



**ASSISTING
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND
TRANSGENDER (LGBT)
VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN
PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOURCE AND REFERRAL GUIDE
2008/2009 Edition

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INTRODUCTION

The material provided within this publication examines the kinds of resources available to serve LGBT victims of violence.

The LGBT Community

What does LGBT mean?

Before we discuss how these types of violence affect the LGBT community, it is important to understand who the LGBT community is.

LGBT stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. Lesbian and Gay are terms used to describe women and men respectively who are emotionally and sexually attracted to members of their own sex. Bisexual refers to someone who is emotionally and sexually attracted to both men and women.

A Note on Sex and Gender

The terms sex and gender are often used interchangeably. However, their definitions differ. Sex refers to biological differences including chromosomes and external sex organs. Gender refers to characteristics that a society or culture has deemed masculine or feminine. Most of the population's gender identity matches their sex identity.

However, there are many people whose sex and gender do not match. This group of people is generally referred to as Transgender. "Transgender has become an "umbrella" term that is used to describe a wide range of identities and experiences, including but not limited to: pre-operative, post-operative, and non-operative transsexual people; male and female cross-dressers (sometimes referred to as "transvestites," "drag queens" or "drag kings");...and men and women, regardless of sexual orientation, whose appearance or characteristics are perceived to be gender atypical."¹

Intersex people are also often referred to as transgender. Intersex refers to people who were born with a mix of male and female genitalia and as a result fall outside the gender/sex binary of either male or female.

¹ Excerpted from *Transgender Equality: A Handbook for Activists and Policymakers* by Paisley Currah and Shannon Minter

LGBT Victims of Violence

Violence can affect anyone irrespective of age, race, gender, economic status or sexual orientation. The LGBT community suffers from violence in ways that are unique to it.

The types of violence plaguing the LGBT community include, but are not limited to: domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes.

How significant or prevalent is violence in the lives of LGBT people?

(Source: National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs)

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) collects statistics nationwide on violence against and within the LGBT community. Their research suggests that:

40% of lesbians and gay men in the U.S. consider themselves the victims of hate violence in their adult lifetimes, and that hate violence is a near-universal experience of openly LGBT youth. At the same time, domestic violence afflicts at least a quarter of same-gender couples (the same percentage as among heterosexuals), while an unknown number of others, mainly youth and elders, fall victim to other family member abuse. Even the minority of LGBT people who do not personally experience these or other characteristic forms of violence (which include sexual assaults and abuse, “pick-up” crimes, family abuse and police misconduct) may suffer the secondary effects, when friends or family members are targeted or when they limit their own freedom or self-expression because they fear becoming victims themselves.

**Domestic Violence, Sexual
Assault
& Hate Crimes**

LGBT victims of violence often face similar experiences and emotions as heterosexual victims of violence. However, there are also many differences that should be considered when addressing the specific needs of LGBT victims.

LGBT Victims of Domestic Violence

Similarities

- Domestic violence usually consists of one person seeking power or control over another where there exists an intimate, loving and dependent relationship.
- Domestic violence can involve verbal and physical abuse.
- A victim of domestic violence may find it difficult to leave the relationship.
- People often blame themselves for the abuse.
- A “honeymoon” period after the abuse may occur, where everything is ok.
- Abuse can cause lasting emotional and/or physical harm.

Differences

- LGBT relationships are often not seen as valid by the legal system, social service providers or individuals in the victim’s life so domestic violence is not taken seriously.
- LGBT individuals may not leave for fear that they will be “outed” (have their hidden sexual orientation or gender identity revealed) to family, friends and other people in their life.
- LGBT abusers may reinforce fears that no one will help the victim because s/he is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, or that for this reason, the partner “deserves” the abuse.
- LGBT abusers may justify the abuse with the notion that a partner is not "really" lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (i.e. the victim may once have had, or may still have relationships, or express a gender identity, inconsistent with the abuser's definitions of these terms). This can be used both as a tool in verbal and emotional abuse as well as to further the isolation of a victim from community.
- LGBT abusers may monopolize support resources through an abuser's manipulation of friends and family supports and generating sympathy and trust in order to cut off these resources to the survivor. This is a particular issue to LGBT people and others living in small insular communities, where there are few community specific resources, neighborhoods or social outlets.
- Violence between two men or two women may at times be seen as a fight between two equals, not abuse.
- Transgender or intersex individuals may not feel like they will be able to find another partner who will accept their bodies.
- Abusers of transgender victims may call them “it” or “freak”.

