



CAP TIPs is a series of periodic messages to assist in the planning and implementation of NCVRW Community Awareness Projects. Please feel free to send your individual questions or requests for assistance to Anne Seymour at annesey@atlantech.net

CAP TIP #9

To Improve Public Awareness

Partnering with and Outreach to LGBTQI Communities and Individuals

Introduction

In recent years, there have been significant efforts to better understand the scope of crimes committed against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning and intersex (LGBTQI) victims, and to develop recommendations and resources for more effective crime prevention and response to survivors. The criminal justice and victim assistance fields – with leadership from the Offices and Bureaus within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice – have partners with many national, state and local organizations that serve LGBTQI individuals and communities on these important efforts. Such partnerships can be emulated by NCVRW CAP organizations to improve outreach to and collaboration with the LGBTQI community in conjunction with 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

This CAP TIP highlights the scope of violence and victimization committed against LGBTQI survivors; provides extensive resources about national, state and local organizations that are potential partners in improving victim assistance services for LGBTQI individuals; and provides ideas to collaborate with your potential partners during 2013 NCVRW and throughout the year.

Framing Key Issues: The Scope of Violence and Victimization

When considering partnerships with and outreach to LGBTQI communities and individuals, it's helpful to understand current research and resources that identify the scope of crimes committed against LGBTQI victims and survivors, and challenges to providing effective victim assistance and implementing crime victims' rights. This "scope" includes (but is not limited to):

- Hate violence
- Homicide
- Intimate partner violence
- Sexual violence
- Child sexual abuse

- Bullying

The eight documents described below provide an overview of these six important issues.

1. In 2010, the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) and the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) published *WHY IT MATTERS, Rethinking Victim Assistance for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Victims of Hate Violence & Intimate Partner Violence*. The excellent findings and recommendations in this report are based on a first-of-its-kind national survey of victim assistance and NCAVP member programs nationwide, which found that:

Overall, the results showed that LGBTQ-relevant victim assistance is generally lacking in every area included in the survey. Agencies expressed both a strong need and a willingness to receive culturally-specific training and technical assistance. The respondents also acknowledged the importance of LGBTQ-specific victim assistance and demonstrated a desire to better serve LGBTQ victims. Most respondents reported that their agencies:

- Lack outreach to LGBT victims
- Lack staff LGBT cultural competence training
- Did not implement LGBT-specific victim services policies and practices
- Did not collaborate with LGBT-specific service providers
- Were under-resourced to correct these barriers to LGBT-specific services. (pp. 9-10)

The recommendations from this joint policy report provide a strong framework for improving victim assistance services and outreach to LGBTQ individuals and communities. The full report and recommendations can be accessed at the NCVC website www.ncvc.org (or click here <http://is.gd/OjKnhO>).

2. The NCAVP published *Hate Violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2010*. This comprehensive, 79-page Report – which features a concise four-page Executive Summary – includes key findings about:
 - Reported incidents
 - Hate violence murders
 - Most impacted identities
 - Hate violence survivors and victim demographics
 - Police response
 - Characteristics of hate violence sites and offenders

The Report also includes recommendations to respond to and prevent hate crimes against LGBTQ survivors, and for research to improve data collection and analysis. This Report can be accessed at <http://is.gd/2lMupx>.

3. The NCAVP also publishes Annual Reports on anti-LGBT hate violence and LGBT domestic violence, which can be accessed at <http://www.ncavp.org/publications/default.aspx>.
4. The Office for Victims of Crime (the sponsor of this CAP program) offers links to U.S. Department of Justice publications that address victim assistance resources for LGBTQ individuals, which can be accessed at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/topic.aspx?topicid=109>.

5. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center published a *Research Brief* that documents “publications (that) examine sexual violence – in the form of hate or bias-motivated crimes, intimate partner violence, childhood sexual abuse, and adult sexual assault – against victims who identify as LGBTQ.” The research findings in this *Brief* can help inform 2013 NCVRW and year-round efforts to improve victim assistance to LGBTQI survivors, and can be accessed at http://nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/Publications_NSVRC_Research-Brief_Sexual-Violence-LGBTQ.pdf.
6. In 2005, the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse published *Relationship Violence in LGBTQ Communities – Moving Beyond a Gender-based Framework*, which defines the differing contexts of relationship violence and barriers to services. It also includes recommendations and guidelines for responding to LGBTQ relationship violence, and innovative approaches to prevention and response. This document can be accessed at <http://www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/lgbtqviolence/lgbtqviolence.html>.
7. The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) sponsors a *LGBT Community and Sexual Violence* webpage that features many excellent resources for service providers, victims and survivors, including:
 - A brochure for victims and survivors in the LGBTQ community
 - A one-hour webinar on “creating inclusive and healing communities for those who identify as LGBTQ (which can be accessed online and utilized for training purposes)
 - “Frequently Asked Questions” that include guidance in providing an affirming environment for clients; words/terms that should be avoided; and open-ended questions to allow all clients to self-identify

You can access the PCAR resources at <http://www.pcar.org/lgbt-community-and-sexual-violence>.

