

Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth

August 19, 2020

Diverse & Resilient

Nick Ross

Reiko Ramos

Jennifer Williams



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ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAM
A program of Diverse & Resilient

Today's Presenters



Reiko Ramos
Youth & Young Adult
Anti-Violence Advocate



Nick Ross
Anti-Violence Advocate



Jennifer Williams
Anti-Violence Advocate



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Who is Diverse & Resilient?

Reiko Ramos, NE WI Youth & Youth Adult Advocate

Nick Ross, NE Wi Anti-Violence Program Advocate

Jennifer Williams, SE Wi Anti-Violence Program Advocate

Our mission is to achieve health equity and improve the safety and well-being of LGBTQ people and communities in Wisconsin.



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What the Room to Be Safe Resource Line Provides:

- LGBTQ Support
 - 1:1 in person or on phone
 - Safety Planning
 - Help getting to emergency housing
 - Co-Advocacy with Programs
 - Resources
 - Referral
- CONTACT INFORMATION:
 - (414) 856-LGBT (5428)
 - www.roomtobesafe.org



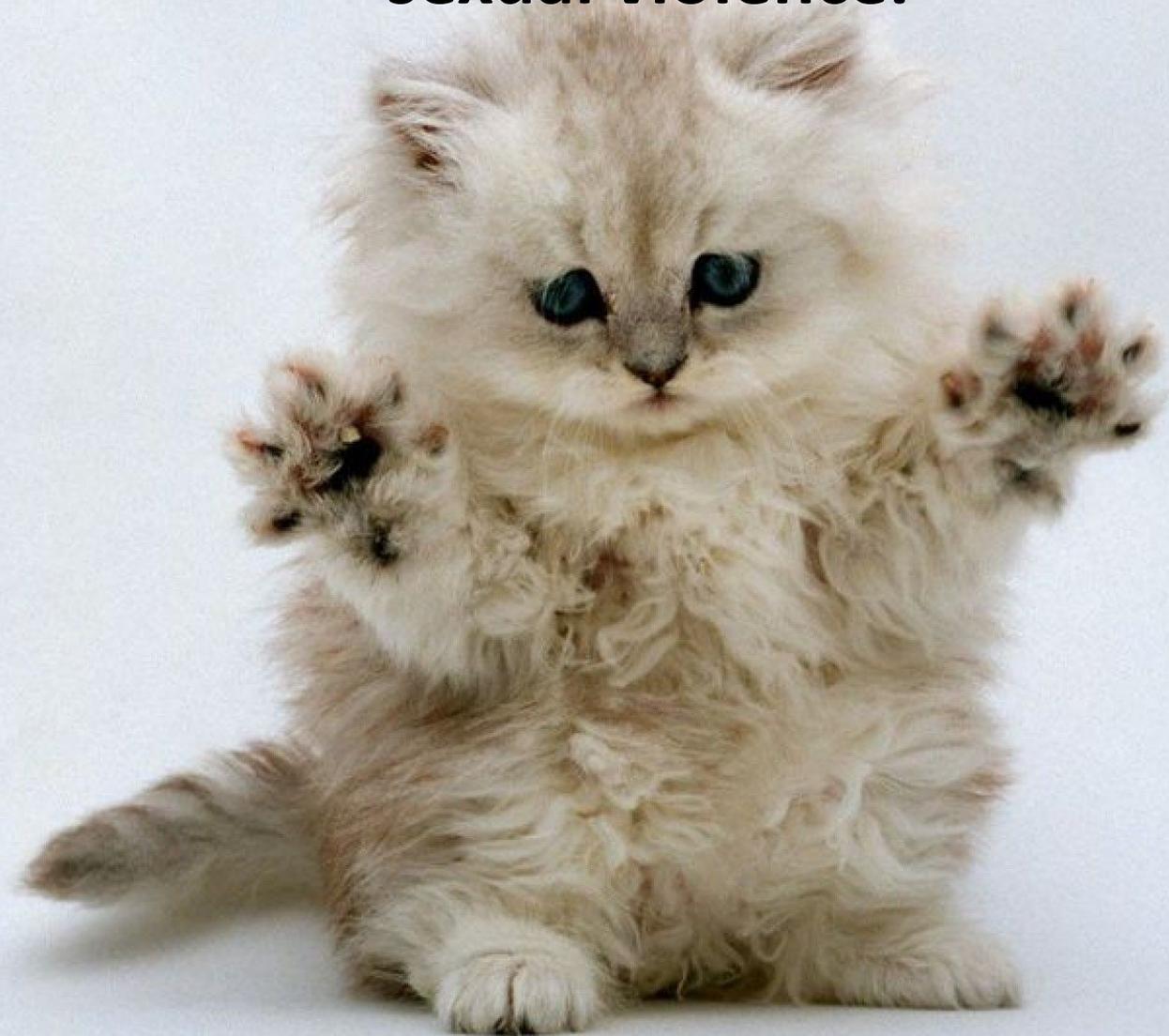
A note about language

- This is not an LGBTQ+ 101
- For more on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer + identities, see previous required webinars at <https://www.endabusewi.org/for-advocates/webinars/>



CONTENT WARNING

This presentation contains information on family, intimate partner, and sexual violence.



Safety Planning



Safety Planning Activity

- Imagine how safe it would be for a person to be an LGBTQ+ young person in each of the following settings.
 - Answers will vary even within the LGBTQ+ community because there are so many different experiences of gender and orientation. Because of this, it may be helpful to think of a specific LGBTQ+ identity—if you are LGBTQ+, you may do this activity using your own identity or one that is not your own.