LGBT Victims of Sexual Assault

Similarities

- “Sex” requires consent.
- Sexual assault is often motivated by anger, hatred and aggression.
- It is still rape or sexual assault even if the victim could not say no because s/he was drunk, high, unconscious, or has a disability.
- Sexual assault can be used in a relationship as a tool to maintain power and control.

Differences

- Same-sex sexual acts are often stigmatized and an LGBT victim may be ashamed to report it for fear of being “outed”.
- Some people may have negative ideas about LGBT people and believe they deserved or wanted the attack to happen.
- Service providers may believe the assault was based on homosexual attraction and thus not believe the victim was assaulted.
- Sexual assault is often assumed to be committed by those who are larger and stronger than the victim. This is not always the case and may include a male on male attack or a female on female attack.
- Sexual assault or rape may be part of an anti-LGBT hate violence attack. People often choose targets based on perceptions about sexual orientation or gender identity and will take out their hatred by attacking sexuality in this most direct manner. As sexual violence is about power and control, LGBT people are often sexually assaulted or raped in the name of attempting to turn someone straight or put them in their place regarding their gender.

LGBT Victims of Hate Crimes

(Source: NCAVP)

What is Hate Violence?

Hate violence can range from verbal harassment, phone or e-mail harassment, property damage, threats of assault, actual assault or “bashing,” rape, and murder. Almost every lesbian, gay man, transgender individual, or bisexual person has experienced some form of hate violence first hand or knows of someone who has been impacted by hate violence.

Many LGBT people have become so used to hate violence that we tend to expect and even accept a certain level of harassment. However, the truth is, it’s *never* okay to be harassed or hurt because of who you are or who you’re perceived to be. All hate violence is painful, threatening, and often traumatic.

What are Hate Crimes?

Hate crimes, as opposed to hate violence, is a legal term and therefore it does not technically exist everywhere. Where hate crimes do exist, they may not exist for every group impacted by hate violence.

For instance, some states don’t have any hate crimes laws at all. Others have hate crimes laws that include “sexual orientation;” very few have laws that include “gender identity and expression,” which explicitly addresses hate crimes targeting people of transgender experience.

Currently in Pennsylvania there is no hate crime law that includes sexual orientation or gender identity. Pennsylvania’s hate crime law known as The Ethnic Intimidation Act was amended in 2003 to include sexual orientation and gender identity. However it was declared unconstitutional in 2007 due to an unconstitutional procedural process that was used to have it enacted. Efforts to re-pass these amendments are underway and we are hoping they will be passed properly in an upcoming legislative session.

Additionally, in the simplest of terms, hate crimes are essentially any crime for which the motivation of the perpetrator is based wholly or in part on his or her perception of the identity of the victim.

Since hate crimes are based on the perpetrator’s assumptions about the victim’s identity, the victim does not have to even belong to the targeted group. For example, two sisters walking arm and arm may be perceived as lesbians and harassed or assaulted.

Hate crimes not only hurt the victim, but also send a message of hate and fear to the larger community. Whether or not an LGBT person has been personally attacked, the LGBT community as a whole suffers from the effects of hate crimes. Fear of being harassed or hurt may lead an individual to alter their behavior. Not holding a lover’s hand or showing public affection is an example of this kind of fear.

A Note on Youth

It is important to note that violence against the LGBT community also exists among minors. In 2007, 86.2% of LGBT students reported being verbally harassed, 44.1% reported being physically harassed and 22.1% reported being physically assaulted at school because of their sexual orientation (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network). Children under 18 may have a hard time accessing anti-violence services because they have to hide their LGBT status from their parents, friends and teachers. Children with LGBT parents or relatives may also experience violence. There are many laws to protect students from bullying and most schools have rules against bullying. Nonetheless, many LGBT youth and children with LGBT family members face an immense amount of discrimination and ridicule from their peers.

How Can My Organization Be More LGBT Friendly?

Provided below are some suggestions for how your organization can become more actively welcoming and better address the specific needs of LGBT victims of violence.

