

Workshop #19
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009 – Session 5 (1:00-2:30)

ANTI-LESBIAN, GAY, BI-SEXUAL TRANSGENDER HATE CRIME

Presenter

- Kim Fountain, Deputy Director
New York City Anti-Violence Project
- Julia Hall, BSW, Outreach Project Director
New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Audience

The topic pertains to adults and adolescents.

Level

Intermediate

Workshop Summary

Learning Objectives

The main learning objectives of the workshop are to

- promote cultural competence and informed service provision regarding the LGBT community;
- to give participants a better understanding of the many barriers LGBT people have to accessing vital resources;
- to provide ideas on how to advocate for these victims and how to rehabilitate offenders who have sexually victimized LGBT people.

Workshop Narrative

Crimes, with a specific emphasis on sexual violence committed against this community. Patterns of ignorance, usually spurred by homophobia and heterosexism, lead to thousands of violent attacks on LGBT people each year. Moreover, multiple layers of oppression often bar LGBT victims of sexual assault from accessing crucial services such as health care, emergency shelter, counseling, and protection from law enforcement both before and after an attack. Our presentation will not only deconstruct the complexities that can cause LGBT bias-motivated violence, it will also explore various tools we can use to prevent perpetrators from re-offending against this community. The presentation will begin with a brief icebreaker designed to help the audience identify the issues of oppression they face in their own lives. The objective of the activity is to create a common thread of empathy and understanding between the non-LGBT and LGBT communities. After sufficiently unpacking these ideas, we will move on to an explanation of the difference between sex and gender. This discussion will help lay the foundation for a better understanding of the sexism, genderism, transphobia, homophobia, heterosexism, and the other myriad modes of oppression that promulgate and perpetuate anti-LGBT attitudes and hate crimes in our society. The discussion will lead into an explanation of the various services we need to end this cycle of violence and the obstacles LGBT people face in obtaining these resources.

We will conclude by revealing the ramifications of inaction to date: the total number of victims reporting anti-LGBT violence to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs in 2007 was 2,430. This represents a 24% increase over the total number of victims reported in 2006. Reports of sexual assault represented 13% of these incidents, constituting a 61% increase since last year (National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. *Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Violence in 2007*. 2008).