 - Your race, ability, socio-economic status, the community you live in, and other aspects of your identity do not change.



Safety Planning Activity (2)

- Rate your feeling of safety on a scale from 1 to 5.
 - 1 = NOT safe, 5 = safe
- On social media
- At school
- Using a public restroom
- Local domestic violence shelter
- Reporting something to law enforcement



Understanding Gender Identity and Expression

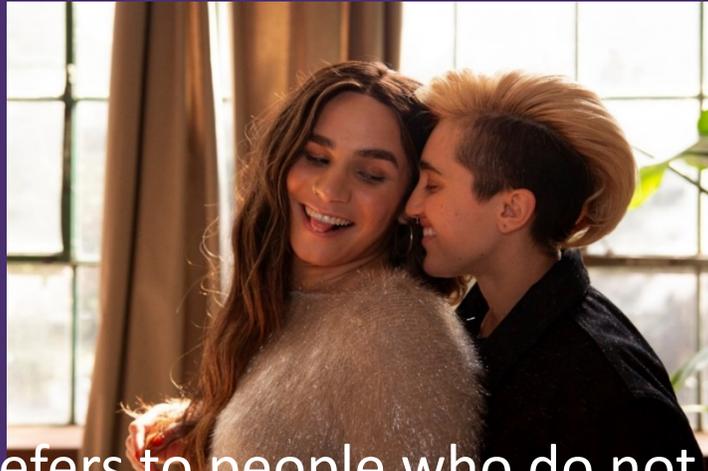
- **Gender Identity:** A person's internal, deeply held sense of one's own gender.



- **Gender Expression:** Gender as presented through one's name, pronouns, clothing, haircut, behavior, voice, or other characteristics.

Understanding Gender Identity and Expression (2)

- **Transgender:** A term for people whose gender identity and gender expression is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth.



- **Gender Nonconforming:** Refers to people who do not follow other people's ideas or stereotypes about how they should look or act based on the female or male sex they were assigned at birth.



Understanding Gender Identity and Expression (3)

QTBIPOC: Queer & Transgender Black, Indigenous and People of Color



Cisgender: A term for people whose gender identity and gender expression aligns with those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth.



Gender

- It is important to remember that we cannot 'figure out' how someone identifies just by looking at them.
 - We have been taught to rely on stereotypes to help us identify if someone is a part of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Financial Resources and Privilege for Trans and GNC
- Gender identity and sexual orientation are beneath the surface



THE IDENTITY GUIDE

GENDER IDENTITY

is the way in which someone perceives their own gender on a spectrum (for example, identifying as a man, woman, anything in between, or nothing at all). This may or may not align with their biological designation.