Reach out

- Let the LGBT community know you are there to help them.
- Make a special note for LGBT related issues on your website. Have links to other LGBT friendly resources on your website.
- Make posters and display a rainbow flag sticker on or near your front door.
- Put out some LGBT magazines in your lobby.
- Advertise your services in LGBT newspapers.
- Provide a table or booth at local LGBT events to let the community know how you can help them.
- If your organization's name is gender specific, convey that you are willing to help anyone regardless of gender.

Reach in

- Prepare and familiarize staff with the special needs of LGBT victims.
- Use gender non-specific language, especially during the intake process (“partner” instead of “boyfriend/girlfriend” or “husband/wife”).
- Ask what gender pronoun the individuals who use your services prefer.
- Respect the individuality of each client you have. Identify and let go of expectations that are based on stereotypes or assumptions about LGBT people.
- Interrupt insensitive language or jokes that express bias.

Cultivate knowledge

- Recognize the difficulties LGBT victims of violence face. Be sensitive to their specific needs.
- Build a network of LGBT friendly resources (attorneys, therapists, doctors).

Utilize knowledge

- Advocate for LGBT victims when authorities (police, doctors, landlords) are insensitive or unsupportive.
- Teach self-advocacy skills to LGBT victims.
- Validate LGBT clients' emotions and remind them that no one deserves abuse.

Educate

- Make LGBT sensitivity a piece of internal organizational trainings.
- Make readily available LGBT specific information to staff and clients (pamphlets on coming out, same-sex sexual assault and domestic violence)

Relevant Laws for LGBT Victims of Violence

The laws that are available for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes may apply to LGBT victims differently than heterosexual victims. It is important to recognize this when providing legal advocacy for an LGBT victim of violence.

Domestic Violence

It is important to recognize that Pennsylvania citizens are eligible for Protection From Abuse Orders (PFAs) against a member of the same sex.

In Pennsylvania, the statute for PFAs (23 P.A. Cons. Stat §6108) protects persons living as or who lived as spouses, and current or former sexual or intimate partners. *D.H. v. B.O.*, 734 A.2d 409 (Pa. Super. 1999)

Rape and Sexual Assault

Pennsylvania law does not specify gender in defining rape and sexual assault. A male or female can be charged and convicted for a rape or sexual assault committed against a male or female. However, because the LGBT community generally has sex differently from the heterosexual population it is important to understand that there are different laws that may or may not be applicable to an LGBT victim of sexual assault. Along with the statutes for Rape (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3121) and Sexual Assault (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3124), these include Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3123), Aggravated Indecent Assault (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3125) and Indecent Assault (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 3126).

Case law surrounding rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse and sexual assault specifically excludes digital penetration from the definition. Case law surrounding aggravated indecent assault does, however, provide that digital penetration falls within the definition of the crime. It is important to note the significance of this exclusion. Rape and involuntary deviate sexual intercourse are felonies of the first degree that carry a maximum sentence of 20 years, whereas aggravated indecent assault is a felony of the second degree and only carries a maximum sentence of 10 years. *Com. v. Kelley*, 801 A.2d 551 (Pa. 2002).

Hate Crimes

Currently in Pennsylvania there is no “hate crime” law that covers sexual orientation or gender identity. The Ethnic Intimidation Act, (18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 2710) was amended in 2003 to include sexual orientation and gender identity, but it was declared unconstitutional in 2007 and affirmed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in July 2008 due to an unconstitutional procedural process that was used to have it enacted. *Marcavage v. Rendell*, 951 A.2d 345 (Pa. 2008). Efforts are underway to have the amendments re-passed and we are hoping they will be passed properly in an upcoming legislative session.

The original Act, which is still in effect, defines ethnic intimidation as a criminal offense that is “motivated by hatred toward the actual or perceived race, color, religion or national origin of another individual or group of individuals.” Ethnic Intimidation Act, 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 2710 (2002).

The Ethnic Intimidation Act imposes a sentence one degree higher than the sentence from the initial crime. For instance, simple assault is a misdemeanor of the second degree, but The Ethnic Intimidation Act would raise it to a misdemeanor of the first degree.

While the sentencing implications may not be that substantial, the policy implications have an immense impact. The recognition of the need to punish criminal acts motivated by hatred toward someone’s race, color, religion or national origin is in accord with our country’s values of equality. The exclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity from the ethnic intimidation act sends a message that these classes of people are not expected to receive the same kind of equal rights.

