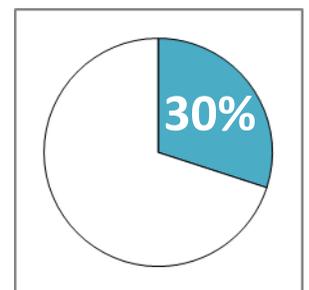
LGB youth who are threatened or injured by a weapon at school (4x higher than the 5% of non-LGB youth)



American households with at least one firearm



Trans and gender non-conforming people who have ATTEMPTED suicide (vs. 1.6% for the general population)



LGBT students who drop out of school to escape violence, harassment and isolation

## Minimizing additional pain and harm

Trans\* and LGBTQ youth in every community across the country face harassment, discrimination, bullying, abuse, and violence. It is critical for us all to take steps to support, nurture, and even heal the youth who have been affected, the individuals who have caused harm, and the communities that are often fractured and divided by fear, misinformation, or learned bias. Consider these simple ways you can make a difference.

### Listen.

(Just be there and listen.)

### Support.

(Emotional. Financial. Practical.)

### Connect to resources.

(Know where youth can access help)

### Stand up.

(Confront bias and un-truths.)

### Get involved.

(At schools, in faith settings, in politics, anywhere in the community.)

## Continued dialogue—improved lives

If you would like to encourage more proactive anti-bullying and/or pro-diversity activities in your schools and community, we suggest a few places to start:

### **ACLU Making Schools Safe Anti-Harassment Training Program**

[www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/images/asset\\_upload\\_file855\\_24003.pdf](http://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/images/asset_upload_file855_24003.pdf)

### **GLSEN's Safe Space Kit: Be an Ally to LGBT Youth**

[www.glsen.org/safespace](http://www.glsen.org/safespace)

### **Harsh Realities: The Experiences of Transgender Youth in Our Nation's Schools**

[www.glsen.customer.def6.com/sites/default/files/Harsh%20Realities.pdf](http://www.glsen.customer.def6.com/sites/default/files/Harsh%20Realities.pdf)

### **Model District Policy on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students**

[www.transequality.org/Resources/Model%20District%20Trans%20and%20GNC%20Policy%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.transequality.org/Resources/Model%20District%20Trans%20and%20GNC%20Policy%20FINAL.pdf)

## Resources

### **FORGE**

Milwaukee transgender support group and national anti-trans violence resource  
[www.forge-forward.org](http://www.forge-forward.org)  
414-559-2123

### **TransYouth Family Allies**

Support, education, & outreach for young people and families  
[www.imatyfa.org](http://www.imatyfa.org)  
888-462-8932

### **GLSEN**

(Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network)  
Ensuring that LGBT students are able to learn and grow in a school environment free from bullying and harassment  
[www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)

### **PFLAG**

Promotes the health and well-being of LGBT persons, their families and friends  
[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)  
202-467-8180

### **Trevor Project Suicide Hotline**

24/7 hotline for LGBTQ Youth  
[www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)  
866-488-7386

## About FORGE

FORGE is a 19-year-old, Milwaukee-based organization funded by the federal government to provide training and technical assistance nationally to service providers who work with transgender/ gender-non-conforming (and LGB) survivors of sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, stalking, and hate-motivated violence. Call or text us at 414-559-2123, email [AskFORGE@forge-forward.org](mailto:AskFORGE@forge-forward.org), or check out our online resources at [www.forge-forward.org](http://www.forge-forward.org).

