

Mending the **Rainbow**: Working with the Native LGBT/Two-Spirit Community

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Learning Objectives

- Explain the GBLQ, Two Spirit, & Transgender Identities.
- Explain how Native culture interacts with GLBTQ2S Identities.
- Discuss intimate partner violence and myths.
- Discuss barriers and challenges for GLBTQ2S victims.
- Identify strategies and resources to assist GLBTQ2S individuals.

Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Queer, & Two-Spirit Definitions

- **Lesbian:** Woman whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional and/or spiritual attraction is to other women.
- **Gay:** Man whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional and/or spiritual attraction is to other men
- **Bisexual:** An individual who is physically, romantically, emotionally and/or spiritually attracted to men and women.

Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Queer, & Two-Spirit Definitions

- **Queer:** An inclusive term which refers collectively to lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender folks and others who may not identify with any of these categories but do identify with this term. While once used as a hurtful, oppressive term, many people have reclaimed it as an expression of power and pride
- **Two Spirit:** A contemporary term used to identify Native American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and some Transgender individuals with traditional and cultural understandings of gender roles and identity.

Two Spirit Definition

- Two Spirit term refers to Native American/Alaska Native Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual individuals.
- A contemporary term used to identify Native American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender individuals with traditional and cultural understandings of gender roles and identity.
- Encompassing term used is “Two Spirit” adopted in 1990 at the 3rd International Native Gay & Lesbian Gathering in Winnipeg, Canada.

Two Spirit Definition

- Term is from the *Anishinabe* language meaning to have both female and male spirits within one person.
- Has a different meaning in different communities.
- The term is used in rural and urban communities to describe the re-claiming of their traditional identity and roles.
- The term refer to culturally prescribed spiritual and social roles; however, the term is not applicable to all tribes

Two Spirit History

- Historically, NA/AN had alternative gender roles & responsibilities.
Community vs. Individual Gender vs. Sexuality
- Lakota view the *Wintke* as sacred people whose androgynous nature is an inborn character trait or the result of a vision.
Example: Lakota Naming Ceremony
- For many tribes, oral traditions revealed that Two-Spirit people were considered to exist by deities and/or were among the sacred beings.
Example: Navajo Creation Story The Separation of Sexes.
- After European contact, homophobia & acculturated worldviews of gender/sexuality were adopted.

Tribal Language & Two Spirit Terminology

- Tribal languages still use traditional names for Native LGBT/Two Spirit

Tribe	Term	Gender
Crow	boté	male
Navajo	nádleehee	male and female
Lakota	winkte	male
Zuni	Ihamana	male
Tongva	Wehee'ahiiken Kuuyat	male and female transgender (MTF)

Two Spirit History



We-Wha (Zuni)

1849-1896



Hastiin Klah (Diné)

