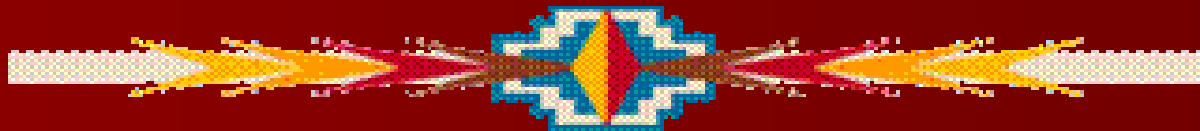


Lesbian, Gay, Bi Sexual, Queer/Two Spirit Issues and Victimization



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LGBT/Two Spirit Definitions

- **Lesbian** is a woman whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional and/or spiritual attraction is to other women.
- **Gay** is a man whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional and/or spiritual attraction is to other men
- **Bisexual** is an individual who is physically, romantically, emotionally and/or spiritually attracted to men and women.
- **Two Spirit** is a contemporary term used to identify Native American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and some Transgender individuals with **traditional and cultural** understandings of **gender roles and identity**.

Two Spirit ~ Native GLB

- Two Spirit term refers to Native American/Alaskan Native Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual individuals.
- A contemporary term used to identify Native American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender individuals with **traditional and cultural** understandings of **gender roles and identity**.
- Encompassing term used is “Two Spirit” adopted in 1990 at the 3rd International Native Gay & Lesbian Gathering in Winnipeg, Canada.
- Term is from the *Anishinabe* language meaning to have both female and male spirits within one person.
- Has a different meaning in different communities.
- The term is used in rural and urban communities to describe the re-claiming of their traditional identity and roles.
- The term refer to culturally prescribed spiritual and social roles; however, the term is not applicable to all tribes

Two Spirit – Native LGB

- Historically, NA/AN had alternative gender roles & responsibilities.

Community vs. Individual

Gender vs. Sexuality

- Lakota view the *Wintke* as sacred people whose androgynous nature is an inborn character trait or the result of a vision.

Example: Lakota Naming Ceremony

- For many tribes, oral traditions revealed that Two-Spirit people were considered to exist by deities and/or were among the sacred beings.

Example: Navajo Creation Story The Separation of Sexes.

- After European contact, homophobia & acculturated worldviews of gender/sexuality were adopted.

- Some tribal languages still use traditional names for Two Spirit/LGB among their communities.

Tribal Language & Two Spirit Terminology

Tribe	Term	Gender
Crow	boté	male
Navajo	nádleehí	male and female
Lakota	winkte	male
Zuni	lhamana	male
Tongva	Wehee'ahiiken Kuuyat	male and female transgender (MTF)

NCAVP's National Report on Intimate Partner Violence in 2014

- 21 LGBTQ intimate partner violence homicides and over 2,500 reports of intimate partner violence from LGBTQ survivors across the country.
- In 2013, NCAVP programs received 2,697 reports of IPV, an increase of .67% from 2012.
- In January 2013, the Centers for Disease Control found that lesbian, gay and bisexual people experienced intimate partner violence and sexual violence at the same or higher rates as heterosexual people:
 - nearly 44% of lesbians and 26% of gay men have been the victim of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner over the course of their lifetime.
 - The lifetime prevalence of sexual violence by any perpetrator was: lesbian (46.4%), bisexual (74.9%), gay men (40.2%), and bisexual men (47.4%).

Myth #1: Abusers are usually bigger, stronger or more "Butch" than their partners.

- LGBT2S abusers are not always larger or more masculine than their partner (just as individual heterosexual men are not always bigger than the women they batter).
- Individual abusers can exploit whatever differences exist.
- Those who are larger than their partners often rely on their physical size to intimidate their partner
- Abusers who are physically smaller than their partners can use their smaller size to get others to discount their partner's disclosure of violence.
- "Butch-looking" male or female victims are often discounted by people who assume they could have prevented it the abuse if they had wanted to.

Myth #1: Abusers are usually bigger, stronger or more butch than their partners.

- Victims who are bigger than their abusive partners may be afraid to fight back for fear of injuring their partner, may be afraid that others will see them as the abuser because of their size, or may blame themselves (and be blamed by others) for “allowing” themselves to be beaten.
- Stereotypes of femininity get in the way of recognizing that people – male or female – who appear very feminine can also be abusive. They can use their femininity to get others to discount their partner’s disclosure of violence.

Myth #2: LGBT2S victims can easily leave abusive partners because they have no legal ties to them.

- Absence of legal ties does not automatically make it easy to leave an abuser. Remember that adolescents with abusive dating partners, and heterosexuals who live with abusers to whom they are not married, also experience difficulty leaving.
- Although most LGBT2S partners are not able to marry, they may have many legal ties. They may share a bank account or apartment lease; jointly own a home, vehicle, business or other property; share insurance; or have joint legal custody of children (though this is less frequent).
- LGBT2S people experience the same range of casual-to-committed relationships as heterosexuals do, but same-sex relationships are wrongly seen as less serious, enduring, or significant. This leads many people to take violence in LGBT2S relationships less seriously, which in turn can make it more difficult for LGBT2S victims to leave abusive partners.