8. Bullying of LGBTQI youth is a prevalent problem in many communities, and there are many comprehensive resources for prevention and response, including (but not limited to):
 - The “Bullying and LGBT Youth” web page sponsored by stopbullying.gov, which addresses “creating a safe environment for LGBT youth” and other issues. This web page can be accessed at <http://www.stopbullying.gov/at-risk/groups/lgbt/index.html>.
 - The bullying web page sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), which provides links to national organizations and a toolkit, can be accessed at <http://www.glaad.org/publications/glaads-resources-bullying>.
 - The *It Gets Better Project* “shares positive messages of support with LGBT youth,” and features a youth-oriented national social media campaign. You can access *It Gets Better* at <http://www.itgetsbetter.org/>.

Identifying Potential Partners

The **GLBT National Resource Database** features links to 15,000 resources that serve the LGBTQI community nationwide. You can simply enter your zip code and geographic range, and choose from 26 categories of the types of resources sought (i.e., crisis, legal, hotlines), to access information about and hyperlinks to resources in your community. You can also register your organization as a resource within the National Database. <http://gltbnearme.org/>

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is the original ally organization within the LGBTQI community. Founded in 1972, PFLAG has over 200,000 members and supporters and over 350 affiliates in the United States. PFLAG’s mission is to “promote the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse

society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.” Its website features many policy statements related to the victim assistance field – including hate crimes, safe and welcoming schools, and sexual exploitation of youth – and links to affiliates and chapters in all 50 states. PFLAG chapters can be an important partner in promoting 2013 NCVRW. For further information, visit <http://community.pflag.org/Page.aspx?pid=194&srcid=-2>.

Some **elementary and middle schools** proactively address student safety, bullying and crime prevention programs that are specific to LGBTQI students (see resources above in “Framing Key Issues”). Similarly, LGBTQ outreach to youth is enhanced by programs like “Hear My Voice” sponsored by Break the Cycle, which features online training and a toolkit to address teen dating violence. You can access these resources at <http://www.breakthecycle.org/content/lgbtq-outreach>.

Many **college and university campuses** sponsor LGBTQI organizations that address a wide range of issues, including the prevention of crime and hate violence, and victim/survivor assistance. Institutions of higher education have long been important partners in promoting NCVRW, and campus-sponsored organizations that address LGBTQI issues and concerns can be important partners to promote 2013 NCVRW. Some resources to connect with your local colleges and universities include:

- The Consortium of Higher Education sponsors an online *LGBT Support Services Map*, which lists campus offices/centers that are “professionally run by at least one paid professional staff or graduate assistant addressing LGBT resources.” Approximately two-thirds of states have campuses with such programs, with URL links provided at <http://www.lgbtcampus.org/lgbt-support-services-map>.
- Campus Pride, whose mission of Campus Pride is to “serve LGBT and ally student leaders and campus organizations in the areas of leadership development, support programs and services to create safer, more inclusive LGBT-friendly colleges and universities. It exists to develop, support and give ‘voice and action’ in building future LGBT and ally student leaders.” Its website features outreach programs, webinars and publications to enhance the safety of LGBTQI students, and can be accessed at <http://www.campuspride.org/>.
- One example of a university-based program and website for LGBTQI students is sponsored by the University of Central Florida, which can be accessed at <http://lgbtq.sdes.ucf.edu/resources>.

In two-thirds of states, there are **community centers** for LGBTQI individuals that provide an apex for advocacy and support. CENTERLINK, the “Community of LGBT Centers,” “supports the development of strong, sustainable LGBT community centers and to build a unified center movement.” CENTERLINK provides online URL links to LGBTQI centers nationwide, and can be accessed at <http://www.lgbtcenters.org/>.

The online ***Magic Yellow Pages*** feature a roster of LGBTQI organizations nationwide, which can be accessed at: http://www.magicyellow.com/category/Gay_and_Lesbian_Organizations/Cities.html.

NCVRW Collaborations

The online resources and potential partners described above can help CAP programs consider ways to collaborate with LGBTQI organizations and allied professional organizations to promote victim assistance and crime prevention during 2013 NCVRW and throughout the year. Here are some helpful ideas to consider:

- Develop online linkages among victim assistance and LGBTQI organizations – such as PFLAG chapters and LGBTQI community centers – that provide basic information about your state’s victims’ rights, and services available to assist LGBTQI survivors.
- Create and share social media messages with allied organizations to increase awareness of victims’ rights and services, for example: “LGBTQI victims of crime have rights under law, and services to assist

them in the aftermath of crime. April 21-27 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. To learn more, visit (*web URL*)."

- Develop one-page "frequently asked questions" on the types of crimes highlighted in this CAP Tip, and make them available on the websites of victim assistance and LGBTQI organizations.
- Include LGBTQI survivors in any of your NCVRW activities – such as victim impact panels, training programs, or media outreach – to highlight the challenges faced by these victims in the aftermath of crime.
- Use the anti-bullying resources (described above) to develop a presentation for elementary and high schools that include a focus on LGBTQI youth, which can be co-facilitated by victim assistance and LGBTQI organization partners.
- Use your initial outreach during 2013 NCVRW to work with LGBTQI community organizations, and assess the effectiveness of and gaps in victim assistance services to LGBTQI survivors. This is a good "starting point" for ongoing partnerships to improve services and support to LGBTQI victims.

For More Information

Please contact National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Project Consultant Anne Seymour via email at annesey@atlantech.net; or by telephone at 202.547.1732.