

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- * Talk to your doctor about your health and seek medical attention for any injuries. If you are seeking a mental health counselor, tell them about your domestic violence concerns because they may not ask. Many counselors assume it only happens to heterosexual women.
- * Keep a journal of incidents specified with dates and times. Keep copies of medical and police reports, take photographs of your injuries, and keep your journal and documents in a safe place.
- * Seek and accept legal advice.
- * Insist on a police report. Be sure the report is accurate.
- * Do not remain silent. Seek out counseling, contact official domestic violence and survivors' advocate offices, or tell a friend.
- * Plan for the worst. Have a safe and secret place to go to and have emergency money ready.
- * Do not make excuses for the abuser's violence—get help and leave.
- * Never retaliate with physical or verbal abuse yourself.
- * **Volunteer.** When you are safe, volunteer with the organization that gave you this brochure, or Stop Abuse For Everyone™. You can assist others in similar situations and prevent future tragedies.



ABOUT SAFE

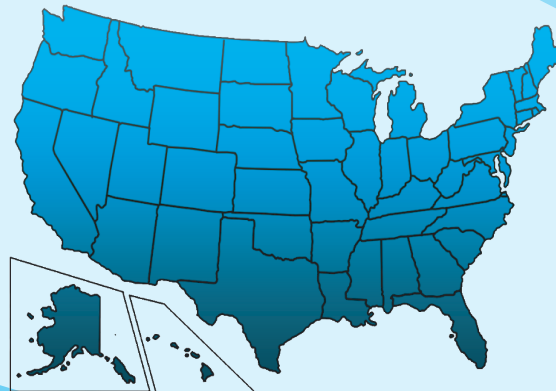
STOP ABUSE FOR EVERYONE is an organization that provides information, resources, a media campaign, educational brochures, an advocacy program, and expert speakers on an array of abuse topics.

We differ from most organizations because we help underserved survivors who have few services available to them.

SAFE views domestic violence as a human rights issue. If you are in an abusive relationship, services should be available to you regardless of your gender, sexuality, or age.

SAFE addresses individual concerns and fills in the gaps in domestic violence services where other organizations do not.

Aside from domestic violence, SAFE also addresses bullying, dating violence, elderly abuse, and sibling abuse.



Check out our National Directory of Service Providers on our website. Consider becoming a member, subscribing to our newsletter, and donating.

Stop Abuse For Everyone™ is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Your tax-deductible charitable contribution to SAFE is needed and appreciated!

© 2016 by Stop Abuse for Everyone™
Not reproducible without permission.

ARE YOU

(or someone you care about)

AN LGBT

SUBJECTED TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE?



SAFE

STOP ABUSE FOR EVERYONE A HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCY

STOPABUSEFOREVERYONE.ORG

(661) 829-6848

8200 Stockdale Hwy #M10-103
Bakersfield, CA 93311

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE...YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

According to a National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs' report: "The findings suggest a domestic violence prevalence rate of between 25 and 33%, comparable to the findings on prevalence in heterosexual couples."

SAFE IS RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

Stop Abuse For Everyone was selected as one of only 50 promising strategy programs in the nation to prevent domestic violence by the National Crime Prevention Council.

SIGNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HAS YOUR PARTNER EVER:

- * Deliberately destroyed or damaged something of value to you?
- * Thrown things at you or broken objects during an argument?
- * Bitten, slapped, or scratched you?
- * Hit you with a hard object or their fists?
- * Threatened you with a weapon?
- * Hurt, or threatened to hurt, you or your children?
- * Tried to prevent you from getting medical help?
- * Forced you to have sex or made you do things during sex that made you feel uncomfortable?
- * Kicked you or thrown hot liquids at you?
- * Prevented you from sleeping at night?
- * Threatened to commit suicide if you leave?
- * Threatened to "out" you if you do not do what they want?
- * Said that the police or other authorities do not care and will not respond to an LGBT complaint?
- * Threatened to reveal private things about you to the courts, or ex-spouse, so that you might lose custody or visitation rights with your child?

DOES YOUR PARTNER:

- * Abuse drugs or alcohol?
- * Become out of control, extremely angry and then try to make up afterwards?
- * Tell you that you are worthless, unattractive, or that no one would want you?
- * Blame you for "making" them lose control?
- * Guilt-trip or manipulate you?

DO YOU:

- * Change your behavior because you are afraid that violence may result if you do not?
- * Constantly have the feeling that you are "walking on eggshells?"
- * Feel that no matter what you do, you cannot do anything right?

IS YOUR PARTNER:

- * Extremely jealous and accuse you of flirting with others or having affairs?
- * Making it difficult for you to maintain relationships with others because he/she does not approve of them?

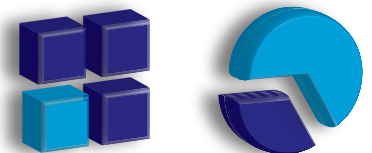
IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY OF THE ABOVE SCENARIOS, YOU ARE IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP.

HOW SURVIVORS COPE

- * They take on an "I can handle it" attitude. It is never acceptable to be physically attacked by your partner, even if you believe you can endure the pain.
- * Survivors often blame themselves. Sexual violence can cause survivors to question their role, their sexual identity, and doubt their ability to maintain their own safety after an act of sexual violence.
- * They hide from it. Those in the LGBT community may already feel isolated and feel there is no place to turn to. This can result in victims failing to seek out available resources.
- * When domestic violence has occurred, survivors may have a need to self-medicate with drugs or alcohol to help them cope with their overwhelming feelings.

WHY SURVIVORS STAY

- * **Fear of economic and material loss** - LGBT survivors who live together often share finances. Leaving a relationship could result in defaulting on legal agreements, contracts, and a possible loss of possessions and money.
- * **Fear of losing children** - abusers can threaten to take away the child(ren). In some states adoption laws do not allow same-sex partners' to adopt each other's child(ren).
- * **Fear of being outed** - some survivors are not ready to come out and are blackmailed by their partners; therefore, they stay in fear of being prematurely outed to work colleagues, family, and friends.
- * **Fear of stigmatizing the LGBT community** - some survivors are reluctant to seek out help in fear of showing a lack of solidarity among the LGBT community.
- * **Few resources** - LGBT survivors are not receiving the help they need due to the lack of legal recognition of same-sex relationships, law enforcement not properly handling domestic violence cases, and a shortage of resources available to LGBT survivors.



1/4 - 1/3
SAME-SEX PARTNERSHIPS HAVE
EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE