

NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

November 02, 2011

NCAVP Monthly Update: Reports of violence affecting LGBTQH communities in October 2011

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) is concerned by reports of violence impacting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities across the United States, Canada, and Mexico since late September. **Eighteen reported incidents of violence have occurred in California, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Washington State, Ottawa, Canada and Mexico City, Mexico.** NCAVP is particularly concerned about multiple incidents in California, Idaho, and Washington State. NCAVP has reached out to local organizations in these areas and is offering assistance to support their efforts. NCAVP is providing all information available regarding these reports and is not responsible for the complete accuracy of the specific details pertinent to allegations, police investigations, and criminal trials.

September 21, 2011: Steve Pfefferle, 38, was [choked with a rope](#) and repeatedly struck with a piece of metal by a man in Spokane, Washington after leaving Dempsey's, a local gay bar. The [Inland Northwest LGBT Center](#) has organized a candle light vigil, community meetings, and marches in response to this incident and other recent incidents of anti-LGBTQH violence in the Spokane area also included in this statement.

September 23, 2011: Michael Dennis and Winfred Bates, a gay couple attending the University of Minnesota, were [repeatedly punched and kicked](#) while being called anti-gay slurs by a group of 15 men in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dennis and Bates reported dissatisfaction with police response to this incident. NCAVP member program [OutFront Minnesota](#) is looking into this incident and is available for survivors in Minnesota area.

September 28, 2011: Michael Jepsen, 45, was [hit, pushed, and called a "faggot"](#) by a group of people outside Irv's, a bar in Spokane, Washington. Jepsen has expressed concern that his attack is not being taken seriously by local law enforcement. The Inland Northwest LGBT Center has also responded to this incident.

Early October, 2011: Braden Jesser, 22, and an unnamed female friend were approached by three men who [made homophobic comments and physically attacked them](#) after leaving a bar in Boise, Idaho. Jesser's friend was punched in the face and Jesser was jumped, put in a

chokehold on the ground, and hit repeatedly. [Boise Loves](#) has organized community meetings with local law enforcement in response to this and other recent reported incidents of anti-LGBTQH violence in Idaho.

October 4, 2011: Two concrete blocks were [thrown through the window](#) of openly lesbian Heather Molatore's Italian restaurant in Milwaukie, Oregon. The restaurant's electrical meter was removed to keep the alarm from sounding. The vandalism is being investigated as a potential hate crime and is believed to have been committed by an angry customer after discovering that Molatore is a lesbian.

October 5, 2011: Kyan Negaard, 25, was told, "I'm going to beat the living s--- out of your dykey a--," [punched, held down and kicked](#) by two people after a driving dispute in Ada County, Idaho. Negaard sustained a broken nose as a result of the attack. Nicole E. Raymond and Robert James Elam have been charged with aggravated battery in response to this incident.

October 7, 2011: Danny Hawkins, a gay rights advocate, was asked if he was gay before [being beaten](#) by an unnamed man in Spokane, Washington after leaving a local gay bar. The attack resulted in a black eye, a laceration on his head, and a sprained ankle. The Inland Northwest LGBT Center has also responded to this incident.

October 12, 2011: Jermeka Neil was called "dyke b----" and [severely beaten](#) by a group of police officers in Chicago, Illinois after being pulled over. Neil was wearing masculine clothing during the incident and yelled, "I'm a girl," in an attempt to stop the attack. Neil was then arrested on charges of allegedly assaulting officers. Neil is working with a lawyer in response to this incident and hopes it will be prosecuted as a hate crime. Neil is black and the offending officers are all white. NCAVP member program [Center on Halsted Anti-Violence Project](#) in Chicago is looking into the incident.

October 14, 2011: Jamie Hubley, 15, [completed suicide](#) after enduring anti-gay bullying at school and struggling with depression in Ottawa, Canada. Hubley kept a blog where he documented much of his bullying including repeatedly being called a "fag" by classmates. Canadian media person Rick Mercer has [responded](#) on his show by calling on teachers, students, and community members to join efforts to end anti-gay bullying.

October 17, 2011: The GLBT Center of North Carolina State University was [vandalized](#) with the words, "fags burn" and "die" in Raleigh, North Carolina. NCSU campus police are investigating this vandalism as a "hate incident" and there are no known suspects.

October 18, 2011: Billy Madrick was repeatedly [punched in the face and kicked](#) in the chest after being called a "f---ing faggot," by an unnamed man in West Hollywood, California. The man then robbed Madrick of his cell phone and wallet. The [L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center](#) has reached out to West Hollywood city officials and law enforcement to provide advocacy in response to this incident and similar incidents in West Hollywood and Los Angeles.

