

Transgender-specific Resources

LGBT organizers and service providers (and non-LGBTs) often report that there are no transgender-specific resources available on domestic violence or sexual assault. This is changing; in 2010, the Obama Administration funded FORGE to begin developing transgender-specific sexual assault resources for both professionals and survivors.

There is also a growing number of studies on transgender survivors (and perpetrators) of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. In this fact sheet, we highlight some of the most important research, advice, and resources.

Turn to page four of this handout to learn some specific tactics used *against* transgender victims and *by* transgender abusers.

Service Impacts on Trans/SOFFA clients

- Transgender people and SOFFAs (Significant Others, Friends Family and Allies) who have been abused have fewer services available to them.
- Many transgender/SOFFA individuals do not want to challenge the myth of community non-violence.
- As an already oppressed minority, transgender/SOFFA individuals are often hesitant to address issues that many fear will further "taint" the community. The LGBT community often wonders why they need to take on this issue as well as the others facing the community.
- The "battered women's" movement often avoids the fact that women batter, and men are victims. The pervasiveness of this myth has led police, hospital workers, and people in the criminal justice system to deny male victims or female perpetrators. (This is further "muddied" when people are genders other than male or female.)
- Transgender and SOFFA individuals may be cautious in approaching medical providers, police, or the courts due to past experiences related to discrimination or abuse related to their gender/gender expression. These individuals may fear revictimization through transphobia, degradation, hostility or accusations from these service providers/public safety workers.
- Shelters are typically "male-" or "female"-only. Transgender people and SOFFAs may not be allowed entrance into shelters or emergency housing facilities due to their gender/genital/legal status.
- Because transness is sometimes eroticized and sexualized, many providers believe that S&M is a common practice among transgender people. The belief that all trans+ people want to be objectified and abused, totally denies the prevalence of DV in relationships involving a trans person.
- Even in larger cities, service providers who specifically outreach to transgender/SOFFA people may be limited. Many victims fear losing their privacy or not being able to maintain anonymity within care settings.
- There have been many custody cases lately involving trans+ people. The risk of losing custody of a child might influence a trans+ or SOFFA individual from coming forward about abusive behavior.
- The isolation that accompanies domestic violence can be compounded by being trans or in a relationship with a trans+ partner in a transphobic society. Silence about domestic violence within the trans+/SOFFA community further isolates the victim, giving more power to the abuser.

Articles

Injustice at every turn: A report of the national transgender discrimination study (2011)

Jamie Grant, Lisa Mottet, Justin Tanis, et.al.
endtransdiscrimination.org/PDFs/NTDS_Report.pdf

Sexual violence in the transgender community (2005)

FORGE. Multiple documents available at www.forge-forward.org/transviolence/survey_results.php

Practical tips for working with transgender survivors of sexual violence (2005)

michael munson and Loree Cook-Daniels
www.forge-forward.org/handouts/Trans_survivor_tips.pdf

Services outside of the box: Helping your (transgender) clients navigate sex-segregated services (2010)

michael munson
www.forge-forward.org/docs/sex-segregated-services.pdf

Trans accessibility project: Making women's shelters accessible to transgendered women (1999)

Allison Cope and Julie Darke
www.queensu.ca/humanrights/tap/

Domestic violence and LGBT people: Annual reports (1998 through present)

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
www.avp.org/publications/reports/reports.htm

Why it matters: rethinking victim assistance for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer victims of hate violence & intimate partner violence (2010)

National Center on Victims of Crime and the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
www.ncvc.org/ncvc/AGP.Net/Components/documentViewer/Download.aspxnz?DocumentID=47632

Seeing past the “L”: Addressing anti-male bias in sexual assault services for the “LGBT” community

(2005) Loree Cook-Daniels
www.forge-forward.org/handouts/SA_anti-male_bias.pdf

Quick tips for providers

michael munson
www.forge-forward.org/handouts/Trans_survivor_tips.pdf

What you should know about violence and harassment against LGBT individuals (2010)

FORGE
www.forge-forward.org/docs/what_you_should_know_anti-violence.pdf

What you can do about violence and harassment against LGBT individuals (2010)

FORGE
www.forge-forward.org/docs/what_you_can_do_anti-violence.pdf

101 things you can do. We are all responsible.

(2010) FORGE
www.forge-forward.org/docs/we_are_all_responsible.pdf

Sexual violence, elder abuse and sexuality of transgender adults age 50+: Results of three surveys (2008)

Loree Cook-Daniels and michael munson
www.forge-forward.org/docs/APA2008_trans_elders_3surveys.pdf

In press (will be available at www.forge-forward.org):
 FORGE (2011)

- Mapping the transgender experience: A guide for professionals
- Serving transgender sexual violence survivors
- Reaching out: Connecting to the transgender community
- Providing immediate post assault health and/or forensic care to the transgender sexual violence survivor
- Providing routine health care for the transgender survivor of sexual assault

Trans and intersex survivors of domestic violence: defining terms, barriers, & responsibilities

Diana Courvant and Loree Cook-Daniels
www.survivorproject.org/defbarresp.html

Gender non-conforming youth and sexual assault

Shannon Wyss
www.survivorproject.org/wyss.html

Lesbian, gay male, bisexual and transgendered elders: elder abuse and neglect issues

Loree Cook-Daniels
www.forge-forward.org/handouts/tgelderabuse-neglect.html

LGBT Anti-Violence Web Resources (may not be trans-specific)

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs

www.ncavp.org

Coalition of 40 American lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender survivor programs.