Other Relevant Laws

One reason LGBT victims of violence may be afraid to report crimes committed against them is fear that they will be “outed” to their family, employers, landlords or communities in general. This is a legitimate fear for LGBT victims who have chosen to keep their LGBT status a secret for fear of being fired or harassed.

Federal and Pennsylvania law currently fail to protect individuals from being fired from work, being evicted or being excluded from public venues for being LGBT. For these reasons and others, LGBT individuals often opt not to reveal their sexual orientation and/or gender identity to co-workers and landlords. They also sometimes choose not to reveal their LGBT status to family and friends for fear of negative reactions.

There are some localities in Pennsylvania that have enacted ordinances that prohibit sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination.

As of 2008 they are:

Allentown
City of Lancaster
Easton
Erie County
Harrisburg
Lansdowne
New Hope
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Scranton
State College
Swarthmore
West Chester
York

In addition to the above ordinances, there are a number of legal protections that apply only to government entities (and not to employees of private companies).

As of 2008 they are:

Federal Government (sexual orientation)
State of Pennsylvania
Cheltenham Township (sexual orientation only)
Lower Merion School District (sexual orientation only)
Northampton County (sexual orientation only)
Oxford (sexual orientation only)
Reading City (sexual orientation only)
William Penn School District (sexual orientation only)

LGBT Friendly Service Providers

The following Pennsylvania organizations for victims of violence have all identified themselves as LGBT friendly. Many have worked with LGBT victims in the past. Most organizations primarily serve three or less counties, but are willing to help victims if they are unable to use the services in the county they reside in. Most organizations offer shelters, counseling, and medical & court advocacy among other services. Contact each organization to find out specifically what services they offer.

Key: Domestic Violence = DV, Sexual Assault = SA, Comprehensive (other types of violent crimes) = C

Adams

Safe Home: YWCA
717-632-0007
Hanover
www.ywcahanover.org/safehome.html
DV

Survivors
717-334-9777
800-787-8106
Gettysburg
www.survivorsservices.org
DV, SA

Allegheny

Alle-Kiski Area Hope Center
888-299-HOPE(4673)
724-224-1266
Tarentum
www.akhopecenter.org
DV

Center for Victims of Violence & Crime
412-392-8582
866-644-2882
Pittsburgh
www.cvvc.org
C

Crisis Center North
412-364-5556
866-782-0911
Pittsburgh
www.crisiscenternorth.org
DV

Persad
412-441-9786
Pittsburgh
www.persadcenter.org
LGBT & HIV Counseling Center

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR)
866-END RAPE (363-7273)
Pittsburgh
www.paar.net
SA

Womansplace
412-678-4616
McKeesport
www.womansplace.org
DV

Women's Center & Shelter of Greater
Pittsburgh
412-687-8005
877-338-8255
Pittsburgh
www.wcpittsburgh.org
DV

Armstrong

Helping All Victims in Need (HAVIN)
724-548-8888
800-841-8881
Kittanning
www.havinpa.org
DV, SA

Beaver

Women's Center of Beaver County
724-775-0131
877-629-1841
Beaver
www.womenscenterbc.org
DV, SA

Bedford

Your Safe Haven
814-623-7664
800-555-5671
Everett
www.yoursafehaven.org
DV, SA

Berks

Berks Women in Crisis
610-372-9540
Spanish: 610-372-7463
Reading
www.berkswomenincrisis.org
DV, SA

Blair

Domestic Abuse Project
814-944-3585
800-500-2849
Altoona
www.familyservicesinc.net/domesticabuse.html
DV

Bradford

Abuse & Rape Crisis Center
570-265-5333
Towanda
DV, SA

Bucks

A Woman's Place
800-220-8116
Doylestown
www.awomansplace.org
DV

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA)
800-675-6900
Jamison
www.novabucks.org
SA, C

Butler

Victim Outreach Intervention Center
(VOICe)
800-400-8551
Butler, Evans City, Saxonburg, Slippery
Rock
www.voiceforvictims.com
DV, SA, C

