

Same Sex Domestic Violence

- ACON
- Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project

Presented By

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Same Sex Domestic Violence
Officer

ACON

ACON promotes the health and wellbeing of NSW's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community

ACON provides information, support and advocacy for people living with HIV or at risk of acquiring HIV, including sex workers and people who use drugs



Where did ACON come from?

- ACON began as a community based grassroots response to the HIV epidemic in NSW 25 years ago
- ACON maintains a successful set of responses to HIV



Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project (AVP)

- The AVP supports people in our community who have experienced homophobic violence or same sex domestic violence
- The AVP works with police, government and community organisations to address the underlying causes of this violence



Domestic Violence

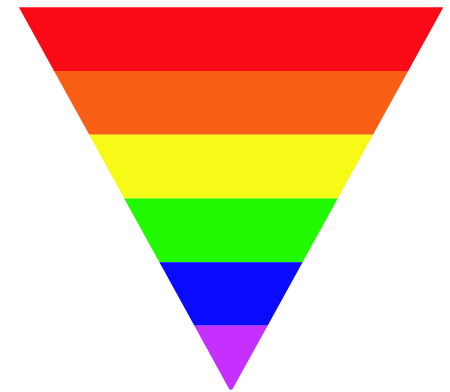
Domestic Violence (DV) and Same Sex Domestic Violence (SSDV) is any type of abusive behaviour by a current or ex partner that attempts to gain and maintain control over the other

It can include:

- Physical violence
- Sexual assault
- Emotional abuse
- Social control
- Financial control

Similarities between DV and SSDV

- The types and levels of abuse and violence
- Cycle of violence
- Impact on the victim/survivor
- The law protects the victim



Unique aspects of SSDV

- 'Outing' as a method of control
- Services may be inappropriate or may not exist
- Abuse can become associated with sexuality
- Using homophobia as a weapon
- Difficulty identifying perpetrator

Confidentiality and isolation

RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW...

... being afraid of your boyfriend can be a sign of domestic violence.

Find out how you can keep yourself safe
www.ssdv.acon.org.au
or call the DV Line 1800 65 64 63.

www.rightnow.acon.org.au
Call 9206 2000 / 1800 063 060

acon

SSDV isn't well understood in LGBT communities

Some people may not:

- Have the language
- Believe SSDV happens
- Recognise abuse as DV
- Know how to respond to SSDV
- Gendered discussions exclude SSDV



Research

Fair's Fair: A snapshot of violence and abuse in Sydney LGBT relationships 2006

- 308 people surveyed
- 189 females with 116 of these having experienced SSDV
- Varied experiences of violence
- 53.5% of female victims did not seek any assistance

Support sought from

- Family/ friends 37.1%
- Counsellor/ psych/ SW 21.6%
- Police 14.7%
- Women's Health Centre 9.5%
- Legal Service 9.5%
- GP/ Medical Centre 5.2%
- Victim of Crime Service 4.3%
- Sexual Assault Service 4.3%
- ACON/ AVP 3.5%
- Domestic Violence Line 3.5%
- Hospital 3.5%

There's No **Pride** In
Domestic Violence



MOST GAY AND LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS
ARE BASED ON LOVE AND RESPECT. **SOME**
ARE BASED ON ABUSE AND CONTROL.

Domestic violence exists in our community

This pamphlet contains information on domestic
violence in same-sex relationships.

Private Lives: A report on the health and wellbeing of GLBTI Australians, 2006

- **5500** LGBT people between 16 and 92 years of age studied (mean age 34)
- **A third** had been in a verbally or physically abusive relationship
- **35%** of the respondents were female
- Abuse was reported more frequently by women than men (**41% vs 28%**)
- **One in five** female respondents were not out to their regular GP
- **One in ten** had reported abuse to police

How can I engage LGBT clients?

- **Show your support:**
e.g. display GLBT materials and resources in waiting areas, on websites etc.
- **Speak up:**
e.g. think about the language you use and speak up when you hear homophobia.
- **Equip staff:**
e.g. via staff training, employment practices, and policy.
- **Connect with the community:**
e.g. build networks and know what's going on.

Ask yourself:

‘If I were a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender person in my workplace could I choose comfortably to be open about my life?’



Ask yourself

- As a worker what can I do to become more LGBT friendly and accessible to people experiencing SSDV?
- What can my service do to make itself more LGBT friendly and more accessible to people experiencing SSDV?



www.anothercloset.com.au

Domestic Violence in Gay and Lesbian Relationships - Another Closet - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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ANOTHERCLOSET

Domestic Violence In Gay and Lesbian Relationships

General information | If you're experiencing abuse | Recovery | Giving support | Finding help | Service provider information

Domestic Violence in Gay and Lesbian Relationships

RELATIONSHIP CHECKLIST

Domestic violence can take many forms. To assess your relationship, complete our [Relationship Checklist](#).

NEWS AND EVENTS

→ [NEW - Clinical Reference Group](#)
[More news...](#)

PERSONAL STORIES

A [collection of personal stories](#) of domestic violence in gay and lesbian relationships.

Information about same sex domestic violence >>

If you are experiencing domestic violence >>

Recovering from domestic violence >>

Supporting a friend or family member >>

Finding information, help and support >>

Service provider information >>

PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY: [How to keep your visit to this website private](#)

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SOME SEX DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERAGENCY

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