ORIENTATION

refers to the way in which someone is attracted to others (whether it be romantic, sexual, both, or neither).

GENDER EXPRESSION

is how one performs their identity to society. Examples may be wearing a dress to express femininity, or cutting your hair to appear more masculine. There are many mixes of expressions a person can have, and could even lack any expression of femininity or masculinity. Despite this, expression doesn't always correlate with identity for many different reasons. You shouldn't assume someone's identity based off of how they outwardly express themselves.

BIOLOGY

is what you were designated when you were born based on genitals and chromosomes (female and male). Much like everything else, biology is on a spectrum. Intersex folks do not fit into the binary "male" and "female" categories, whether it be variations of genitalia, chromosomes, or hormones. Biology is **NOT** the same as gender identity, and you shouldn't ask anyone about their biology unless they have given consent.

GENDER IDENTITY

- » Transgender / Non-binary
- » Cisgender
- ** Note: Although non-binary falls under the transgender umbrella, not all non-binary folks identify as transgender.

ORIENTATION

- » Romantic
- » Sexual
- * Gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, asexual, aromantic, heterosexual
- ** Note: Many of these orientations may overlap when it comes to romantic and sexual attraction.

GENDER EXPRESSION

- » Feminine
- » Masculine
- » Androgynous

BIOLOGY

- » Female
- » Male
- » Intersex

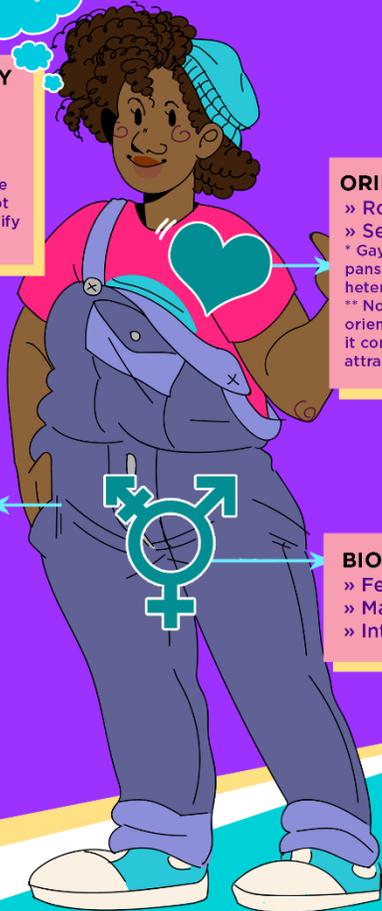


Image created by Amber Jackson,
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
LGBTQ+ Resource Center



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Data!

2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)



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YRBS Background

- **2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)**
- **Purpose:** Evaluate nutrition, physical activity, tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use among youth
 - Describe health-risk behaviors
 - Assess trends
 - Evaluate and improve health-related policies and programs
- **Who:** Wisconsin High School Students
- **How:** Anonymous and voluntary survey



What percentage of youth in WI
identify as LGBT?



Percentage of LGBTQ Youth Poll Answer

10% of students identified as
LGBT



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What percentage of LGBT youth report challenges with mental health?



Mental Health Poll Answer

88.6% of LGBT youth reported challenges with mental health (vs. 55.1% of straight-cis peers)

Mental Health

Behavior (past 12 mo.)	LGBT	Straight-Cis
Self-harm	45.9%	14.6%
Problems with anxiety	78.3%	45.1%
So sad or hopeless that they stopped usual activities	61.1%	23.9%
Seriously considered suicide	42.0%	12.3%
Made a suicide plan	35.4%	9.6%
Attempted suicide	19.7%	5.7%



There is a significant suicidality help gap!



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Sexual and Dating Violence Poll

What percentage of LGBT youth report sexual or dating violence?



