



LGBTQ+ Survivors' Rights

Guidance for Survivors

The New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence

DV harms specific to LGBTQ+ relationships **beyond the DV power & control dynamics that may manifest in *any* relationship**

- Outing your sexuality, gender ID, HIV/AIDS status
- Refusing to use your name and/or pronouns (intentionally misgendering), or calling you offensive pronouns ("it")
- Attacking body parts that are related to your identity
- Restricting your access to medicine (e.g., hormones, or PrEP/PEP) or health visits
- Doubting or questioning the validity of your sexuality (e.g., "you're straight and playing gay," etc.)

What are my rights?

- **Equal access to shelters**, in accordance with how you self-identify your gender identity
 - Gender non-conforming/non-binary folks may utilize shelters
- In NJ, **LGBTQ+ survivors are covered under our Prevention of Domestic Violence Act.** This means that if you're in an abusive LGBTQ+ relationship, you have the same rights to seek the protection of a restraining order as a cisgender and/or heterosexual person

Need help?

- **the Network la Red** 800-832-1901 (24 hours, bilingual)
 - confidential emotional support, information, referrals, safety planning, and crisis intervention for LGBTQ+ folks, as well as folks in kink and polyamorous communities, who are DV survivors
- **Forge-forward.org** (search for "safety planning" in the upper right search bar)
 - multiple safety planning resources for transgender survivors
- **NJ Prism LGBTQIA Hotline** 800-832-1901
 - NJ's first statewide information and referral hotline specifically geared to meet the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community. Compassionate staff ensure all calls are answered in a safe and affirming space.
- **State DV Helpline** (24 hours, bilingual) | **Deaf Helpline**
 - 800-572-7233 609-528-7216
- **Your County's DV Service Provider**
 - locate them at njcedv.org/programs/

FOR MORE INFO OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, VISIT **NJCEDV.ORG**

OR CONTACT **LEGAL@NJCEDV.ORG**





LGBTQ+ Survivors' Rights

Guidance for Advocates

The New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence

DV harms specific to LGBTQ+ relationships beyond the DV power & control dynamics that may manifest in *any* relationship

- Outing someone's sexuality, gender ID, HIV/AIDS status
- Refusing to use the other person's name and/or pronouns (intentionally misgendering), or calling the other person offensive pronouns (like "it")
- Attacking body parts that are related to someone's identity
- Doubting or questioning the validity of someone's sexuality (e.g., "you're straight and playing gay," etc.)

What rights do LGBTQ+ domestic violence survivors have?

- **Equal access to shelters**, in accordance with one's gender identity. Gender non-conforming/non-binary folks may utilize shelters.
 - If the Dept. of Justice receives a complaint of discrimination on the basis of sex-segregation, the "onus will be on the VAWA recipient to articulate clearly why sex-segregation or sex-specific programming was necessary to its essential operations"
- **LGBTQ+ survivors are covered under N.J.'s Prevention of Domestic Violence Act.** This means that folks in abusive LGBTQ+ relationships have the same rights to seek the protection of a restraining order as cisgender and/or heterosexual people

Why this matters:

- Gay and bisexual men experience IPV at rates comparable to heterosexual women
- 50% of lesbians have experienced or will experience DV in their lifetimes
- Compared to cisgender individuals, transgender individuals are twice as likely to experience IPV
 - **Note:** Because of stigma and historical mistreatment by programs and law enforcement, LGBTQ+ folks have often opted to *not* report DV/SA. Therefore, the numbers quoted are low.

Need help?

- **the Network la Red** 800-832-1901 (24 hours, bilingual)
 - In addition to confidential support and referrals to LGBTQ+ DV survivors, offers information and support to friends, family, or co-workers on the issue of DV in LGBTQ+ communities
- **Forge-forward.org** (search for "safety planning" in the upper right search bar)
 - multiple resources/trainings for safety planning with transgender survivors

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