

What resources are available for LBTQ people who are victims of sexual violence?

S.A.R.A., Inc.:

Crisis intervention, referral and support including assistance to victims of reported and non-reported sexual assaults. 24-hour help line is available by calling 970.867.2121 and pressing 0 (zero) when prompted. Toll free at 1-855.440.SARA (7272).

www.sarainc.org.

Colorado Anti-Violence Program:

(Denver, CO) www.coavp.org, Contact: Sandhya Luther, (303)444.0782 (cell) (303)839.5204 (office), sandhya@coavp.org.

The Trevor Project:

National organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. Lifeline: 1.866.488.7386,

www.thetrevorproject.org.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.com, 24-hour, toll-free, confidential suicide prevention hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. By dialing 1-800-273-TALK, the call is routed to the nearest crisis center in our national network of more than 150 crisis centers. The Lifeline's national network of local crisis centers, provide crisis counseling and mental health referrals day and night.

Pandora's Project:

Pandora's Project's mission is to provide information, facilitate peer support and offer assistance to male and female survivors of sexual violence and their friends and family. They sponsor the internet's largest support community for those who have been the victim of sexual violence at www.pandys.org.



LGBTQ

Promote Healthy Relationships
Speak Out Against Sexual Violence
Educate and Inform
Support Victims
Information for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning (LGBTQ) people.

P.O. Box 633
418 Ensign St.
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Toll Free: 1.855.440.SARA(7272)
Fax: 970.867.4714
contact.sarainc@yahoo.com
www.sarainc.org



What is sexual violence?

The term “sexual violence” includes rape, incest, child sexual assault, ritual abuse, stranger rape, date/acquaintance rape, partner/marital rape, sexual harassment, exposure, and voyeurism. Sexual assault also includes situations in which a person may be drunk, high, unconscious, or has a disability and cannot consent to sexual activity. Survivors do not cause their assaults and are not to blame. Perpetrators are fully responsible for their actions.

What is same-sex sexual assault?

- Same-sex sexual assault may include (but is not limited to) forced vaginal or anal penetration, forced oral sex, forced touching, or any additional form of forced sexual activity.
- Same-sex sexual assault may occur on a date, between friends, partners or strangers.

A sexual assault is an attack on not only a person’s body, but also on her /his dignity and emotional well-being. A sexual assault is NEVER the fault of the victim.

Sexual assaults happen to and are committed by, people of all sexual orientations.

Are LGBTQ people more likely than heterosexuals to be perpetrators of sexual violence?

No. Due to the oppression of LGBTQ individuals, they have faced discrimination for their gender orientation and sexual orientation; their sexual activities have been criminalized. In the vast majority of cases, perpetrators are heterosexual men. One common myth for LGBTQ individuals is that they are pedophiles. Actually, several studies have reported that heterosexual adults are more likely to be a threat to children than LGBTQ individuals.

Are LGBTQ people more likely than heterosexuals to be sexually assaulted by a stranger?

Unfortunately, the answer is yes. Due to the heightened homophobia in the United States, LGBTQ individuals are at a greater risk for sexual assaults by strangers. Perpetrators frequently use sexual assaults against LGBTQ persons (and persons perceived to be LGBTQ) to punish and humiliate them. This can be seen when an individual believes that they can “change” a woman’s sexual orientation by specifically targeting lesbian and bisexual women for sexual assaults.

What are some common fears of LGBTQ survivors?

- Fear of being forced to ‘come out’ if they approach their family, the courts, or the police to report their sexual assault.
- Feeling that they are betraying their LGBTQ community, which is already under attack, by ‘accusing’ another LGBTQ person of sexual assault.
- Feeling that they are exposing their assailant to a homophobic criminal justice system if they pursue a legal solution.
- Feeling that they have nowhere to turn for help and fearing hostile responses from the police, courts, service providers, and therapists, because of homophobia and anti-LGBTQ bias.
- Gay/bi male survivors may be apprehensive to report and fear being ignored and/or rejected as overly sensitive due to the stereotype that they are promiscuous and invited it upon themselves.
- Lesbian/bi women survivors may face being ignored or having their claims discarded if their attacker is a female because women are not socially seen as sexual perpetrators.