

BREAKING NEWS



Serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,
Queer and HIV-affected Communities

September 21, 2011

New information released in Gilgo Beach Investigation

Yesterday, the Suffolk County Police Department identified a male body found wearing women's clothing on Gilgo Beach. This is newly released information in the [ongoing investigation of the bodies found on and around Gilgo Beach](#), Long Island. While the sexual orientation or gender identity of the victim is unknown at this time, AVP recognizes that this person may have identified as transgender or gender non-conforming. Police are currently theorizing that this individual may have engaged in sex work at the time of their death. AVP is reaching out to the Suffolk County Police Department, local elected officials, and community organizations on Long Island and throughout New York City to follow up on this incident. We will keep you informed of developments.

According to the 2010 Report on Hate Violence released by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 42% of transgender women killed last year were engaged in sex work at the time of their murder. AVP denounces violence against sex workers and seeks to raise awareness of the violence faced by LGBTQ-identified sex workers. AVP continues to document the connection between sex work and anti-transgender murder and is working with partner organizations to create strategies for preventing violence and offering support to LGBTQ identified sex workers. Our 24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline is free and completely confidential for anyone who wishes to call us for support.

AVP encourages you to report any anti-LGBTQ bias, including hate speech, bullying, harassment, and physical violence, to our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-714-1141** where you can speak with a trained counselor and seek the support you need. More information about the New York City Anti-Violence Project can be found at our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).