Cambria

Victim Services Inc
800-755-1983
814-288-4961
Johnstown, Somerset
SA, C

Women's Help Center Inc
800-999-7406
Johnstown, Somerset
DV

Cameron

Citizens Against Physical,
Sexual & Emotional Abuse, Inc.
(CAPSEA)
814-486-0952
800-226-4759
Ridgway
www.capsea.net
DV, SA

Carbon

Domestic Violence Service Center
800-424-5600
570-823-7312
Wilkes-Barre
DV

Victims Resource Center
866-206-9050
Jim Thorpe, Wilkes Barre, Conyngham,
Tunkhannock
www.vrcnepa.org
DV, SA, C

Centre

Centre County Women’s Resource
Center
877-234-5050
State College
www.ccwrc.org
DV, SA

Chester

Crime Victims’ Center of Chester
County Inc
610-692-7420
610-692-7273 (sexual assault line)
West Chester
www.cvcfcc.org
SA, C

Domestic Violence Center of Chester
County
610-431-1430
888-711-6270
West Chester
www.dvccc.com
DV

Clarion

Stop Abuse For Everyone (SAFE)
814-226-7233
800-992-3039
Clarion
DV

Passages, Inc (Prevention And Services
for Sexual Assault through Guidance,
Empowerment and Support)
800-793-3620
Clarion, Brookville, DuBois
www.passagesinc.net
SA

Clearfield

Community Action/ Cross Roads
800-598-3998
Punxsutawney, Brookville, Clearfield,
DuBois
www.jccap.org
DV

Passages, Inc (Prevention And Services
for Sexual Assault through Guidance,
Empowerment and Support)
800-793-3620
Clarion, Brookville, DuBois
www.passagesinc.net
SA

Clinton

Clinton County Women’s Center
570-748-9509
Lock Haven
www.ccwcsafe.org
DV, SA

Columbia

Beyond Violence
570-759-0298
Berwick
www.sunlink.net/~beyond
DV, SA

Women's Center, Inc
570-784-6631
800-544-8293
Bloomsburg
www.thewomenscenterinc.org
DV, SA

Crawford

Women's Services, Inc
888-881-0189
814-333-9766
Meadville
www.womensservicesinc.org
DV, SA

Cumberland

Domestic Violence Services of
Cumberland & Perry Counties
800-852-2102
Carlisle
www.dvscp.org
DV

Sexual Assault/ Rape Crisis Services of
Cumberland County (YWCA)
888-727-2877
Carlisle
www.ywca.org/carlisle
SA

Dauphin

Domestic Violence Services of
Harrisburg (YWCA)
800-654-1211
Harrisburg
www.ywcahb.org
DV, SA

Delaware

Delaware County Women Against Rape
610-566-4342
Media
SA

Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware
County
610-565-4590
Media
www.dapdc.org
DV

Elk

Citizens Against Physical,
Sexual & Emotional Abuse, Inc.
(CAPSEA)
814-772-1227
800-226-4759
Ridgway
www.capsea.net
DV, SA

Erie

SafeNet Domestic Violence Safety
Network
814-454-8161
Erie
www.safeneterie.org
DV

Safe Horizons
814-438-2675
Union City
www.safehorizons.com
DV

Fayette

Crime Victims' Center
724-437-3737
Uniontown
www.crimevictimscenter.org
SA, C

Domestic Violence Services of Fayette
County
724-439-9500
Uniontown
DV

Forest

A Safe Place, Inc
800-338-3460
Tionesta
DV, SA

Franklin

Women in Need, Inc
717-264-4444
800-621-6660
Chambersburg, McConnellsburg
www.winservices.org
DV, SA

Fulton

Women in Need, Inc
717-264-4444
800-621-6660
Chambersburg, McConnellsburg
www.winservices.org
DV, SA

Greene

Greene County Women's Center
724-852-2463
Waynesburg
DV

SPHS Care Center
888-480-7283
Washington
www.sphs.org
SA, C

Huntingdon

Huntingdon House
814-643-1190
Huntingdon
DV, SA

Indiana

Alice Paul House
724-349-4444
800-435-7249
Indiana
www.alicepaulhouse.org
DV, SA, C

Jefferson

Community Action/ Cross Roads
800-598-3998
Punxsutawney, Brookville, Clearfield,
DuBois
www.jccap.org
DV