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Sexual and Dating Violence Poll Answer

46.7% of LGBT youth reported sexual violence or dating violence (vs. 20.4% of straight-cis peers)



Sexual or Dating Violence

Behavior	LGBT	Straight-Cis
Ever been raped	20.9%	5.0%
Ever been forced to do anything sexual	43.4%	16.2%
Dating partner forced something sexual (past 12 mos)	24.8%	11.0%
Physical violence by dating partner (past 12 mos)	19.2%	6.2%

Bullying and Safety at School

Behavior	LGBT	Straight-Cis
Missed school due to safety concerns at school (past 30 days)	16.4%	5.3%
Have been threatened or injured with a weapon at school (past 12 mos)	13.4%	6.1%
Have been bullied online and/or at school in the past 12 mos (composite measure)	43.8%	26.8%

Support and Belongingness

- Only 38.9% of LGBT youth agree or strongly agree that they belong at school, compared to 64.4% of straight-cis peers
- LGBT youth are less likely to have at least one supportive adult at school to talk to
 - About 1/3 say they there is at least one teacher or adult at school they can talk to
 - Only 1/4 say they would list an adult as their most likely form of emotional support
- Fewer than 20% of LGBT youth report that they get emotional support when needed most of the time or always.



YRBS Data Takeaways

- LGBT youth show higher risks across topic areas and generally report fewer supports and more challenges
- Correlation \neq Causation
- Challenges faced by LGBTQ youth can be addressed with greater support



Talk about Queer People!

- We're not shown any representation of queer relationships, let alone healthy ones
- Include LGBTQ+ folx in your outreach, prevention, and direct services
- Remember to include examples of healthy queer relationships too!
 - We do LGBTQ+ folx a disservice when we only talk about them in the context of our trauma



