

## Sexual Violence

Sexual violence affects everyone and can happen to anyone of any age. Any sexual act without consent is a crime. Sexual assaults include: vaginal rape, anal rape, forced oral copulation, rape with a foreign object (anything but a penis, including fingers), sexual battery, gang rape, attempted rape, spousal rape.

Some people worry that the gender of the person who assaulted them or the nature of the abuse will affect their sexual orientation. **Perpetrator(s) do not determine anything about who you are.**

**SEXUAL ASSAULT IS NOT YOUR FAULT !**

## Hate Crimes

Hate violence is an aggressive expression of prejudice against another person or group of people simply because of who and what 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, or intersex relationships. Domestic and sexual violence do happen in these relationships.

### The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs reports that:

- 40% of gay and bisexual men experience domestic or sexual violence within intimate partner relationships.
- 46% of lesbians experience repeated acts of violence.
- 50% of transgender and intersex individuals are raped or assaulted by romantic partners.

The abusive person in an LGBTQI 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 to "out" the other)
- Intimidation, Manipulation, and Isolation
- Money, Profession, and Social Status
- Parenting and Custody Concerns
- Physical Strength
- Sexual Violence
- Stalking

*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 LGBTQI community.

- It could be difficult to retell the experience when reporting.
- Outing yourself to law enforcement or others could be uncomfortable.
- The fear of not being believed or judgment from others.
- Threat of alienation or isolation from the queer community, especially if the perpetrator is among those peers.
- Not wanting to add any further 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 you to law enforcement, court, and some medical appointments, as well as offering all our other services (see services on back).

## Medical Attention

You might consider seeking medical attention if you are concerned about injury, pregnancy, or possible STD's. Be aware that medical providers are required to report sexual and domestic violence to law enforcement.

**If you are not reporting, but want medical attention call us for options & information.**

## Gender Identity

Somewhere in history, our society decided it was important that we all fit into specific categories of gender. This kind of confinement creates additional marginalization for the queer community. With the pressure from society to be male or female many young intersex people are faced with forced gender reassignment. As an agency we recognize that we are all individuals that can not be forced into gender roles. We offer support to people of any gender who have experienced sexual violence.

## Offering Support

Whether you realize it or not, someone you know has been abused or assaulted. It's not easy knowing that these things happen. Here are some suggestions to help yourself, friends, or family members:



Find time to nurture yourself and those you care about

- **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 them. Don't pressure the survivor to deal with their abuse in the way you think will be most effective.

## Respect their choices!

**\*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
- \* Education Programs
- \* Women's Self Defense
- \* Referrals to other community agencies

## Resources

- North Coast Rape Crisis Team hotline... (707)445-2881  
 Del Norte County 24hr Crisis Line..... (707)465-2851  
 Youth Service Bureau hotline ..... (707)444-2273  
 Raven Project..... (707)443-7099  
 Planned Parenthood..... (707)442-5709  
 Hum Co. 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)

### WEBSITES

- [www.lambda.org](http://www.lambda.org) - good source of current events and legal information for the queer community, useful referrals  
[www.queerhumboldt.org](http://www.queerhumboldt.org) - information and resources for the queer community in Humboldt County  
[www.deafqueer.org](http://www.deafqueer.org) - information by, for, and about the deaf queer community  
[www.binetusa.org](http://www.binetusa.org) - information and support for the bisexual community  
[www.transgenderlawcenter.org](http://www.transgenderlawcenter.org) - resources on transgender law and support for trans people facing discrimination in CA  
[www.youthresource.com](http://www.youthresource.com) - resources, information and support for queer youth

-out of area hotlines and websites may not accurately reflect local procedures-

Brochure last updated: 1/22/10

## North Coast Rape Crisis Team



## Sexual Assault in the Queer Community

North Coast Rape Crisis Team  
 People working for the Right to Live  
 Free of Violence and Abuse.  
 24-Hr. Hotline (707)445-2881  
 TTY (M-F 8:30-5) (707)443-2738  
 Business Line (707)443-2737