

The Facts

- LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered) people experience the same types of domestic abuse (emotional, physical, financial and sexual) as non LGBT people regardless of their gender or sexual identity. LGBT people can experience abuse from a partner, ex partner, family member, within a same sex relationship and in heterosexual relationships.
- Transgender people believe that the gender assigned to them at birth is not the gender that they belong to and some people may undergo a procedure to surgically convert them to the opposite sex. Transgender people may identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or heterosexual.

We know that

- One in four LGBT people will experience domestic violence (DV) throughout their lifetime.
- One in three transgender people will report experiencing DV throughout their lifetime

Specific Risk Factors to LGBT people

LGBT people may experience different or additional risk factors due to their sexuality and/or gender identity as a result of people's responses to their identity (i.e. homophobia, transphobia...etc). Risk factors that are specific to LGBT people include:

- The abuser threatening to reveal the survivor's sexuality or gender identity to others without consent, also known as 'Outing'
- The abuser using the LGBT person's identity to isolate or reinforce the abuse. This could be done in the following ways:
 - ⇒ The abuser may reinforce fears that no one will help because of their LGBT identity
 - ⇒ The abuser may try to control and limit their access to LGBT social networks, thus isolating them from support
 - ⇒ The abuser may try to undermine the person's sense of self and individuality by reinforcing fixed ideas about what it means to be gay or bisexual perhaps claiming they 'aren't really gay'
- The abuser may use sexual abuse or pressure to engage the survivor to participate in certain sexual acts or practices
- Research indicates there is an increased risk of abuse in first same sex relationships where the person may be more vulnerable and unable to recognise behaviours as abusive
- The identity of the perpetrator is also a risk factor if the
 - ⇒ Former heterosexual partner harasses the survivor about their previous sexual identity
 - ⇒ A family member becomes aware that the person is LGBT and chooses to use abuse as their reaction to the person 'coming out' or 'being outed'. May be a form of so called 'Honour Based Violence'

How you can make your service more accessible for LGBT people

LGBT survivors are more likely to access a service targeted at them or that is explicitly inclusive of LGBT people. Agencies can make their services more accessible by:

- Challenge the invisibility of domestic violence occurring amongst the LGBT community by displaying targeted publicity in public spaces
- Using inclusive language across the organisation, for example in policies, procedures, strategies, service plans, protocols etc.
- Monitor for gender & sexual identity (i.e. asking how a person identifies their sexuality and if their gender is the same as it was at birth).

Specialist Support Services

The LGBT Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP) is made up of five London wide LGBT agencies (Broken Rainbow, London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard, Stonewall Housing, Galop and PACE) and provides a single point of contact and a fast track service for survivors to access any of the partner agencies. Provides emotional support, practical advice around housing, safety planning and the criminal justice system.

Tel. 0300 0110 327. After hours: 0207 837 7324. www.lgbtdap.org.uk

Men's Advice Line provides advice and support for men regardless of their gender or sexual identity in abusive relationships.

Tel. 0808 801 0327, Open Monday to Friday 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm.

www.mensadvice.org.uk

Broken Rainbow provides information, support and advice on safety and legal & housing options to LGBT people experiencing domestic violence.

National Helpline: 0845 260 4460

Galop works to prevent and challenge homophobic and transphobic hate crime in Greater London. Provides free advice to DV survivors via their **Helpline: 0207 704 2040.** www.galop.org.uk

Respect Phonenumber offers information and advice to both men and women regardless of their sexuality or gender identity who are abusive towards their partners and want to stop. Also offers advice to professionals about working with & supporting abusers.

Tel. 0845 122 8609. Open Monday to Friday 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm.

www.respectphonenumber.org.uk

National Domestic Violence 24 Hour Helpline – provides free advice on all issues regarding domestic violence and can support survivors to access emergency refuge accommodation. The 24 hour helpline is run jointly by Women's Aid and Refuge.

Free phone number 0808 2000 247

Gay Men's Supported Housing project provides medium term accommodation-based support to gay men from anywhere in the UK aged 18 to 65 who are fleeing from relationship (partner or family) or homophobic abuse. The majority of referrals are made by LGBT specific services such as Stonewall Housing and Galop. Self referrals are also accepted. Placements will not be immediate and waiting periods can take several months before accommodation is secured.

Please contact Andy Meekings, GMSH Project Senior Support Worker, Metropolitan Support Trust, 227A Garratt Lane, London SW18 4DT. **Tel. 020 8875 4650**, Fax. 020 8875 4670

West London LGBT Development Project provides advice, guidance and training on LGBT issues, coordinates the West London LGBT Forum, support for LGBT groups and develops joint working initiatives on LGBT issues.

Contact Peter Vittles on **020 8280 2286**, peter@ealingcvcs.org.uk www.ealingcvcs.org.uk/lgbt

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