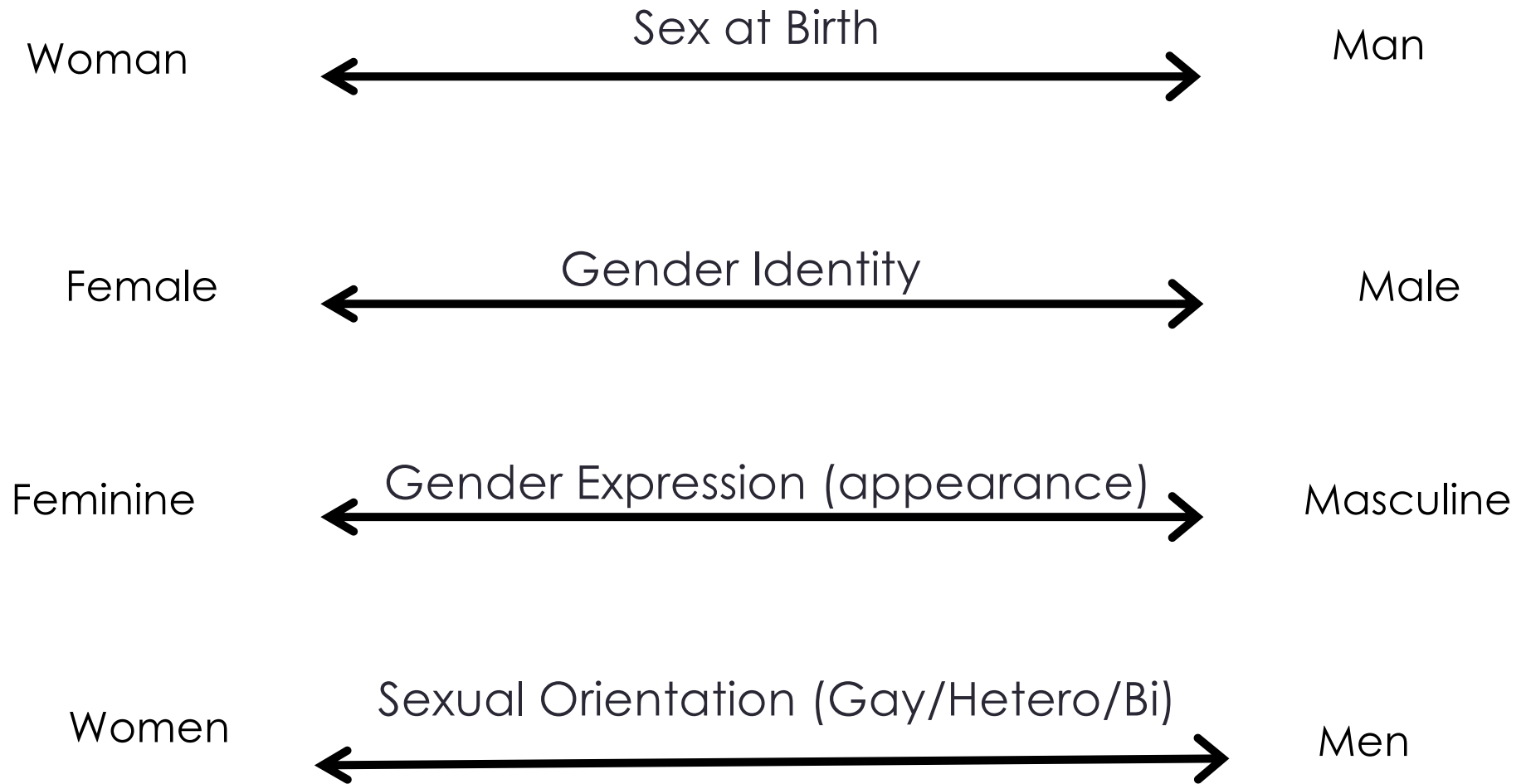
1867-1937



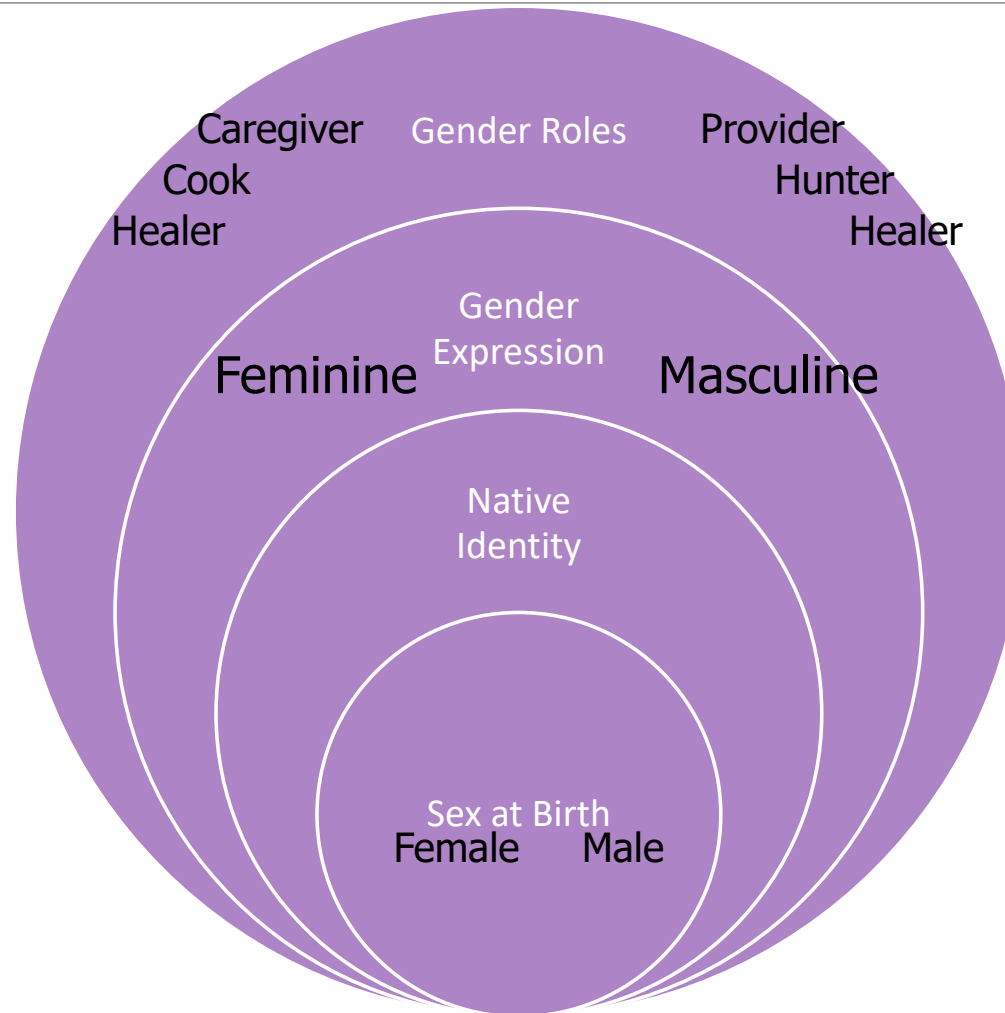
Pine Leaf (Crow)

