

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence Recognizes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Month in June**

President Barak Obama has proclaimed June [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month](#), noting that persons identified with this community deserve to live a life of dignity and fairness while his administration also works to eliminate violence toward adults and youth, including bullying.

“For persons who are Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender/Questioning (GLBTQ) raising awareness of the multitude of difficult social issues faced by their community is a good first step to address the violence they often face not only from society, but within their own intimate relationships,” says Sue Meuschke, Executive Director of the [Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence](#). “There are organizations in Nevada and nationwide who offer hope and help through resources, advocacy, and information.”

According to the [The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence](#) (NRCDV), domestic violence in GLBTQ relationships is as prevalent and lethal as in heterosexual relationships; however, there is little research and many barriers to disclosure. Consider the following, courtesy of [The Network/La Red](#), a survivor-led, social justice organization working to end partner abuse in the GLBTQ community:

- Partner abuse in GLBTQ communities is a serious public health and community issue, occurring in 25 to 33 percent of relationships where one or more partner identifies as GLBTQ (2009).
- GLBTQ people have been killed and seriously injured by their partners, have lost housing, children, and pets, and have suffered emotional, sexual, financial, cultural and identity abuse at the hands of abusive partners (2009).

Here are some additional myths and realities around intimate partner violence as it relates to the GLBTQ community, according to 2007 statistics from the [NRCDV](#) and additional statistics from the [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#):

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- GLBTQ intimate partner violence is vastly underreported, unacknowledged, and often reported as something else.
- In 10 cities and two states alone, there were 3,524 incidents of intimate partner violence affecting GLBTQ individuals, according to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs 2006 Report.
- While same-sex battering mirrors heterosexual battering both in type and prevalence, its victims receive fewer protections.
- Same-sex abusers abuse victims in a similar manner to those of heterosexual batterers, but they can also “out” their partner to family, friends, employers, or community.
- Battering among lesbians and men in same-sex relationships is not limited to a particular socio-economic status—it crosses race, age, class, lifestyle, and religion.
- Figures from a study published in the *American Journal of Public Health* indicate that the rate of abuse between urban homosexual men in intimate relationships “is a very serious public health problem.”

Given these sobering statistics, it is imperative that survivors take action. First off, be aware that intimate partner violence is a pattern of intimidation for the purpose of gaining or maintaining power and control. It encompasses emotional, sexual, and physical abuse as well as intimidation.

No matter what, as a survivor you have choices. Whether you choose to stay or leave, take advantage of the resources available to you that include the following:

- Call 9-1-1 and get medical care if you are in immediate danger.
- For emergency safety services, support and shelter, call the Nevada Statewide (800.500.1556) or [National Hotline](#) and speak with an advocate to locate a [program](#) in your area. Domestic violence programs are increasingly more responsive and safe for GLBTQ persons.
- Talk to a trusted friend, relative or neighbor; never let anyone discount the violence.
- Obtain a protective court order if you choose; and remember that many service providers will be supportive no matter what your sexual orientation.
- Research and seek out one of the many organizations that can offer the information and assistance you need. The NRCDV offers a [comprehensive list of organizations](#) throughout the U.S. and within individual states.
- Go to the Network website for a list of [resources](#) related to intimate partner violence, including violence related to the GLBTQ population.

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**[About NNADV](#):** The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence was founded in 1980 to work toward the elimination of domestic and sexual violence against all persons. As Nevada’s statewide coalition, NNADV is an inclusive network which both supports our member programs, and educates the public at large. Our agency is Reno-based, but our member programs span the entire state.