Learning from our community



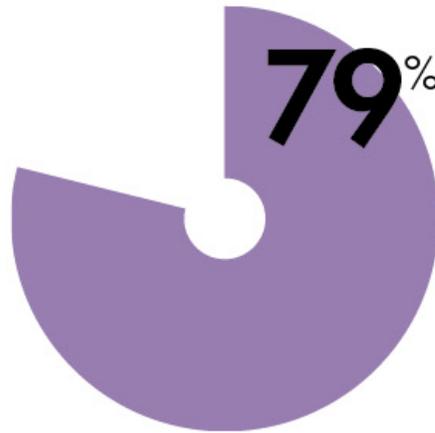
Milwaukee Pridefest Survey Data 2019

951 LGBTQ+ Survey Respondents



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Overall Violence



79% reported experience one or more type of violence

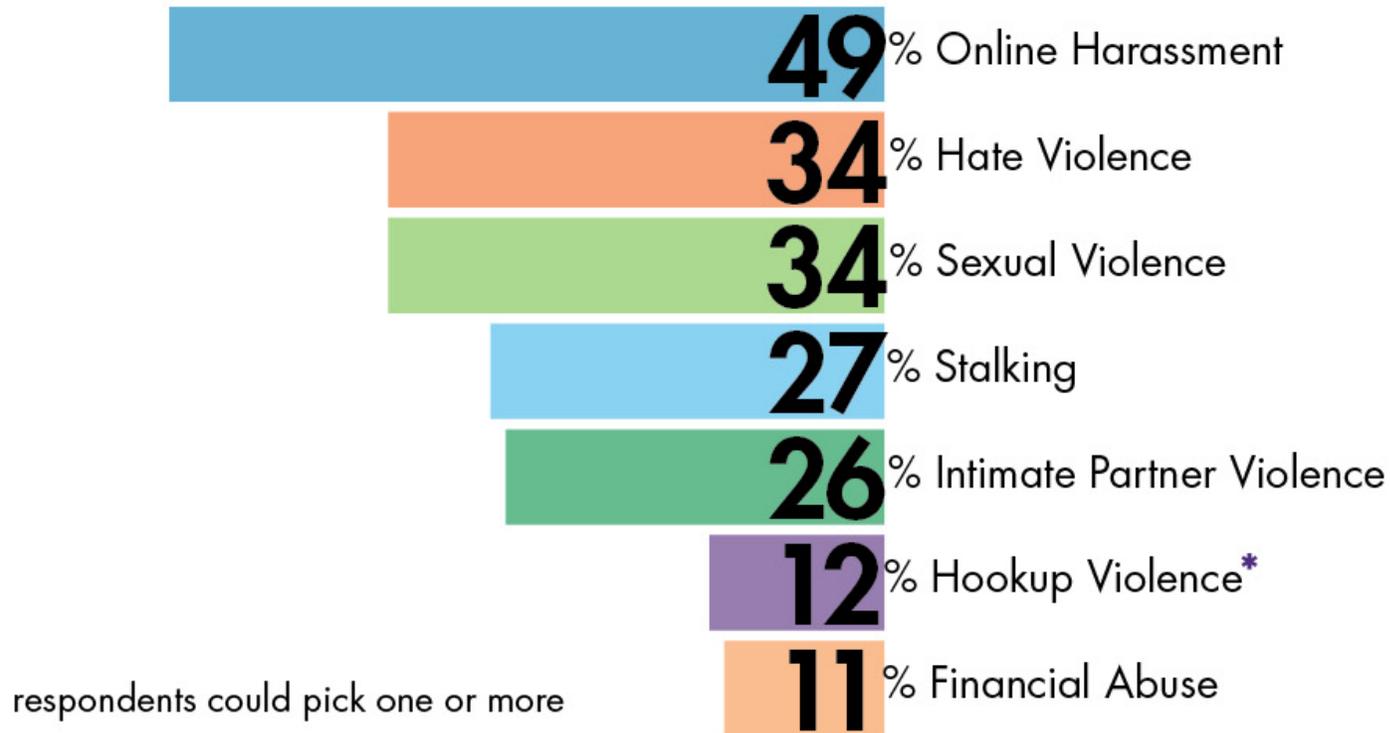
For more information or to talk to an advocate, call or text the **Room to Be Safe Resource** line at **414-856-LGBT** or visit **www.roomtobesafe.org**



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Milwaukee Pridefest Survey Data 2019 951 LGBTQ+ Survey Respondents

Types of Violence



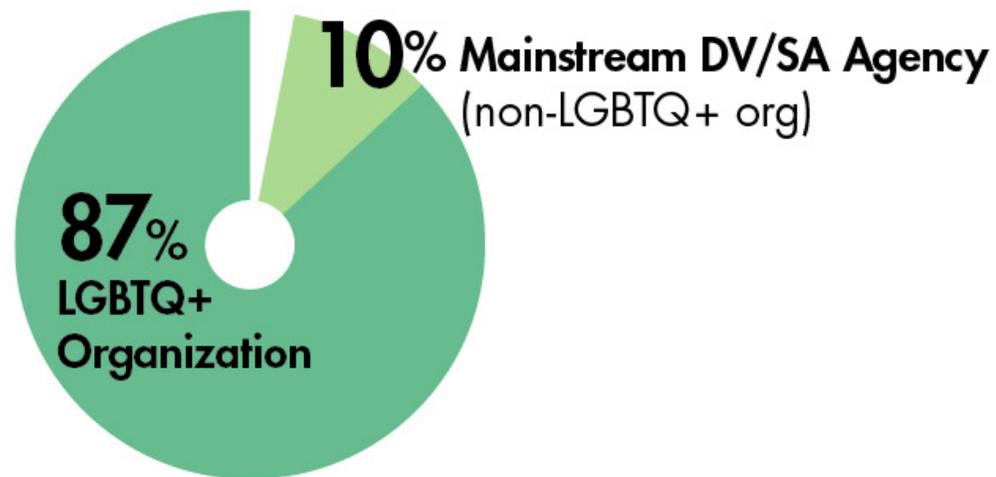
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Milwaukee Pridefest Survey Data 2019 951 LGBTQ+ Survey Respondents

Services Agency If they were a victim of violence which would feel most comfortable when seeking help