1806-1858

Western/American Perspective



Native Perspective



NCAVP's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Intimate Partner Violence in 2016

- 15 LGBTQ intimate partner violence homicides and over 2,032 reports of intimate partner violence from LGBTQ survivors from 14 LGBTQ Anti-Violence organizations in 9 states with 2% (24 individuals) identifying as Native American/Indigenous.
- The most common types of violence that survivors reported experiencing were physical violence (19%), verbal harassment (18%), threats and intimidation (11%), isolation (9%), and online harassment (6%).
- Survivors reporting experiencing sexual violence increased from 4% in 2015 to 7% in 2016.
- Transgender women were 2.5 times more likely to be stalked, 2.5 times more likely to experience financial violence, and 2 times more likely to experience online harassment, compared to survivors who were not transgender women.

Common Myths of LGBT2S Victimization

Myth #1: Abusers are usually bigger, stronger or more “Butch” than their partners.

Myth #2: LGBT2S victims can easily leave abusive partners because they have no legal ties to them.

Myth #3: Transgender people wouldn't get hurt if they didn't dress or try to act like something they're not (e.g. If “he” didn't dress and act like a woman, “he” wouldn't get hurt).

Abusive Behaviors Particular to LGBT2S Violent Relationships

- “Outing” or threatening to out a partner to friends, family, employers, police or others.
- Reinforcing fears that no one will help a partner because s(he) is LGBT2S, or that for this reason, the partner “deserves” the abuse.
- Justifying abuse with the notion that the partner is not “really” LGBT2S.
 - i.e., s(he) may once have had or may still have relationships with other people, or express a gender identity inconsistent with the abuser’s definitions of those terms.

Abusive Behaviors Particular to LGBT2S Violent Relationships

- Telling the partner that abusive behavior is a normal part of LGBT2S relationships, or that it cannot be domestic violence because it is occurring between LGBT2S individuals.
- Portraying the violence as mutual or even consensual, especially if the partner attempts to defend against it, or as an expression of masculinity or some other “desirable” trait.
- A common attitude about abuse in LGBT2S relationships is that a “power differential” cannot be expressed because, in theory, people who share the same gender have the same amount of power.
 - However, in domestic violence a flow from some type of power differential exists, whether it be economic self-sufficiency, class, race/ethnicity, education, or health status.

Barriers to Addressing LGBT2S Domestic Violence

- Poor or inconsistent law enforcement response
- No access to family courts
- Lack of accessible and sensitive services
- Victims' fear of being "Outed" (publicly declaring or revealing another person's sexual identity without her/his consent)
- Victims' hopelessness or fear of reprisals
- Victims may not be aware that services dedicated to LGBT2S victims because LGBT anti-violence organizations lack the resources to publicize their services very widely.