October 19, 2011: Kasey Mahaffey, who identifies as gay, was approached and [punched in the throat](#) while walking home from the store in West Hollywood, California. Mahaffey [wrote about the incident](#) to raise awareness of his experience.

October 22, 2011: Kyan Loreda, who identifies as gay, was [bashed over the head with a gun and robbed](#) in Los Angeles, California. It is unknown if this incident was motivated in anti-gay bias. The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center believes it is too early to tell if these incidents are a trend but will continue to monitor violence impacting LGBTQH communities in the Los Angeles area.

Week of October 24, 2011: A gay student at Union-Scioto High School in Chillicothe, Ohio was [grabbed, pushed to the ground and punched](#) in the face several times by a fellow student. The assailant had bullied the student prior to the attack calling him a “fag.” [Equality Ohio](#) released a statement in response to this incident calling for Ohio’s anti-bullying law to include sexual orientation and gender identity. NCAVP member program [BRAVO](#) is looking into this incident and is available for survivors in Ohio.

October 29, 2011: Nick Aaronson, 27, a Phoenix, Arizona based flight attendant who identified as gay was [found dead](#) in his Mexico City, Mexico hotel room. Aaronson showed signs of being choked and beaten before being strangled to death. NCAVP member program [Wingspan](#) of Tucson, Arizona is releasing a statement in collaboration with other community members in response to this incident.

October 29, 2011: A lesbian couple found the words “[kill the gay](#)” painted on their garage, a noose at their doorstep, and a target painted on their front door in Parker, Colorado. Local law enforcement are investigating the incident as a bias-motivated felony. The couple report hostility from neighbors, including one neighbor with a video camera pointed at the women’s apartment, and attribute these attitudes to their sexual orientation. Their neighborhood Home Owner’s Association covered the graffiti, and the couple responded by placing signs on their garage that say, “Don’t cover it, solve it” and, “We will not submit to hate”. NCAVP member program [Colorado Anti-Violence Program](#) is working with the couple to provide advocacy in response to this incident.

October 30, 2011: Burke Burnett, 26, who identifies as gay, was [stabbed with a broken beer bottle, thrown into a fire, and called a “faggot,”](#) “gay b----,” and other anti-gay slurs by four men at a party in Reno, Texas. Burnett required 30 stitches to close the stab wound, sustained second-degree burns, and severe bruises. Reno city police arrested Daniel Martin, 33, and James “Tray” Mitchell Laster III, 31, in response to this attack. NCAVP member program [Resource Center Dallas](#) has released a statement denouncing this incident and calling on the Reno Police Department to conduct a swift and thorough investigation.

October 31, 2011: Two men in their late 50s or early 60s were asked, “What are you looking at faggots?” by two men and [attacked in Long Beach, California](#). The attackers then pushed the men to the ground, stomped on them, and punched one in the face. Long Beach police have arrested two men, 19 and 27 in response to this incident and are investigating it as a hate crime.

According to NCAVP’s [report](#) *Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2010*, there was a 13% increase in reports of anti-LGBTQH violence between 2009 and 2010. NCAVP believes that together communities can prevent and end violence impacting LGBTQH people and calls on community

members, anti-violence organizations, and public officials to join efforts to end violence within and against LGBTQH communities.

Contact Information for Responding Organizations

Boise Loves

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/BoiseLoves?sk=info>

BRAVO

Hotline: 866-862-7286

www.bravo-ohio.org

Center on Halsted

Hotline: 773-871-CARE

www.centeronhalsted.org

Colorado Anti-Violence Program

Hotline: 888-557-4441

www.coavp.org

Equality Ohio

Phone: 614-224-0400

www.equalityohio.org

Inland Northwest LGBT Center

www.thelgbtcenter.org

L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center Anti-Violence Project

Hotline: 800-373-2227 (English); 877-963-4666 (Spanish)

www.lagaycenter.org

OutFront Minnesota

Hotline: 612-822-0127

www.outfront.org

Resource Center Dallas

Phone: 214-528-0144

www.rcdallas.org

Wingspan Anti-Violence Programs

Hotline: 800-553-9387

www.wingspan.org

ACTION STEPS

Report Violence: NCAVP encourages anyone who has experienced violence to contact a local anti-violence program. For help locating an anti-violence program in your area, please [contact us](#).

Get involved: Join NCAVP in our efforts to prevent and respond to anti-LGBTQH violence.
[Contact us](#) to learn more.

NCAVP works to prevent, respond to, and end all forms of violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities. NCAVP is a national coalition of local member programs, affiliate organizations and individuals who create systemic and social change. NCAVP is a program of the New York City Anti-Violence Project.

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