

# NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy  
for Local LGBTQH Communities

## **NCAVP concerned by reports of violence impacting LGBTQH communities**

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 since late August. Eighteen reported incidents of violence have occurred in Florida, Iowa, Kansas, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Washington State in addition to NCAVP's recent responses to concentrated LGBTQH violence in [Utah](#) and [Washington, D.C.](#) NCAVP is providing all information available regarding these reports.

August 16, 2011: Tiva Anderson, a transgender female, was [brutally attacked](#) with a baseball bat while being harassed about how she dressed in Seattle, Washington. Anderson sustained a severe head injury.

August 19, 2011: Marcellus Richard Andrews was [brutally beaten](#) by a group of youth while they taunted and called him anti-gay slurs in Waterloo, Iowa. Andrews endured severe head injuries and died as a result of the attack on September 21. A vigil was organized in remembrance of Andrews and two local organizations, [One Iowa and Iowa Safe Schools](#), have called for increasing advocacy to create safer schools and communities for LGBTQH people in Iowa.

September 2, 2011: A transgender woman was [harassed](#) in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Seattle, Washington by a group of men. The men called her a "faggot transsexual," among other slurs and threw rocks at the woman. She was able to walk away unharmed and the assailants fled the scene.

September 4, 2011: Two young men, 18 and 19, were [beaten by a group of six men](#) and accused of "being homosexuals" while walking in Wichita, Kansas. The two drove themselves to a local hospital where they were treated for minor injuries. The [Kansas City Anti-Violence Project](#) has reached out to local law enforcement in Wichita to offer advocacy in response to this incident.

September 10, 2011: Bryan Michael Egnew, 40, of Pittsboro, North Carolina, [completed suicide](#) shortly after being rejected by his family and faith community after coming out as gay. Egnew was reportedly no longer able to speak to his children and was excommunicated by the Mormon Church to which he belonged. [Pride in Utah](#) has responded by calling on the Mormon Church to re-evaluate and change their views on LGBTQH communities.

September 17, 2011: An individual, whose gender identity is unknown but may identify as transgender, was [called anti-gay slurs and punched in the face](#) by Raven Lang Brealan in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Seattle, Washington. Brealan then proceeded to threaten the

survivor with a knife and strike them in the face with a metal *No Parking* sign. Brealan is being charged with malicious harassment and assault.

September 18, 2011: Jamey Rodemeyer, 14, was [found dead](#) in his Williamsville, New York home as a result of suicide. Rodemeyer suffered years of anti-gay bullying in school which his family feels drove him to suicide. Rodemeyer also experienced severe cyber-bullying where he was repeatedly told to kill himself. Over 500 people attended Rodemeyer's funeral.

Week of September 19, 2011: Manuel Galan, 27, and Cirildo Soliz, 21, both openly gay, were [jumped by a group of five men](#) and called anti-gay slurs while walking in Immokalee, Florida. The men were repeatedly punched and kicked in the face, ribs, and limbs during the attack. The incident is being investigated as a potential hate crime.

September 21, 2011: Jerry Pittman Jr. and his boyfriend were [smashed into a car](#), punched in the face and back, and called anti-gay slurs in Grace Fellowship Church in Fruitland, Tennessee. Pittman's father, Jerry Pittman Sr., is the pastor of Grace Fellowship Church and is accused of prompting the attack. Charges are filed against Deacons Billy Sims, Eugene McCoy, Patrick Flatt, and Pittman's father. The [Tennessee Equality Project](#) is assisting the survivors with local media to tell their story.

September 24, 2011: Vandals [smashed glass and slashed all the tires](#) of the cars of Lyle Evans and Chris Ilovar, a gay couple, outside their home in West Seattle, Washington. The vandals also left a note saying "Get the f— out of our neighborhood. The Bible says God forbids men committing indecent act [sic] with other men." Baseball-sized rocks were thrown through the car windows, with one being wrapped by a note signed "KKK."

September 27, 2011: Chris Sigler, 17, was [shoved, bumped in the chest, and verbally harassed](#) by his principal last week for wearing a t-shirt in support of efforts to establish a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) club at Sequoyah High School in Madisonville, Tennessee. The ACLU of Tennessee released a [statement](#) in support of Sigler and [sent a letter](#) to the school district demanding protection of students' rights to free speech.

NCAVP has reached out to local organizations in these areas and is offering assistance to support their anti-violence endeavors. 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 communities and calls on community members, anti-violence organizations, and public officials to join efforts to end violence within and against LGBTQH communities.

## **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 over forty local member programs, as well as affiliate organizations and individuals, who create systemic and social change. NCAVP is a program of the New York City Anti-Violence Project.*

###