Transgender Definition

Transgender is an umbrella term for persons whose gender identity, gender expression or behavior does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth.

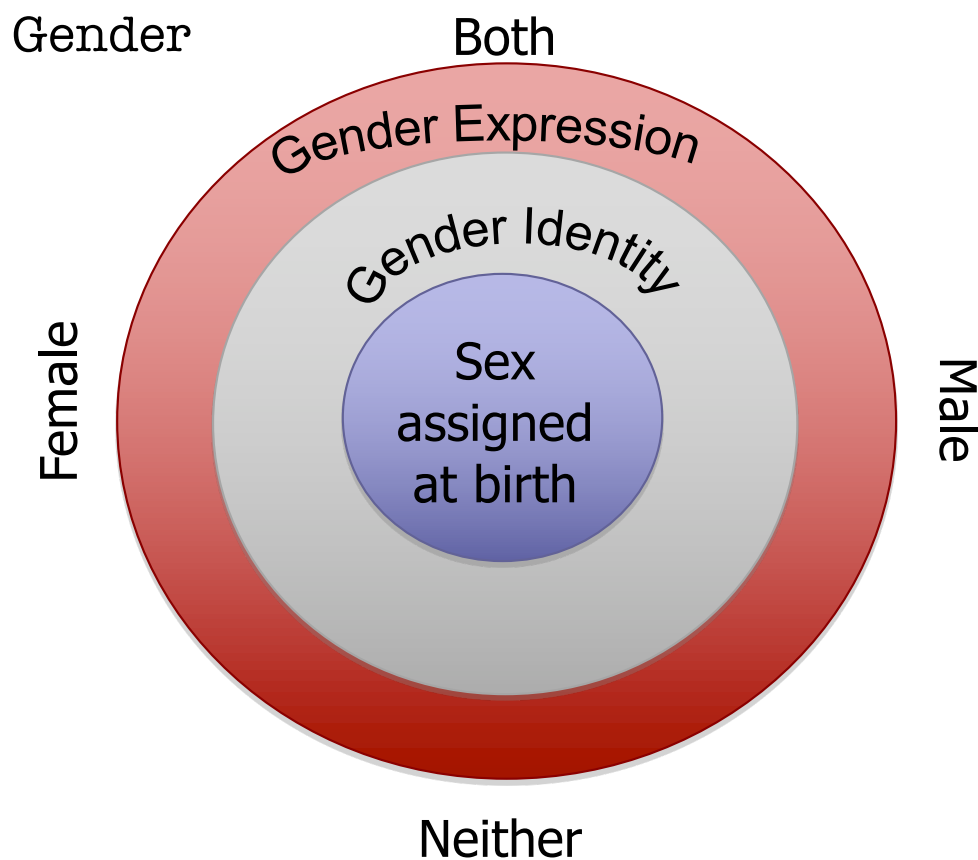
- Cross-dresser
- Transvestite/fetishist
- Drag king/Drag queen
- Androgynous
- Genderqueer
- Omni Gender
- Bi-gender
- Transgender
- Transsexual
- Transwoman/Transman
- Gender Non Conforming
- Gender Variant
- Gender Fluid

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Basic Concepts

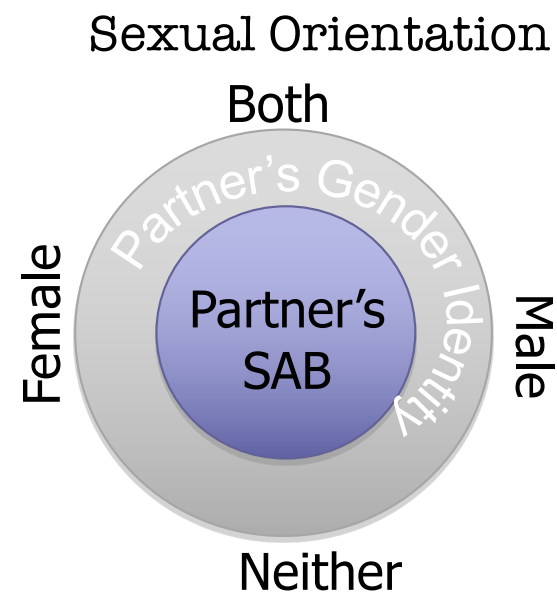
- *Sex (assigned at birth)*
- Gender Identity
- Gender Expression
- Sexual Orientation

Where Do I Fit?