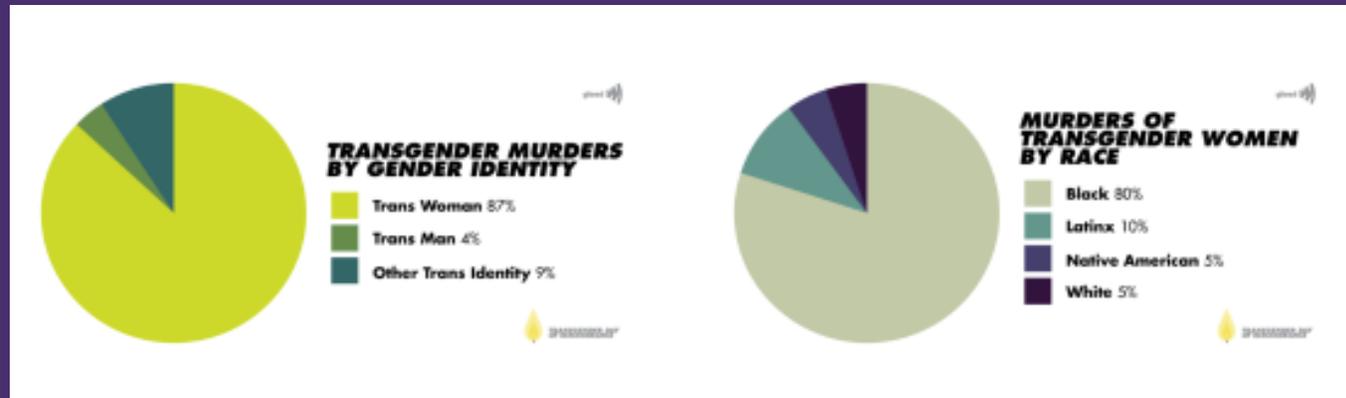
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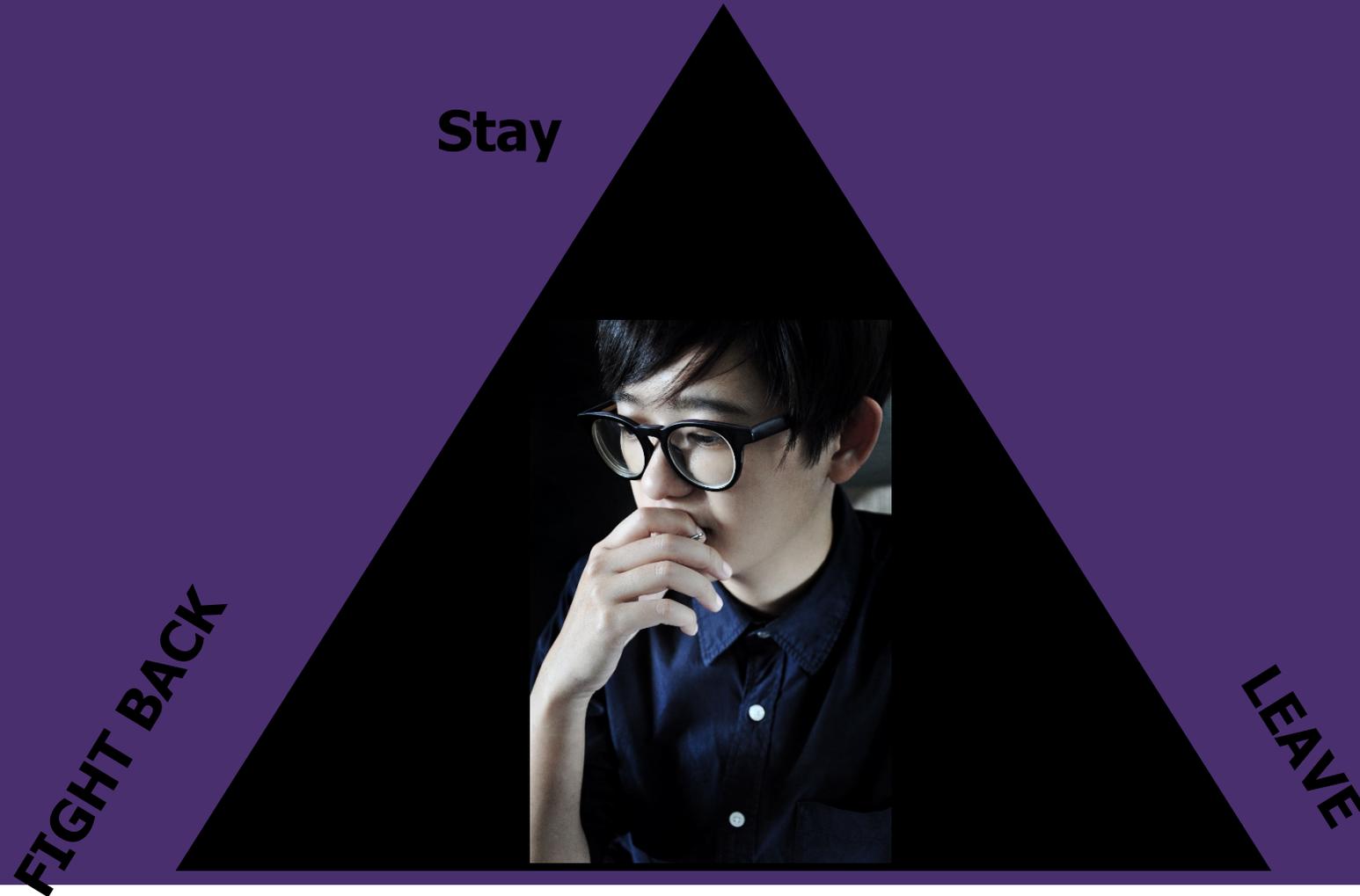
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Crisis for Trans Women of Color

