

COMMUNITY ALERT



June 13, 2011

Pride and Safety

AVP wishes you a Happy Pride! Pride is a time to celebrate who we are as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people. During Pride, AVP wants everyone to be safe – below are some tips for how you and your friends and family can stay safe during Pride season.

AVP has a 24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at (212) 714-1141 for anyone who has experienced or witnessed violence.

Keeping yourself safe

- **Have a safety plan (AVP can help):** let someone know your plans for the night, such as who you'll be with and if your plans change. Brainstorm in advance ways that people can support you.
- **Be aware of your surroundings:** locate 24-hour establishments to seek help if you feel unsafe.
- **Trust your instincts:** if you feel threatened or unsafe, remove yourself from the situation as quickly as possible.
- **Use words** to alert bystanders of what's going on and to frighten (but not anger) an assailant.
- **Move towards** a "safer place," like a more public space.
- **Self defense:** use your body to defend yourself or get away from an assailant.
- **Leave a trail and use your tech:** program AVP's hotline information into your phone; let people around you know when you are leaving a place; text yourself or friends about where you'll be or where you are; save messages on Facebook, MySpace, OKCupid, Grindr, etc.

Getting Support

- If possible, **consider medical attention** after any incident; violence can create many physical and emotional issues.
- **Document the incident:** take photos of any injuries; keep records of emails, texts, calls.
- **Take care of yourself** by utilizing supportive friends, partners and family.

Police Violence

- **If you've called the police,** introduce yourself when they arrive. This shows that you are aware of how to report misconduct.
- **If you are harassed or attacked** by the police, get their name and badge/car numbers.
- **You do not have to consent to a search** (of yourself, your car or your house). Do NOT try to stop the police from searching you. Instead, repeat out loud, "I do NOT consent to this search."
- **You have the right** to watch and document police activities. Take video and pictures at a safe distance to capture an incident.

AVP thanks the Audre Lorde Project and People's Justice for Community Control & Accountability for sharing this information.

If you or someone your love has witnessed or experienced harassment or violence during Pride, call AVP's 24 hour, bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212.714.1141. AVP here for you during Pride—and every day.