Community United Against Violence

www.cuav.org/

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

Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project

www.gmdvp.org

Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project supports victims and survivors through education, advocacy and direct services.

Minnesota Center Against Violence & Abuse Electronic Clearinghouse

www.mincava.umn.edu/vaw.asp

Section on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans resources.

The Network/La Red

www.thenetworklared.org/english/index.html

Founded in 1989 to address abuse issues in queer women's and trans communities.

Remember Our Dead

www.gender.org/remember

Memorial to people who have died as a result of transphobic violence.

Stop Abuse For Everyone (SAFE)

www.safe4all.org

Stop Abuse For Everyone (SAFE) is a human rights organization that provides services, publications, and training to serve those who typically fall between the cracks of domestic violence services, including men, gays and lesbians, teens, the elderly, and immigrants.

First-person narratives

Connectivity, Volume 7, Issue 2-3 - Mental Health

[www.forge-](http://www.forge-forward.org/newsletters/v07i02)

[forward.org/newsletters/v07i02](http://www.forge-forward.org/newsletters/v07i02)

- Giving Voice: Gender Identity and Sexual Trauma

- Ask GearHead (question on spouses reaction to her trans lovers balding and similarities to her abuser)

FORGE Newsletter on DV (November 1999)

my.execpc.com/~dmmunson/Nov99_1.htm

Including:

- Medical Abuse "Domestic" Violence: Not Just a "Family" Matter (michael munson)
- Domestic/Sexual Violence & Gender Identity: You wanna talk complex? (Lindsay McBride)
- Domestic Violence within our Community (Rich Jentzen)
- labels and lies (tamlin)
- Sexual Assault in the Transgender Communities (Arlene Istar Lev and S. Sundance Lev)
- Are you in a domestically violent relationship?

Articles (cont.)

In your house: Responding when you suspect relationship abuse. Avoid Strange Men, 1(1), 21-29. Gunn, J. L., & Goldberg, J. M. (2002).

Lines in the sand, cries of desire.

Wilchins, R. A. (1997). In C. Queen & L. Schimel (Eds.), *Pomosexuals: Challenging assumptions about gender and sexuality* (pp. 138-149). San Francisco: Cleis Press. <http://www.annelawrence.com/linesinsand.html>

Email Lists

FORGE hosts email lists for providers and survivors.

To join a list, send an email to AskFORGE@forge-forward.org.

Please indicate if you are a survivor, loved one or provider who would like to be added to the email list(s).

Trans/SOFFA-Specific Power and Control Tactics

Tactics *used against* transgender victims

- Using pronouns not preferred by you or calling you “it”
- Calling you pejorative names
- Ridiculing how your body looks
- Telling you you are not a real man/woman
- Telling you that nobody would believe you because you’re transgender
- Ridiculing or belittling your identity as a bisexual, trans, femme, butch, genderqueer....
- Claiming they are more “politically correct” and using their status as an L, G, B, and/or T person against you
- Claiming they know what’s best for you, how you should dress or wear makeup (or not), etc.
- Denying access to medical treatment or hormones or coercing you to not pursue medical treatment
- Hiding or throwing away hormones, binders, clothes, etc.
- Eroticizing/fetishizing your body against your will
- Touching body parts you don’t want touched, or calling them by terms they know you find offensive
- Telling you they thought you liked “rough sex” or “this is how *real* men/women like sex”
- Telling you that nobody will ever love you
- Telling you you don’t deserve better and/or would never find a better partner
- Threatening to “out” you to your employer, friends, or family members
- Negating your personal decisions
- Threatening to take the children or turn them against you
- Forbidding you to talk to others about transgender topics

Tactics *used by* transgender abusers

- Claiming they are just being “butch” or that “it’s the hormones” (to explain their violent behavior)
- Ridiculing or belittling your identity as a bisexual, trans, femme, butch, genderqueer....
- Claiming that your identity “undermines” or is “disrespectful” of theirs
- Charging you with “not being supportive” if you ask to discuss questions of transitioning timing and/or expense
- Denying that you are affected by the transition or by being partnered with a trans person
- Accusing you of not allowing him to have a “proper adolescence”
- Forbidding you to talk to others about transgender topics
- Telling you you would harm the LGB and/or T community if you exposed what was happening
- Negating your personal decisions
- Claiming they are more “politically correct” and using their status as an L, G, B, and/or T person against you