Passages, Inc (Prevention And Services
for Sexual Assault through Guidance,
Empowerment and Support)
800-793-3620
Clarion, Brookville, DuBois
www.passagesinc.net
SA

Juniata

Abuse Network
717-242-2444
Lewistown, Mifflintown
www.abusenetwork.org
DV, SA, C

Lackawanna

Women's Resource Center, Inc
570-346-4671
800-257-5765
Scranton, Montrose
www.wrcnepa.org
DV, SA

Lancaster

Domestic Violence Services of
Lancaster County
717-299-1249
Lancaster
www.dvslanc.org
DV

Sexual Assault Prevention & Counseling
Center (YWCA)
717-392-7273
Lancaster
www.ywcalancaster.org
SA

Lawrence

Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County
724-652-9036
New Castle
www.crisisshelter.org
DV, SA

Lebanon

Domestic Violence Intervention of
Lebanon County
717-273-7190
866-686-0451
Lebanon
www.dviolc.org
DV

Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling
Center
717-272-5308
Lebanon
www.sarcclebanon.com
SA

Lehigh

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh
Valley
610-437-6611
Allentown, Easton
www.cvclv.org
SA, C

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley
610-437-3369
877-438-4957
Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Slatebelt
www.tplv.org
DV

Luzerne

Beyond Violence
570-759-0298
Berwick
www.sunlink.net/~beyond
DV, SA

Domestic Violence Service Center
800-424-5600
570-823-7312
Wilkes-Barre
DV

Victims Resource Center
866-206-9050
Jim Thorpe, Wilkes Barre, Conyngham,
Tunkhannock
www.vrcnepa.org
DV, SA, C

Lycoming

Wise Options (YWCA)
570-323-8167
800-326-8483
Williamsport
www.ywcawilliamsport.org
DV, SA, C

McKean

McKean County Victims' Resource
Center
888-822-6325
814-368-6325
Bradford
DV, SA

Mercer

AWARE
888-981-1457
Mercer
DV, SA

Mifflin

Abuse Network
717-242-2444
Lewistown, Mifflintown
www.abusenetwork.org
DV, SA, C

Monroe

Women's Resources of Monroe County
570-421-4200
866-421-4200
Delaware Water Gap
www.enter.net/~wrmc/
DV, SA

Montgomery

Laurel House
800-642-3150
Norristown
www.laurel-house.org
DV

Victim Services Center of Montgomery
County, Inc
610-277-5200 (Sexual Assault)
610-Assist-1 (277-4781) (Other crimes)
Norristown
www.victimservicescenter.org
SA, C

Women's Center of Montgomery
County
800-773-2424
Elkins Park
www.wcmontco.org
DV, SA

Montour

Beyond Violence
570-759-0298
Berwick
www.sunlink.net/~beyond
DV, SA

Women's Center, Inc
570-784-6631
800-544-8293
Bloomsburg
www.thewomenscenterinc.org
DV, SA

Northampton

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh
Valley
610-437-6611
Allentown, Easton
www.cvclv.org
SA, C

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley
610-437-3369
877-438-4957
Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Slatebelt
www.tplv.org
DV

Northumberland

Susquehanna Valley Women in
Transition (SVWIT)
800-850-SWIT (7948)
Lewisburg
www.svwit.org
DV, SA

Perry

Domestic Violence Services of
Cumberland & Perry Counties
800-852-2102
Carlisle
www.dvscp.org
DV

Domestic Violence Services of
Harrisburg (YWCA)
800-654-1211
Harrisburg
www.ywcahb.org
DV, SA

Philadelphia

Latina Domestic Violence Program
866-SAFE-014 (723-3014)
Philadelphia
www.congreso.net
DV

Lutheran Settlement House: Domestic
Violence Project
866-SAFE-014 (723-3014)
Philadelphia
www.lutheransettlement.org/domesticviolence.html
DV

Women Against Abuse
866-SAFE-014 (723-3014)
Philadelphia
www.womenagainstabuse.org
DV

Women in Transition, Inc
215-751-1111
Philadelphia
www.womenintransitioninc.org
DV

Women Organized Against Rape
215-985-3333
Philadelphia
www.woar.org
SA

Pike

Safe Haven Inc of Pike County
570-296-4357
877-296-7878
Milford
www.safehavenofpikecounty.org
DV, SA

