

Gender Identity

There is an incredible amount of pressure from society to fit into strict categories of male and female. People whose identities exist outside of these narrow boxes often face judgment, discrimination, and violence. Gender non-conformists, intersex, and trans individuals face additional barriers to accessing justice, supportive services, and medical care. They may also receive judgment from within the queer community or not identify themselves as queer. As an agency, we see gender as a spectrum and not a binary. We seek to be a safe resource for people of all genders who have experienced sexual violence.

Offering Support

Statistics show that whether you realize it or not, it is likely that someone you know has been abused or assaulted. It's not easy knowing that these things happen. Here are some suggestions about how to support others:

- ◆ **Do not blame** the person who has been abused or assaulted. They might blame themselves and you can tell them that no matter how it happened, it is not their fault!
- ◆ **Listen and believe** the survivor. Some people have trouble talking about their assault. Disbelief will only make that more difficult.
- ◆ **Don't tell them what to do.** If you offer options, trust that the survivor knows what is best for themselves. Don't pressure the survivor to deal with their abuse in the way that you think will be most effective.

Respect their choices!

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES

If you or someone you know is a survivor of sexual violence including sexual harassment, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, or sexually violent hate crimes, you can call us for support. We can provide:

- ◆ 24-hour hotline (collect calls accepted)
- ◆ Individual counseling and support groups
- ◆ Accompaniment and advocacy to law enforcement, court, and some medical appointments
- ◆ Referrals to other community agencies
- ◆ Prevention education and self-defense programs

RESOURCES

North Coast Rape Crisis Team

Humboldt County 24hr Hotline.....(707) 445-2881

Del Norte County 24hr Hotline.....(707) 465-2851

Youth Service Bureau Hotline.....(707) 444-2273

Raven Project.....(707) 443-7099

Planned Parenthood.....(707) 442-5700

Humboldt Human Rights Commission.....(707) 268-2548

GLBT National Hotline.....1 (888) 843-4564
(M-F 1pm-9pm, Sa 9am-2pm)

The Trevor Helpline.....1 (866) 488-7386
(24hr helpline for queer youth in crisis)

www.queerhumboldt.org — information and resources for the queer community in Humboldt County

www.binetusa.org — information and support for the bisexual community

www.transgenderlawcenter.org — resources on transgender law and support for trans people facing discrimination in CA



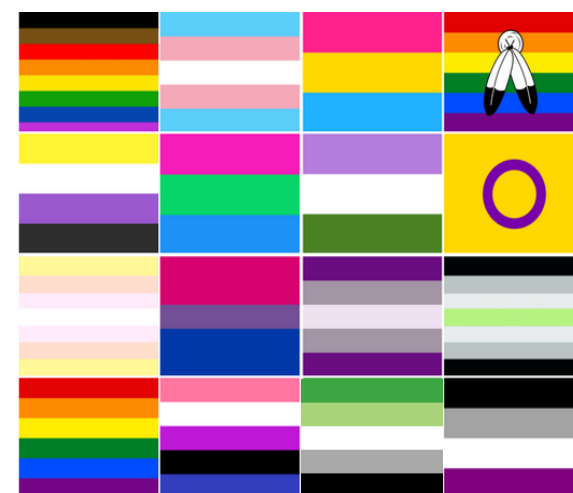
Out of area hotlines and websites may not accurately reflect local procedures

Brochure last updated: 10/3/17

Sexual Assault

in the

LGBTQIA Community



North Coast Rape Crisis Team

"Imagine a world without violence"

24-hour Hotline: (707) 445-2881

TTY (M-F 8:30-5:00): (707) 443-2738

Business Line: (707) 443-2737

www.ncrct.org

Sexualized Violence

Sexual violence can happen to anyone at anytime, anywhere regardless of gender, age, race, class, sexual orientation, or ability/disability. Any sexual act without consent is a crime. Sexual assault includes but isn't limited to: vaginal rape, anal rape, forced oral copulation, rape with a foreign object (anything aside from a penis, including fingers), sexual battery, gang rape, attempted rape, and spousal rape.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT
IS NOT YOUR
FAULT!**

Hate Crimes

Hate crimes are an aggressive expression of prejudice against another person or group of people simply because of who they are.

This can include sexual violence perpetrated against someone due to their perceived gender identity or sexual orientation.

Hate crimes can range on a spectrum of violence from verbal harassment and sexual or physical assault, to murder (or any combination of these).

According to FBI statistics, the third highest reported incidence of hate crimes are based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

Intimate Partner Violence

There is a common misconception that violence does not exist within same sex, transgender, intersex, or asexual relationships. In reality, intimate partner violence can happen in any kind of LGBTQIA relationship.

The abusive person in an LGBTQIA relationship may take advantage of societal judgments on the queer community in order to hurt their partner. The abuser can take power and control over their partner in many ways, including but not limited to:

- ◆ Threats (including the threat of being 'outed')
- ◆ Intimidation, manipulation, and isolation
- ◆ Money, profession, and social status
- ◆ Parenting and custody concerns
- ◆ Physical strength
- ◆ Sexual violence
- ◆ Stalking

Sexuality

We are often asked if someone's experience with sexualized violence has an effect on their sexuality. The gender of the perpetrator is in no way indicative of the sexuality of the person being harmed or the person causing the harm. Sexualized violence is used as a tactic to establish power over and control of someone else—it's about violence, not sex.

If anyone of any gender or sexual orientation is forced or coerced to have sex, emotionally or physically abused, or denied their right to practice safer sex, we can be there for advocacy, support, or referrals.



Reporting Barriers

Reporting sexual assault can be difficult for various reasons. There can be additional challenges for someone within the LGBTQIA community.

- ◆ It could be difficult to retell the experience when reporting.
- ◆ Outing oneself to law enforcement or others could be uncomfortable.
- ◆ One might fear not being believed or face judgment from others.
- ◆ There may be threat of alienation or isolation from the queer community, especially if the perpetrator is among those peers.
- ◆ There may be pressure to not add anymore stigma to the queer community.

Reporting is a choice that we believe should be left up to the survivor. We support survivors and can act as allies, whether they choose to report or not. We can accompany survivors to law enforcement, court, and some medical appointments.

Medical Attention

If someone has experienced sexual violence they might consider seeking medical attention, especially if they are concerned about injury, pregnancy, or possible STIs. It can be helpful to be aware that medical providers are required to report sexual and domestic violence to law enforcement.

If someone is not reporting but wants medical attention, they can call us to hear more about their options.