



SUPPORTING QUEER AND TRANS SURVIVORS



NAME: COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA VIRTUAL DV CONFERENCE

DATE: OCT 30TH 11:30-1:30 PST

LOCATION: VIRTUAL



OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

- I. Introduction question
- II. CUAV History & Services
- III. Key Terminology
- IV. Myths about IPV/DV in LGBTQI Relationships
- V. Power and Control Wheel + Tactics of abuse
- VI. DV Assessment tools
- VII. Understanding Violence
- VIII. Barriers to Accessing Services
- IX. Key Principles for Supporting LGBTQI Survivors
- X. Take-aways + Questions



INTRODUCTION POLL QUESTION

What best describes your role in the community?
(check one)

1. Community Member
2. Non profit service provider
3. Government staffer
4. Law enforcement
5. Other



CUAV HISTORY

Community United Against Violence (CUAV)

Mission: Founded in 1979, CUAV works to build the power of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) communities to transform violence and oppression. We support the healing and leadership of those impacted by abuse and mobilize our broader communities to replace cycles of trauma with cycles of safety and liberation. As part of the larger social justice movement, CUAV works to create truly safe communities where everyone can thrive.

Vision: CUAV envisions a safe, resilient world where everyone can thrive. We live in powerful communities organized around collective liberation, not abuse or exploitation. Violence and trauma become opportunities to practice individual and collective transformation. Every living thing is valued as a vital part of a larger whole.



OUR SERVICES

Peer Counseling

- Short term 1 on 1 counseling
- Advocacy-based

Support Groups

- Take Care Tuesday
- Healing Through Art and Mindfulness
- Mindful Movement for POC Healing

Trainings

- Supporting Queer and Trans survivors
- Transgender 101
- Understanding Violence
- Arts-based healing for survivors

Leadership Development

- Survivors Advocating for Freedom Today (Saf-T)

Coalitions

- National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)
- San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium (DVC)
- Full Rights Empowerment and Equality - San Francisco (FREE SF)
- No New SF Jail Coalition
- CPEDV
- Our Trans Home



KEY TERMS

- **Sexual orientation:** what genders someone is attracted to romantically and sexually
- **Gender identity:** someone's internal sense of what gender they are
- **Gender expression:** how someone presents their relationship to gender, including appearance, dress, and behavior. Someone's gender expression at any given time may not align with their internal gender identity.
- **Cisgender:** a term used for a person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with their birth sex.
- **Lesbian:** Gender specific term referring specifically to women who are attracted to other women.
- **Gay:** Can be used as an informal way of referring to queer people, those attracted to people of the same gender. Also refers specifically to men who are attracted to other men.
- **Bisexual:** Being attracted to people of two or more genders. For some the term is a parallel/alternative to homosexuality and heterosexuality, while for others the term expresses a blend of the two.
- **Pansexual:** Being attracted to all or many genders
- **Queer:** Formerly used as a slur to refer to gays and lesbians in an extremely derogatory way. Has now been reclaimed by the younger generation in the LGBT community, and new scholars of gender/sexuality, as a kind of anti-identity politics that breaks down the sexual binary by acknowledging the fluidity of sexuality. Used also as an umbrella term to encompass LGBTQ communities.
- **Transgender:** a term used to describe people whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth
- **Transsexual:** A person who has changed or wants to change their sex. MTF, FTM, post-op, pre-op, non-op (hormones and surgery also bring up issues of access – race/class)
- **Two-Spirit:** A term for third gender people used in many, if not most, Native American and Canadian First Nations tribes. It is also a contemporary term used to identify Native American LGBT individuals. The term is used in rural and urban communities to describe the re-claiming of their traditional identity and roles.
- **Intersex:** general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male
- **Gender non-conforming, genderqueer, non-binary:** A term describing a person who does not conform to cultural and social expectations about gender.
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Reflection question:

What are some of the myths you've heard about Domestic Violence in LGBTQI+ Relationships? (check all that apply)

1. Domestic Violence is not common in queer and trans communities.
2. It isn't really violence when a same sex couple fights. It is just a "lover's quarrel" between equals.
3. The person abusing will always be butch, bigger, stronger. The survivor will always be femme, smaller, weaker.
4. It is easier for queer and trans survivors of domestic violence to leave than it is for heterosexual counterparts who are married. If it were really that bad, they would just leave.
5. I haven't heard of any



MYTHS

Myth #1 Domestic Violence is not common in queer and trans communities .

The Truth Is: Best estimates of domestic violence research and statistics show that queer and trans people experience abuse in relationships at a rate of 25 – 32% (basically the same percentage as in the heterosexual community). Given that at least 1 in 3 queer and trans people have experienced DV, we can assume that there will always be at least someone in our lives that has been affected by DV.