Potter

A Way Out
877-334-3136
Coudersport
DV, SA

Schuylkill

Rape and Victim Assistance Center of
Schuylkill County
570-622-6220
800-282-0634
Pottsville
www.rccsupport.org
SA, C

Schuylkill Women in Crisis
570-622-6220
800-282-0634
Pottsville
www.s-wic.org
DV

Snyder

Susquehanna Valley Women in
Transition (SVWIT)
800-850-SWIT (7948)
Lewisburg
www.svwit.org
DV, SA

Somerset

Victim Services Inc
800-755-1983
814-288-4961
Johnstown, Somerset
SA, C

Women's Help Center Inc
800-999-7406
Johnstown, Somerset
DV

Sullivan

Sullivan County Victim Services
570-946-4215
800-894-3706
Laporte
www.sullivancountyvictimservices.org
DV, SA, C

Susquehanna

Women's Resource Center, Inc
570-346-4671
800-257-5765
Scranton, Montrose
www.wrcnepa.org
DV, SA

Tioga

HAVEN
800-550-0447
Wellsboro
DV, SA

Union

Susquehanna Valley Women in
Transition (SVWIT)
800-850-SWIT (7948)
Lewisburg
www.svwit.org
DV, SA

Venango

Prevent, Protect, Change: Violence Free
Network
800-243-4944
814-677-7273
Oil City
DV, SA, C

Warren

A Safe Place, Inc
800-338-3460
Tionesta
DV, SA

Washington

SPHS Care Center
888-480-7283
Washington
www.sphs.org
SA, C

Washington Women's Shelter, Inc
724-223-9190
800-791-4000
Washington
www.womens-shelter.com
DV

Wayne

Victim's Intervention Program
570-253-4401
800-698-4VIP (4847)
Honesdale
DV, SA, C

Westmoreland

Alle-Kiski Area Hope Center
888-299-HOPE(4673)
724-224-1266
Tarentum
www.akhopecenter.org
DV

Blackburn Center
724-836-1122
Greensburg
www.blackburncenter.org
DV, SA

Wyoming

Victims Resource Center
866-206-9050
Jim Thorpe, Wilkes Barre, Conyngham,
Tunkhannock
www.vrcnepa.org
DV, SA, C

York

Access-York

717-846-5400

717-637-2235

800-262-8444

York

www.access-york.org

DV

Safe Home: YWCA

717-632-0007

Hanover

www.ywcahanover.org/safehome.html

DV

Victim Assistance Center

800-422-3204

York

www.vacyork.org

SA, C

Victim/Witness Programs

Each county also has a victim/witness program that is available for victims and witnesses of any crime. The programs are intended to help victims navigate the criminal justice system and to provide support. Some victim/witness organizations operate in conjunction with other anti-violence service providers, but most operate independently.

Adams

717-337-9844
717-334-0545
Gettysburg

Allegheny

(The Center for Victims
of Violence and Crimes)
412-392-8582
www.cvvc.org
Pittsburgh

