



NCAVP PLATFORM TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBT COMMUNITIES

2017 Release Edition



We work to prevent, respond to, and end all forms of violence against and within LGBTQ communities. We're a national coalition of local member programs, affiliate organizations and individual affiliates who create systemic and social change. We strive to increase power, safety and resources through data analysis, policy advocacy, education and technical assistance.

If you are experiencing violence and need support or want to learn more on how to get involved in your local community, contact your local Anti-Violence Project.

www.ncavp.org

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SINCE 1997, NCAVP has documented hate violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and police violence within and against LGBTQ and HIV affected communities. Through this ongoing documentation, NCAVP understands the need for a deeper, more informed analysis of and response to violence. Though these types of violence may appear as discrete categories, the actual lived experience of LGBTQ survivors demonstrates that in every story, there are many overlapping types of violence and systems of oppression at play. In order to end violence, we must address the transphobia, homophobia, biphobia and other biases that are rooted in historical systems of oppression.

Violence shows up in diverse LGBTQ communities in multiple and complex ways, and meaningfully addressing this violence will not happen by solely relying on the criminal legal system. The concentration of resources to address violence into enhanced law enforcement, harsher sentencing, and hate crimes legislation has left communities of color, particularly queer, trans, and gender nonconforming people and youth, both under-resourced and over policed. These communities have been disproportionately targeted by law enforcement, and often receive longer sentences after being criminalized.

Ending violence against and within LGBTQ communities requires expanding the framework for addressing violence beyond hate crimes legislation and other criminal legal responses in order to address actual causes of violence. Although most incidents of hate violence don't fit within the codified definition of a hate crime, that does not render experiences of hate motivated violence any less impactful.

For the last several years, and especially since November 2016, the country has continued to see a rise in hate motivated violence while witnessing rollbacks of protections for LGBTQ communities at the state and federal level. In this political moment, it has never been more crucial to widely adopt strategies that center solutions and leadership from communities who have and will suffer the most from the actions of this current administration: trans and gender nonconforming people, people of color, immigrants, undocumented people, people with disabilities, and youth. In spite of being most disproportionately impacted by violence, these communities have always been at the forefront of civil rights and liberation movements. Because the LGBTQ movement has historically benefited from the courageous leadership of these communities, NCAVP commits to uplifting and amplifying the power and resilience of these communities in the ongoing struggle for liberation.

After 20 years of documenting violence against LGBTQ communities, we understand that all people, institutions, and movements working to end violence must not solely respond to violence, but also work to prevent it. For the next 20 years and beyond, we believe resources must be devoted to the following calls to action. We know well that when the safety and well being of our most vulnerable community members are centered, we are ensuring safety for us all.

CALLS TO ACTION TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTQ COMMUNITIES

Recognize historical systems of oppression, such as white supremacy and anti-black racism, patriarchy, and colonialism, as root causes of violence and incorporate anti-oppression work as central to all efforts to end violence.



Support community based efforts that create pathways for individual and community healing and survivor centered justice.

Advocate for education, healthcare, housing, and economic opportunities that affirm the experiences of transgender and gender nonconforming people of color.



Call out and resist “religious exemption” and “public accommodation” bills for the hateful legislation that they are, and advocate for increased protections for LGBTQ communities on the local, state, and federal level.

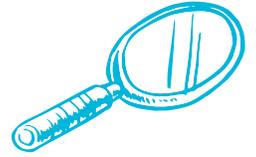
Act in solidarity with all movements working towards liberation and self-determination of people impacted by oppression and violence.



Actively work to create a culture that nurtures LGBTQ youth by uplifting the loving, resilient, and diverse experiences of LGBTQ communities.

CALLS TO ACTION: EXPANDED

Recognize historical systems of oppression, such as white supremacy and anti-black racism, patriarchy, and colonialism, as root causes of violence and incorporate anti-oppression work as central to all efforts to end violence.



- NCAVP recognizes that our culture has been built on interwoven systems of social oppression and exploitation. Understanding and addressing the historical forces of white supremacy, capitalism, ableism, patriarchy, slavery, classism, sexism, colonization are essential to successfully ending violence.
- Because of systems of oppression, we all carry various privileges that give us unearned social advantages over others. Anti-oppression work must be central to work to end violence so that we may simultaneously create spaces by us and for us where all people have the ability to participate, succeed, and be valued equally.