Myth #2 It isn't really violence when a same sex couple fights. It is just a "lover's quarrel" between equals.

The Truth Is: There is nothing equal or fair about domestic violence. In DV, one person maintains a pattern of power and control. Further, dismissing domestic violence as "just a lover's quarrel" trivializes the violence and gives tacit consent for it to continue. Just because the two people are the same gender, does not make it a fight between "equals." In addition, it is a myth that same-sex DV is "mutual"; DV survivors who fight back to defend themselves are not maintaining a pattern of power and control



MYTHS Con't

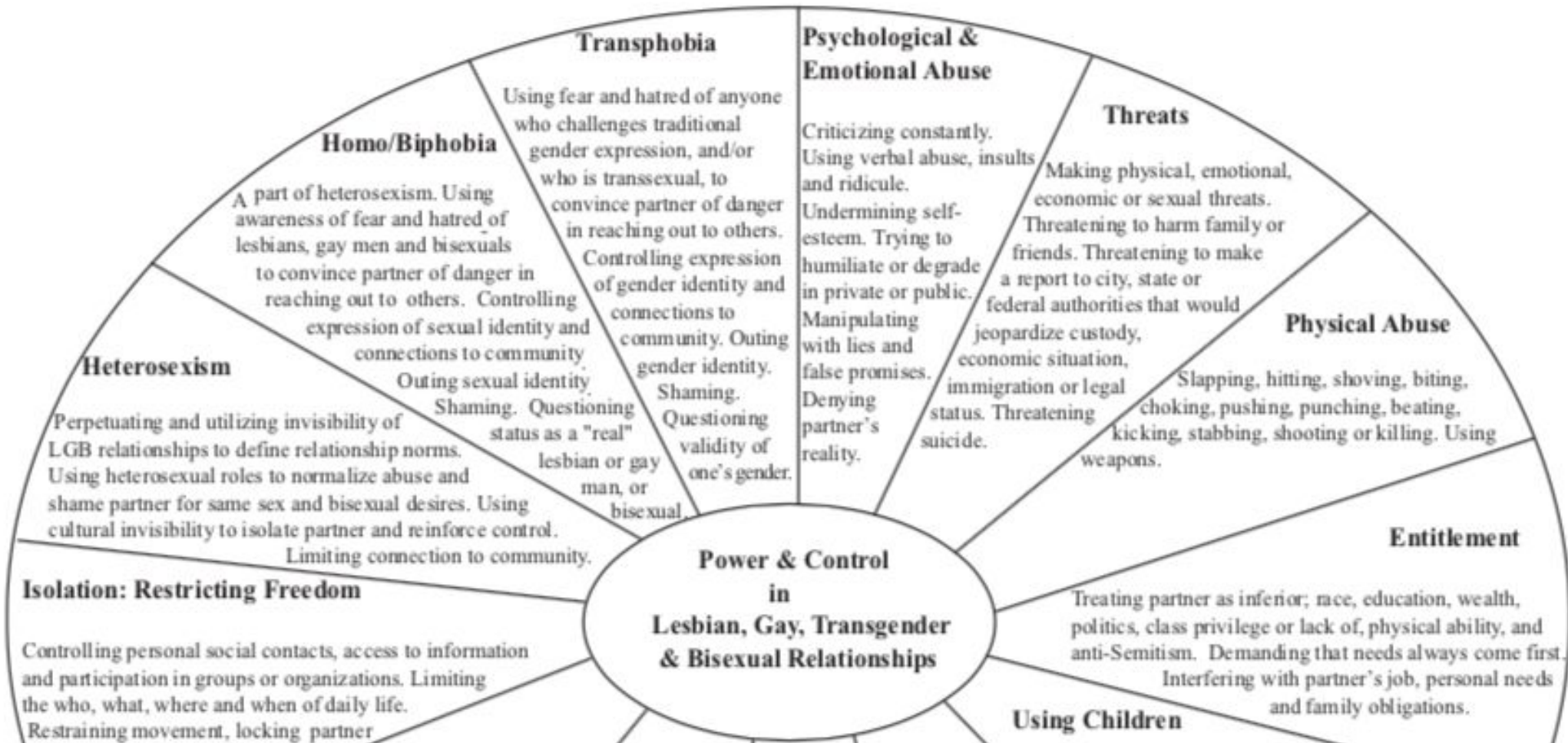
Myth #3 The person abusing will always be butch, bigger, stronger. The survivor will always be femme, smaller, weaker.