Each of us has one (or more):

1. Sex assigned at birth
2. Gender identity
3. Gender expression
4. Sexual orientation



2015 U.S. Transgender Survey : Report on Experiences of AI/AN Respondents

- Education: K-12
 - 92% experienced mistreatment, such as being verbally harrassed, prohibited from dressing according to their gender identity, disciplined more harshly, or physically or sexually assaulted because people thought they were transgender
 - 69% were verbally harrassed
 - 49% were physically attacked
 - 24% were sexually assaulted
- Family - 55% were generally supportive
 - 60% experienced at least one form of family rejection
 - 18% ran away from home due to being Trans

www.ustranssurvey.org/reports

2015 U.S. Transgender Survey : Report on Experiences of AI/AN Respondents

- 23% of AI/AN respondents were unemployed
- 41% of AI/AN respondents were living in poverty
- 57% of AI/AN respondents have experienced homelessness
- 21% of AI/AN respondents have lost a job because of being Transgender
- 65% of AI/AN respondents have been sexually assaulted
- 50 % of AI/AN respondents have had negative healthcare experience
- 46% of AI/AN respondents experienced serious psychological distress

www.ustranssurvey.org/reports

2015 U.S. Transgender Survey : Report on Experiences of AI/AN Respondents

- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Sources of income
- Military Service
- Individual and household income
- Sex work and other underground Economy Work
- Experiences in workplace
- Housing, Homelessness, & Shelter Access
- Public Accommodations
- Harassment and Violence
- Police Interactions and Prisons
- Health
- Identity Documents

www.ustranssurvey.org/reports

| Healthcare for Transgender Individuals

- Hormones- how young? If you get ?'s
- Gender confirmation Surgery
- Mental Health – seeking services
- Overall Health – school clinics? LGBTQ
- MTF – prostate, breast exams, Heart, Hormones
- FTM – pap smears, hysterectomy, top surgery
- Asking appropriate Questions
- Educational Settings, Hospitals, Clinics, Therapy Care, Assisted Living, Retirement Homes, Shelters, etc.

Inappropriate Terms

- Fag
- Queer(for some who don't use the term)
- Tranny
- She-male
- He-she
- Hermaphrodite
- It

Things to Remember:

- Be mindful of GLBT people in office or waiting rooms
- Don't police public restrooms
- Don't ask about a Transgender person's genitals unless it has to do DIRECTLY with the care or treatment they are seeking from you!
- Trans people identify as queer, straight, bi, gay, lesbian, asexual, pansexual, etc., just as non-trans people do!
- Respectfully ask someone how they would like to be addressed
- Paperwork/Documents, Policies/Procedures, Data, Safety, Laws

Appropriate Data Collection

► **What sex were you assigned at birth?**

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Decline to State

► **What is your sex or current gender? (Check all that apply)**

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ TransMale/Transman

☐ TransFemale/Transwoman

☐ Genderqueer

☐ Additional Category (Please Specify): _____

☐ Decline to State

| The “Phobias” Definitions

- **“Homophobia** encompasses a range of negative attitudes and feelings toward homosexuality or people who are identified or perceived as being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). It has been defined as contempt, prejudice, aversion, hatred or antipathy, may be based on irrational fear, and is often related to religious beliefs.”
- **“Transphobia** is a range of negative attitudes, feelings or actions toward transgender or transsexual people, or toward transsexuality. Transphobia can be emotional disgust, fear, violence, anger or discomfort felt or expressed towards people who do not conform to society's gender expectations.”
- **“Biphobia** is aversion toward bisexuality and toward bisexual people as a social group or as individuals. It can take the form of denial that bisexuality is a genuine sexual orientation, or of negative stereotypes about people who are bisexual (such as the beliefs that they are promiscuous or dishonest).”

How to be an Ally & Provider

- Never deny a GLBT person care or service because of your personal beliefs!
- Treat GLBT people with the courtesy & respect you would like to be treated with.
- Be aware that Transgender people may have a name or other information on records that may be incongruent with appearance or preferred name and pronoun.
- Resist the urge to place others into a male box or female box....gender stereotypes suck for everyone, not just Transgender people!