Support community based efforts that create pathways for individual and community healing and survivor centered justice.



- For many marginalized LGBTQ community members, reaching out to law enforcement is not a safe option. LGBTQ communities have long been creating inventive practices to center and support the healing process of survivors and to hold perpetrators accountable on their own terms. NCAVP believes it is vital to not only acknowledge the limitations of the criminal legal system, but to also look to the strategies and leadership from these communities who are addressing violence outside of the criminal legal system.
- Impacted communities must be resourced to support work to transform the social conditions that promote violence and abuse such as poverty, discrimination, and other forms of generational oppression and exploitation. By doing this, we believe that we can create more options to address violence that will loosen our emotional dependence on incarceration.

Advocate for education, healthcare, housing, and economic opportunities that affirm the experiences of transgender and gender nonconforming people of color.



- Transgender and gender non-conforming people of color are at higher risk of violence, not because it's the nature of individual identities to be more prone to violence, but because of the systems of bias and discrimination that place those individuals at greater risk. For example, transgender and gender non-conforming people of color often experience violence and discrimination while attempting to access health care, employment, housing, and education.
- We must work to address the broad-ranging social conditions—from employment discrimination to poor healthcare access—that expose individuals to greater risks of violence. People must advocate in their local communities, schools, and places of employment to ensure that transgender and gender non-conforming people of color have universal access to resources to thrive.

Call out and resist “religious exemption” and “public accommodation” bills for the hateful legislation that they are, and advocate for increased protections for LGBTQ communities on the local, state, and federal level.



- For years, conservative groups have been working to roll back the few protections in place for LGBTQ communities as well as push for discriminatory policies. This has particularly harmful impacts for LGBTQ communities of color, immigrant communities, people with disabilities, and people who hold multiple marginalized identities, who are at higher risk of violence and discrimination in workplaces, housing, schools and other public areas.
- “Religious exemption”, “public accommodation” or other discriminatory legislation increase the likelihood that LGBTQ people, particularly transgender and gender nonconforming people, will experience violence and prevent communities from accessing spaces and resources that should be afforded to all. These bills incite violence by saying that discriminatory beliefs hold more value than the lives and safety of LGBTQ communities. NCAVP calls on everyone to resist and call out these bills and rollbacks for what they are: anti-LGBTQ legislation that increases the risk of violence.

Act in solidarity with all movements working towards liberation and self-determination of people impacted by oppression and violence.

- Violence against LGBTQ communities cannot be treated as a single issue problem. The movement to end violence against LGBTQ people is inextricably linked to indigenous movements, environmental justice movements, disability rights movements, youth movements, the Movement for Black Lives, immigrant rights movements, women's rights, reproductive justice, prison abolition, and other movements that seek to increase the rights of marginalized communities and end harm. NCAVP stands in solidarity with all movements working towards liberation and self-determination of people impacted by oppression and violence.
- LGBTQ communities are diverse and our experiences are multiple. NCAVP calls on everyone to ensure that the voices and experiences of those who hold multiple marginalized identities are uplifted, not silenced, in order to increase the rights and protections of those who are most impacted by violence.



Actively work to create a culture that nurtures LGBTQ youth by uplifting the loving, resilient, and diverse experiences of LGBTQ communities.

- NCAVP recognizes that in order to end violence we must shift culture to be loving and affirming of LGBTQ communities, particularly LGBTQ communities who hold multiple marginalized identities. This is especially important for youth who often internalize bias and experience high rates of violence online, in their schools, and in their families.
- Everyone can work to shift culture by lifting up the full humanity and multiple experiences of LGBTQ communities and not solely reducing their stories to violence and discrimination; supporting LGBTQ specific spaces; and supporting and celebrating the resiliency of LGBTQ people. It's imperative that LGBTQ youth receive these messages early on in life and that they know that their full experience is valued and celebrated.
- NCAVP understands that many of the homicides of transgender women of color are related to intimate partner violence. Because of the stigma of dating transgender women, the likelihood of their partners committing relationship violence is often higher due to secrecy, fear of being outed, as well as the lack of value placed upon the lives of trans women. We must all commit to ending



the stigma and shaming of transgender women and people who are in relationships with transgender women. We can do this by affirming that the lives and love of transgender women are just as important and beautiful as all other people.