- In 2019, 27 Trans Women of Color were murdered.
- In 2017, of all the transgender people killed, 87% were transgender women, 95% were Transgender Women of Color



Options for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence



“Family Violence” Is “Domestic Violence”

- Family Violence = abuse of a child by a parent/caregiver, abuse from one sibling to another, etc.
- Youth experiencing family violence deserve the same advocacy and care as adults experiencing intimate partner violence.



“Family Violence” Is “Domestic Violence” (2)

- A parent survivor of IPV may cause harm to their (LGBTQ+) children.
- DV advocates must be prepared to address the needs of youth experiencing family violence.



Youth and Secondary Trauma vs Primary Trauma

- Youth can be survivors of secondary trauma related to the IPV they witness between parents/caregivers.
- They can also be survivors of primary traumas:
 - Abuse from a parent/caregiver or sibling
 - Bullying (at school/from peers)
 - Teen dating violence
- All these experiences deserve advocacy and care.



LGBTQ+ Youth and Primary Trauma

- When LGBTQ+ identities are forced underground, the violence we experience is underground too
- Trauma for LGBTQ youth can be invisible especially when one or more partners are not 'out'



CPS Impact on Families

- Surviving IPV doesn't make you a "bad" parent
- Prioritize needs and safety of Q/T young person
- What do you do if your agency works with CPS?



Scenario

Alex and “Safer at Home”

*Written consent was given by Alex to share his story. Details like name and other personal information have been changed to protect privacy.

Scenario: Alex and “Safer at Home”

“I’ve been up all night chatting with Trevor Project, but I’m just not sure how much more I can take. Everything since Corona hit has been so messed up! I was doing just fine on my own but when the Safer at Home Order came down John made me move back in with him and his wife and kids. I try to ignore them and stay in my room, but yesterday I was looking for my binder and I couldn’t find it. John went in my room and went through my stuff and took my binder! Why would he do that?! “

Alex begins to cry...

“I’ve been fighting with him every day since I moved back in. Each new fight is worse and worse. He’s threatened to hit me like he has done in the past. The worst part is I have my top surgery scheduled for this summer after I turn 18 and he’s threatening to kick me off his insurance if I don’t do every thing he says the way he wants me to... I hate being here but I can’t leave and I just don’t know what else to do...”