How can we “Mend the *Rainbow*”

-
- Create supportive systems
 - Build Trust
 - Honor Traditions and Culture
 - Eliminate Homophobia / Transphobia
 - Educate Services and Law Enforcement of Special Issues, i.e. same partner domestic violence, etc.
 - Reassess Protective Protocols, i.e. shelters, jails, hospitals, services
 - Identify appropriate Resources
 - Become knowledgeable in LGBT State, Federal, & Tribal Laws
 - Creating Tribal ordinances and/or policies to protect Native LGBT/Two Spirit people
 - Address Homelessness, Substance Use/Abuse, Same Partner Violence, Discrimination, Hate, HIV/AIDS & STI, Employment, Adequate Healthcare, etc.

Strategies For Supporting LGBT2S

- Avoid being judgmental—keep an open mind
- Address your own phobia and biases
- Ask questions and be willing to learn
- Recognize that LGBT2S people are often especially vulnerable to being targets of violence.
- Be honest with your feelings, concerns and wishes with LGBT2S and about the risks that they may place themselves in

| Strategies For Supporting LGBT2S

- Include LGBT2S people in all aspects of community life and cultural activities
- Assist in finding the local traditional roles that LGBT2S played or held in your community, prior to European contact
- Speak out against homophobia, transphobia, hate crimes, including jokes against LGBT2S people.
- Encourage and support LGBT2S people to share their stories of domestic violence and hate crime experiences

Strategies For Supporting LGBT2S

- Support LGBT2S victims of domestic violence and hate crimes by listening and by being empathetic
- Encourage the media to report accurately and on all crimes of hate
- Educate young people to not tolerate violence and hate against anyone

Resources – Organizations

- **National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs**
24-Hour Hotline 212-714-1141 www.avp.org
- **NCAVP's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Intimate Partner Violence in 2016**
<http://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/NCAVP-IPV-Report-2016.pdf>
- **GLBTQ Domestic Violence Project** 24-Hour DV Hotline: 800-832-1901
Sexual Assault Help Line: 617-779-2179 www.glbtqdv.org
- **Southwest Indigenous Women's Coalition LGBT Advisory Council**
www.swiwc.org

Resources – Organizations

- National Indigenous Women's Resource Center www.niwrc.org
- Tribal Law and Policy Institute www.tlpi.org
- National Transgender Center for Equality www.transequality.org
- National Gay and Lesbian Task Force www.thetaskforce.org
- Transgender Law Center www.transgenderlawcenter.org
- Center for Excellence for Transgender Health, University of California, San Francisco www.transhealth.ucsf.edu

Resources

Injustice at Every Turn, Executive Summary

www.thetaskforce.org/static_html/downloads/reports/reports/ntds_summary.pdf

US Trans Survey 2015, Executive Summary

www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-Executive-Summary-Dec17.pdf

AIDS United Consensus Statement

www.aidsunited.org/resources/stepping-up-a-consensus-statement-by-trans-leaders

Office of Victims and Crime

www.ovc.gov/pubs/forg/sexual_numbers.htmlhttps://www.ovc.gov/pubs/forg/e/tips_five_keys.html

www.ovc.gov/pubs/forg/printerFriendlyPDF/tips.pdf

Resources – Toolkits

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs

Community Action Toolkit for Addressing Intimate Partner Violence Against People of Color

Community Action Toolkit for Addressing Intimate Partner Violence Against Transgender People

www.avp.org/about-avp/coalitions-a-collaborations/82-national-coalition-of-anti-violence-programs

Tribal Equity Toolkit: Tribal Resolutions and Codes to Support Two Spirit/LGBT Justice in Indian Country

Bias-Motivated (Hate) Crimes

Criminal Offenses with Bias Motive

Prohibiting Specific Actions

Enhanced Penalties

Bias-Motivated Crime Reporting and Training

https://graduate.lclark.edu/programs/indigenous_ways_of_knowing/tribal_equity_toolkit

Resources – Toolkits

***Celebrating Our Magic* Toolkit**
**Indian Health Services, Northwest Portland Area Indian
Health Board**

A culturally-specific resource for American Indian & Alaska Native communities that aims to provide resources for LGBTQ and Two-Spirit youth, their relatives, and their healthcare providers.

<http://www.npaihb.org/2slgbtq/#print>

Questions and/or Comments



Ahe'hee (Thank you)