Myth #2: LGBT2S victims can easily leave abusive partners because they have no legal ties to them.

- LGBT2S people who leave a relationship often do not receive the same level of family and social support than heterosexual people get after a break-up.
- Heterosexual battered women leave their partners an average of 6-8 times before they separate for good, and there is no reason to think that leaving is any easier for LGBT2S victims.
- Ending the relationship doesn't necessarily end the violence, and trying to do so may actually increase their danger.

Myth #3: Transgender people wouldn't get hurt if they didn't dress or try to act like something they're not (e.g. If "he" didn't dress and act like a woman, "he" wouldn't get hurt).

- Transgender people identify and live as the gender opposite to their birth sex and are not "acting."
- Abuse is abuse, regardless of how a person identifies or chooses to express themselves.
- No behavior of the victim should ever be seen as a reason to abuse them, but abusers often confuse their partners by claiming that the abuse is in response to something the partner has done.

Abusive Behaviors Particular to LGBT2S Violent Relationships

- “Outing” or threatening to out a partner to friends, family, employers, police or others.
- Reinforcing fears that no one will help a partner because s(he) is LGBT2S, or that for this reason, the partner “deserves” the abuse.
- Justifying abuse with the notion that the partner is not “really” LGBT2S.
 - i.e., s(he) may once have had or may still have relationships with other people, or express a gender identity inconsistent with the abuser’s definitions of those terms.

Abusive Behaviors Particular to LGBT2S Violent Relationships

- Telling the partner that abusive behavior is a normal part of LGBT2S relationships, or that it cannot be domestic violence because it is occurring between LGBT2S individuals.
- Portraying the violence as mutual or even consensual, especially if the partner attempts to defend against it, or as an expression of masculinity or some other “desirable” trait.
- A common attitude about abuse in LGBT2S relationships is that a “power differential” cannot be expressed because, in theory, people who share the same gender have the same amount of power. However, in domestic violence a flow from some type of power differential exists, whether it be economic self-sufficiency, class, race/ethnicity, education, or health status.

Barriers to Addressing LGBT2S Domestic Violence

- Poor or inconsistent law enforcement response
- No access to family courts
- Lack of accessible and sensitive services
- Victims' fear of being "Outed" (publicly declaring or revealing another person's sexual identity without her/his consent)
- Victims' hopelessness or fear of reprisals
- Victims may not be aware that services dedicated to LGBT2S victims because LGBT anti-violence organizations lack the resources to publicize their services very widely.

How can we “*Mend the Rainbow*”

- Create supportive systems
- Build Trust
- Honor Traditions and Culture
- Eliminate Homophobia/Transphobia
- Educate Services and Law Enforcement of Special Issues, i.e. same partner domestic violence,
- Identify appropriate Resources
- Reassess Protective Protocols, i.e. shelters, jails, hospitals, services
- Become knowledgeable in LGBT State and Federal Laws
- Creating Tribal ordinances and/or policies to protect Native LGBT/Two Spirit people

Strategies For Supporting LGBT2S

- Avoid being judgmental—keep an open mind
- Address your own phobia and biases
- Ask questions and be willing to learn
- Recognize that LGBT2S people are often especially vulnerable to being targets of violence.
- Be honest with your feelings, concerns and wishes with LGBT2S and about the risks that they may place themselves in
- Include LGBT2S people in all aspects of community life and cultural activities
- Assist in finding the local traditional roles that LGBT2S played or held in your community, prior to European contact

Strategies For Supporting LGBT2S

- Speak out against homophobia, transphobia, hate crimes, including jokes against LGBT2S people.
- Encourage and support LGBT2S people to share their stories of domestic violence and hate crime experiences
- Support LGBT2S victims of domestic violence and hate crimes by listening and by being empathetic
- Encourage the media to report accurately and on all crimes of hate
- Educate young people to not tolerate violence and hate against anyone

Resources – Organizations

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, New York, NY

24-Hour Hotline 212-714-1141

www.avp.org

GLBTQ Domestic Violence Project, Cambridge, MA

24-Hour DV Hotline: 800-832-1901

Sexual Assault Help Line: 617-779-2179

www.glbtqdv.org

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Lame Deer , MT

www.niwrc.org

Southwest Center for Law and Policy, Tucson, AZ

<http://www.swclap.org>

Tribal Law and Policy Institute, West Hollywood, CA

www.tlpi.org

Resources – Toolkits

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs

Community Action Toolkit for Addressing Intimate Partner Violence Against People of Color

Community Action Toolkit for Addressing Intimate Partner Violence Against Transgender People

www.avp.org/about-avp/coalitions-a-collaborations/82-national-coalition-of-anti-violence-programs

Tribal Equity Toolkit: Tribal Resolutions and Codes to Support Two Spirit/LGBT Justice in Indian Country

Bias-Motivated (Hate) Crimes

Criminal Offenses with Bias Motive

Prohibiting Specific Actions

Enhanced Penalties

Bias-Motivated Crime Reporting and Training

https://graduate.lclark.edu/programs/indigenous_ways_of_knowing/tribal_equity_toolkit

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS



Ahe'hee
(Thank you)