Scenario Reflection: Alex and “Safer at Home”

- What clarifying questions would you ask Alex?
- What barriers/obstacles does Alex face for getting help?
- How would you safety plan with Alex?
- How else would you advocate for Alex?



Alex and “Safer at Home”: Troubling Themes

- Verbal abuse and threats of violence intensify.
- Removing access to tools of gender expression.
- Using insurance coverage and transition-related medical care as an ultimatum to hold power and control.
- Lack of connection to support systems and community.
- Others?



Advocating for Alex

- Safety planning and emotional support
 - What does safety planning look like for Alex?
- Referrals to Trans Lifeline and Trevor Project
- Referral to shelter
 - New state law allows 17 year olds to access emergency shelter
- Connection to LGBTQ+ community through virtual programming.
- Emergency financial assistance



LGBTQ+ Youth in Shelter

- Some 17 year old youth can now access shelter.
 - 2019 AB 52/2019 Wisconsin Act 22/Wis. Stat. § 48.9875
 - A 17 year old youth can access shelter as long as they are “not under the supervision of a county department, a child welfare agency, the department [of children and families], or the department of corrections under this chapter or ch. 938 or under the jurisdiction of the court,” and if they are confirmed as “unaccompanied.”
 - Reach out to End Abuse with questions/clarifications.
- Families entering shelter may have children who are LGBTQ+.



Heteronormativity and Cisnormativity

- Notice and address heteronormativity and cisnormativity at your agency
- Would LGBTQ+ folx feel able to access your services?
- Things to consider
 - Name, language, imagery
 - Forms
 - Policy
 - Facilities
 - Staff



48'-0"

14'-0"



THIS IS YOUR REMINDER THAT YOU ARE:

BEAUTIFUL

LOVED

WORTHY

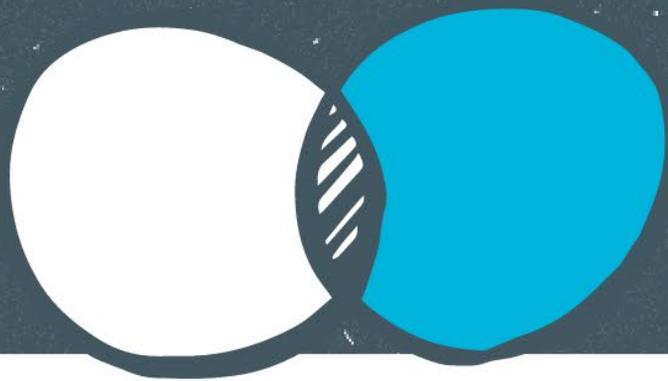
JUST AS YOU ARE!



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414-856-LGBT
roomtobesafe.org

**TO END VIOLENCE, WE
MUST SHIFT CULTURE
TO BE LOVING &
AFFIRMING OF LGBTQ
COMMUNITIES**



Learn more: bit.ly/Not1StoryNCAVP

A few resources...

- Wisconsin: gsafe.org
- National:
 - glsen.org
 - genderspectrum.org
 - welcomingschools.org



Questions?



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Contact Information: Diverse & Resilient / Room to Be Safe Anti-Violence Program

Presenters

- **Reiko Ramos**

Youth and Young Adult Advocate

rrosos@diverseandresilient.org

- **Jennifer Williams**

Anti-Violence Program Advocate

jwilliams@diverseandresilient.org

- **Nick Ross**

Anti-Violence Program Advocate

nross@diverseandresilient.org

Diverse & Resilient Room to Be Safe Anti-Violence Program

- Diverseandresilient.org

- Roomtobesafe.org

- Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/dresilient/>

<https://www.facebook.com/roomtobesafe/>



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Contact Information: End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

Reach Out to the Coalition

- www.endabusewi.org
- info@endabusewi.org
- (608) 255-0539
- Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/end.domestic.abuse.wi/>
- Twitter: @endabuseWI



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