Armstrong

724-548-3486
724-548-3355
Kittanning

Beaver

724-773-8570
Beaver

Bedford

(Your Safe Haven)
814-623-7664
800-555-5671
www.yoursafehaven.org
Everett

Berks

610-478-6000
Reading

Blair

814-693-3018
Hollidaysburg

Bradford

570-265-1759
Towanda

Bucks

215-348-6292
Doylestown

Butler

724-284-5232
Butler

Cambria

814-288-4961
800-755-1983
Johnstown

Cameron

814-486-9301
Emporium

Carbon

570-325-2718
Jim Thorpe

Centre

814-355-6735
Bellefonte

Chester

610-692-7420
610-692-7273
www.cvcofcc.org
West Chester

Clarion

814-226-5765
Clarion

Clearfield

814-765-2641 ext.1270
Clearfield

Clinton

570-893-4141
Lock Haven

Columbia

570-389-5658
Bloomsburg

Crawford

814 333-7458
Meadville

Cumberland

717-240-6220
Carlisle

Dauphin

717-780-7075
1-888-292-9611
www.victimwitness.org
Harrisburg

Delaware

610-891-4227
Media

Elk

814-772-3838
www.capsea.net
Ridgway

Erie

800-352-7273
www.cvcerie.org
Erie

Fayette

724-430-1269
Uniontown

Forest

814-728-3468
Tionesta

Franklin

717-267-1575
Chambersburg

Fulton

717-485-5419
McConnellsburg

Greene

724-852-5229
Waynesburg

Huntingdon

(Huntingdon House)
814-643-2801
814-643-1190
Huntingdon

Indiana

724-465-3835
Indiana

Jefferson

814-849-1641
Brookville

Juniata

717-436-7727
Mifflintown

Lackawanna

570-963-6717
Scranton

Lancaster

717-299-8048
Lancaster

Lawrence

724-656-2139
New Castle

Lebanon

717-274-2801 x2180
717-273-8846
Lebanon

Lehigh

610-782-3890
Allentown

Luzerne

570-825-1674
Wilkes-Barre

Lycoming

570-327-2456
Williamsport

McKean

814-887-3312 ext. 4
Smethport

Mercer

724-662-7589
Mercer

Mifflin

717-242-3372
Lewistown
www.co.mifflin.pa.us/cv
[s](#)

Monroe

570-517-3062
Stroudsburg

Montgomery

610-278-3144
Norristown

Montour

570-271-3070
Danville

Northampton

610-559-3711
Easton

Northumberland

570-988-4120
Sunbury

Perry

717-582-5122
New Bloomfield

Philadelphia

215-686-8027
Philadelphia

Pike

570-296-6620
Milford

Potter

814-274-9450
Coudersport

Schuylkill

570-628-1363
Pottsville

Snyder

570-837-4232
Middleburg

Somerset
814-445-1459
Somerset

Sullivan
570-946-4063
570-946-4215
Laporte

Susquehanna
570-278-4600, x 182
Montrose

Tioga
570-723-8353
Wellsboro

Union
570-524-8768
Lewisburg

Venango
814-432-9600
Franklin

Warren
814-728-3468
814-728-3469
Warren

Washington
724-229-5922
Washington

Wayne
570-253-4912
Honesdale

Westmoreland
724-830-3272
Greensburg

Wyoming
570-836-5844
Tunkhannock

York
717-771-9600
York

Resources

Some of the information in this packet was drawn from materials that the below listed organizations have published.

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs

240 West 35th Street
Suite 200
New York, NY 10001
212- 714-1184
www.ncavp.org

The Bryson Institute of the Attic Youth Center

255 South 16th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-545-4331 ext 14
www.brysoninstitute.org

California Coalition Against Sexual Assault

1215 K St, Suite 1100
Esquire Plaza
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-446-2520
www.calcasa.org

Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network: LGBT Issues Committee

203 N Wabash Ave # 2323
Chicago, IL 60601
312-750-0730
www.batteredwomensnetwork.org

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network: National Headquarters

90 Broad Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10004
212-727-0135
www.glsen.org

About Equality Advocates Pennsylvania

Equality Advocates Pennsylvania is a non-profit organization dedicated to achieving equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Pennsylvanians through direct legal services, education, and policy reform.

Equality Advocates is the only organization in Pennsylvania – and one of just three organizations nationwide – providing direct legal services to LGBT people. We offer assistance on more than 30 discrete areas of law with employment discrimination and family law-related matters being our two most-requested legal areas. Our attorneys are experienced in dealing with unique and often complicated LGBT legal issues and are adept at navigating the justice system to help LGBT clients. Since our inception in 1996, we have responded to approximately 5,200 requests for assistance in more than 30 distinct areas of law, including over 850 requests from victims who experienced threats or incidents of anti-LGBT violence. Equality Advocates has provided direct legal representation to more than 600 LGBT individuals.

Equality Advocates also provides LGBT legislative advocacy in Pennsylvania, and we coordinate much of the grassroots and coalition activities in the Commonwealth. In this role, we have progressively moved state and local policy toward LGBT equality. We helped to pass Philadelphia’s domestic partnership ordinance, defended it in court, and worked with many localities to craft LGBT-inclusive non-discrimination ordinances. We are currently working to include LGBT people in the state’s hate crimes law.

Equality Advocates also engages in vigorous outreach and education to the LGBT community, legal and services professionals, and the general public.



Equality Advocates Pennsylvania

1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 605

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-731-1447

Fax: 215-731-1544

Email: info@equalitypa.org

Website: <http://www.equalitypa.org>