



MEDIA RELEASE

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The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs releases report: *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Domestic Violence in the United States in 2008*

Los Angeles— The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) today released its report on domestic violence within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) communities in the United States during the year 2008. The **total number of cases reported to NCAVP members was 3,419. Los Angeles**, with increased monitoring capacity, **reported close to 1,500 incidents.** Major findings of the report reflected that the number of reported **DV-related fatalities increased** and the number of cases with **reported police misconduct in 2008 increased by 93%**. In 2008, incidents of police misconduct, reported by 2.3% of all callers to NCAVP organizations, nearly doubled compared to those reported in 2007.

“This report is the definitive resource on LGBTQ domestic violence in the US. However, it is certain that incidents of LGBTQ domestic violence are under-reported and under-addressed due to systemic anti-LGBTQ bias and discrimination. The reported trends demand an increased response to issues of and support for LGBTQ domestic violence services,” said Sharon Stapel, Executive Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project.

Other major findings of the 2008 report included **increases in reports along many race and ethnicity categories**, notably people identifying as Latina/o (100%), Multi-racial (91%), and African Descent (50%). Striking increases were seen in a relatively new category of **immigration**, especially people with recent visas (1700%), refugees and asylees (900%), and people who are undocumented (250%). Additionally, reports of domestic violence against **people living with disabilities** increased by almost 50%.

According to Kaitlin Nichols, Director of Organizing & Education for The Network/LaRed, “Increased violence at the hands of intimate partners and of the police, and increasingly diverse communities seeking services, shows that strengthened cultural competency in mainstream institutions and the continued presence of LGBTQ-specific anti-violence programs are needed now more than ever.”

NCAVP makes several key recommendations in the 2008 report, including the need for local state and federal governments to: increase funding to LGBTQ domestic violence programs, extend support to community and non-profit based prevention initiatives, and improve the efficacy of law enforcement’s response to LGBTQ domestic violence.

“Despite a troubled economy, NCAVP calls upon elected officials and community leaders to show their commitment to fighting domestic violence within the LGBTQ communities with resources, support and a willingness to speak out against this violence. The need for safe and effective services and public awareness has never been greater” said Terra Slavin, Lead Staff Attorney for the Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project at the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center.

***Contributing Members and Regional Media Contacts**

Pacific Coast

WASHINGTON

Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse
PO Box 20398, Seattle, WA 98102
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www.nwnetwork.org

CALIFORNIA

Community United Against Violence
170 A Capp Street, San Francisco, CA 94110
Contact: Shawna Virago, (415) 777-5500
www.cuav.org

L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center
1625 N. Schrader Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 94110
Contact: Terra Slavin, Esq., (323) 993-7651
www.lagaycenter.org

West

COLORADO

Colorado Anti-Violence Program
P.O. Box 181085, Denver, CO 80218
Contact: Kelly Costello, (303) 839-5204
www.coavp.org

TEXAS

Montrose Counseling Center
401 Branard Avenue, 2nd floor, Houston, TX 77006
Contact: Sally A. Huffer, (713) 529-0037
www.montrosecounselingcenter.org

Midwest

MINNESOTA

OutFront Minnesota
310 East 38th Street, Ste 204, Minneapolis, MN 55409
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WISCONSIN

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www.mkelgbt.org

OHIO

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MISSOURI

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ILLINOIS

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Northeast

MASSACHUSETTS

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The Network/La Red

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www.thenetworklared.org

NEW YORK

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www.avp.org

Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Anti-Violence Program
875 E. Main Street, Suite 500 Rochester, NY 14605
Contact: Kelly Clark, (585) 244-8640 x19
www.gayalliance.org

VERMONT

SafeSpace, a Program of the RU 12? Community Center
P.O. Box 5883, Burlington, VT 05402
Contact: Ann Robinson, (802) 863-0003
www.ru12.org

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) supports local LGBTQ organizations in their work to end violence in all its forms against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people and communities. www.ncavp.org.