

QUEER- AND TRANS-INCLUSIVE ANTI-VIOLENCE SERVICES

SUPPORTING LGBT2SQ SURVIVORS

Domestic and sexual violence are gendered crimes, and impact people in different ways depending on intersecting identities and forms of oppression. While there is limited research on violence in the lives of LGBT2SQ people, data suggest that lesbian and bisexual women experience relationship violence at twice the rate of heterosexual women, and half of transgender individuals experience domestic or sexual violence during their lifetime. Rates of gender-based violence are even higher within queer and trans Black, Indigenous, and People Of Colour (BIPOC) communities.

Barriers to inclusive anti-violence services include (1) limited understanding of the needs of LGBT2SQ survivors of relationship violence; (2) stigma and discrimination – actual, perceived, or feared; and (3) reluctance of service providers and agencies to provide inclusive services.

To become more inclusive, start by:

- Evaluating and revising agency policies and practices (e.g., open-ended questions about gender identity on intake forms, all-gender washrooms)
- Ensuring staff/volunteers are trained regarding trans inclusion and supporting LGBT2SQ survivors
- Explicitly identifying your agency as queer- and trans-inclusive (e.g., rainbow icons and trans flags; LGBT2SQ anti-violence resources in waiting areas)
- Asking questions instead of making assumptions about gender identity and sexual orientation (e.g., asking clients what pronouns they would like you to use for themselves and their partner)
- Reaching out to local and provincial LGBT2SQ agencies, or to EVA BC's Safe Choices Program



EVA BC'S SAFE CHOICES PROGRAM

EVA BC's Safe Choices Support and Education Program is funded by the Vancouver Coastal Health SMART Fund, and focuses on improving the health and safety of LGBT2SQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, Two-Spirit, and queer) folks who have experienced relationship violence, with a focus on women (cisgender and transgender) and gender non-conforming and Two-Spirit individuals.

We offer **Service Provider Education Workshops** to enhance knowledge, sensitivity, and skill to respond more effectively to LGBT2SQ folks experiencing relationship abuse; case consultation and information for service providers; and Healthy Relationship Workshops for members of the LGBT2SQ community.

All workshops are delivered for **FREE** within the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. If you are outside the VCH catchment area, please contact the Safe Choices program to discuss options.

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“...by embracing transgender and gender-diverse individuals, the [Violence Against Women] sector would not lose the gender-specific reality of violence and abuse in relationships, but instead would gain a better understanding of the underlying issues and contexts of abuse – particularly the direct link between experiences of violence and gender.”

– Tabibi, Baker, & Kubow (2017)

KEY TERMINOLOGY

Language is important when working with LGBT2SQ survivors. Terminology can change rapidly, and often depends on time and place – what may be appropriate in one context may not be in another. Some key LGBT2SQ terms include:

Queer: An inclusive term that refers collectively to LGBT2SQ people. It has historically been used as an oppressive term, but has been reclaimed.

Sexual Orientation: A person’s romantic, intimate, and/or sexual attraction to others (e.g., gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, heterosexual, asexual).

Gender Identity: A person’s internal and psychological sense of self as a woman, a man, both, in between, or neither.

Cisgender: When a person’s gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth.

Gender Non-Conforming: People who do not conform to society’s expectations for their gender roles and/or expression. Similar terms: non-binary, genderqueer, gender fluid, gender variant, gender diverse, and gender creative.

Transgender (trans): An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression are different than the sex they were assigned at birth. This identity is not dependent on medical intervention like surgery or hormone treatment.

Two-Spirit: Used within some Indigenous communities by individuals with diverse gender and/or sexual identities.

Sexual orientation and gender identity are distinct concepts (e.g., a transgender person may identify as gay or straight, or neither of these terms).

For additional terminology, see QMUNITY’s glossary of [Queer Terminology](#), PHSA’s [THiP Glossary](#), or [The Genderbread Person](#).

LGBT2SQ SERVICES

[Prism Services](#) – Vancouver Coastal Health

Inclusion training, information, and referrals

[Trans Care BC](#) (PHSA)

Connecting people across BC with gender-affirming health and wellness supports

[Trans Rights BC](#)

Human rights information for trans people in BC

[Trans Alliance Society](#)

Province-wide coalition to build connections between individuals/groups working on trans issues

[Trans Lifeline](#) – 1.877.330.6366

Crisis hotline staffed by transgender people to support transgender people

[Health Initiative for Men](#)

Strengthening queer men’s health and wellbeing

[QMUNITY](#)

BC’s Queer, Trans, and Two-Spirit Resource Centre

READINGS AND RESOURCES

For clients and supporters (QMUNITY):

[Safety in Same-Gender Relationships](#) and [Safety in Relationships for Trans* Folk](#) (order free copies through co-publisher Legal Services Society)

[Supporting LGBTQ Folk Experiencing Relationship Abuse](#)

Gender-based violence and LGBTQ survivors:

[Gender Diversity in the VAW Sector: Identifying Barriers and Recommendations for Consideration](#)

[Partner Violence in Rainbow Communities](#)

[Trauma-Informed Approaches for LGBTQ* Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence](#)

[Intimate Partner Violence in LGBTQ Lives](#) (Ristock)

[Queering Sexual Violence: Radical Voices From within the Anti-Violence Movement](#) (Patterson)

[FORGE](#): US transgender anti-violence organization