The Truth Is: Size, weight, butch, femme, or any other physical attribute or role is not an indicator of whether or not a person will abuse or not. A person who is 5'2" could maintain a pattern of power and control over someone who may be taller, heavier, stronger and presenting in the masculine spectrum. DV is not about single incidents of violence; therefore, it does not matter how any of the parties are perceived to be or look like.

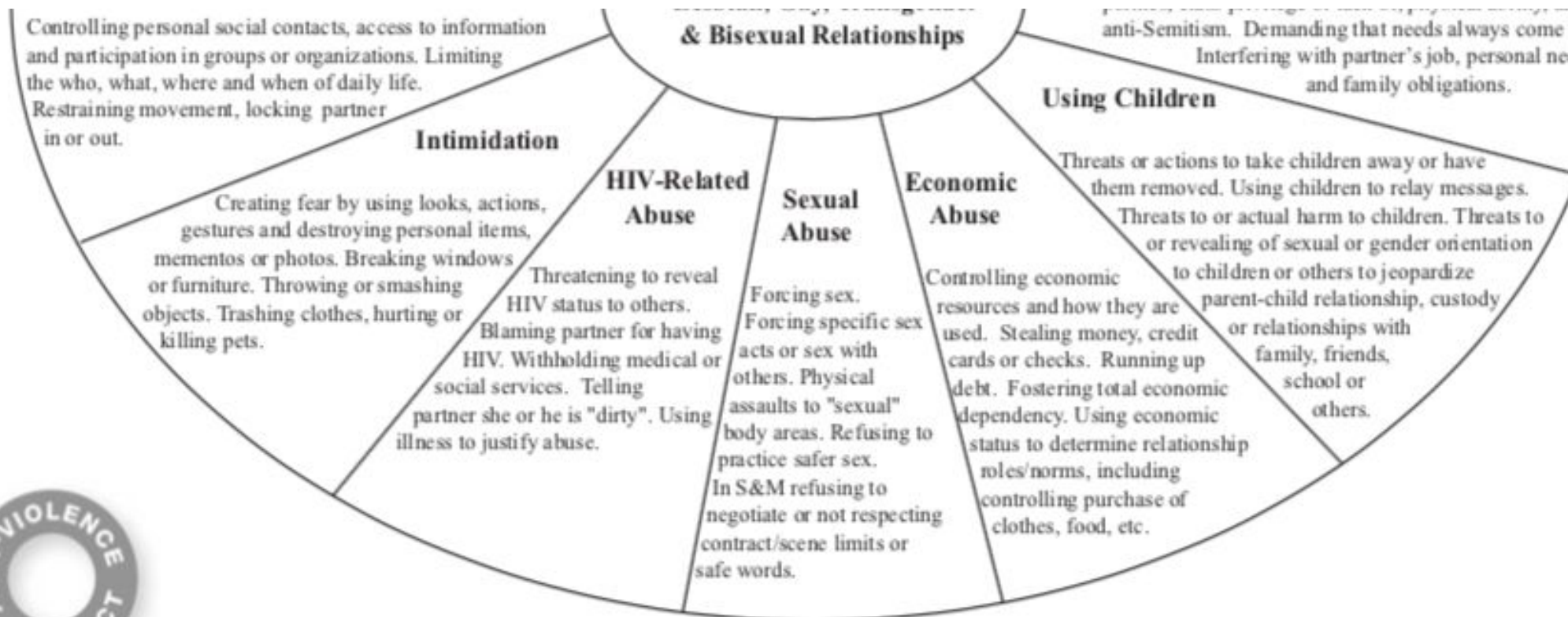
Myth #4 It is easier for lgbtqi+ survivors of domestic violence to leave than it is for heterosexual counterparts who are married. If it were really that bad, they would just leave.

The Truth Is: Queer and Trans relationships can be as serious and committed as heterosexual couples or marriages. There is also a false assumption that leaving a relationship is the survivor's ideal answer to the abuse. In any DV dynamic, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, leaving constitutes more isolation for the survivor and sometimes more danger than staying; leaving a partner who abuses also means leaving one's home, family, friends, children and community. Social oppression (heterosexism, classism, ableism, ageism, etc) further increases isolation for survivors.

POWER AND CONTROL IN LGBTQI RELATIONSHIPS



POWER AND CONTROL IN LGBTQI RELATIONSHIPS





TACTICS OF ABUSE

- **Isolation and Outing**

- Threatening to “out” a person is a powerful tool of control

- **Using Vulnerabilities**

- Someone who uses abuse may coerce their partner to stay and care for them

- **Using Children**

- Many states LGBTQI people are not allowed to be the legal parent of their children

- **Using Small Communities**

- Small number of open & affirming community spaces to monitor or ostracize the survivor

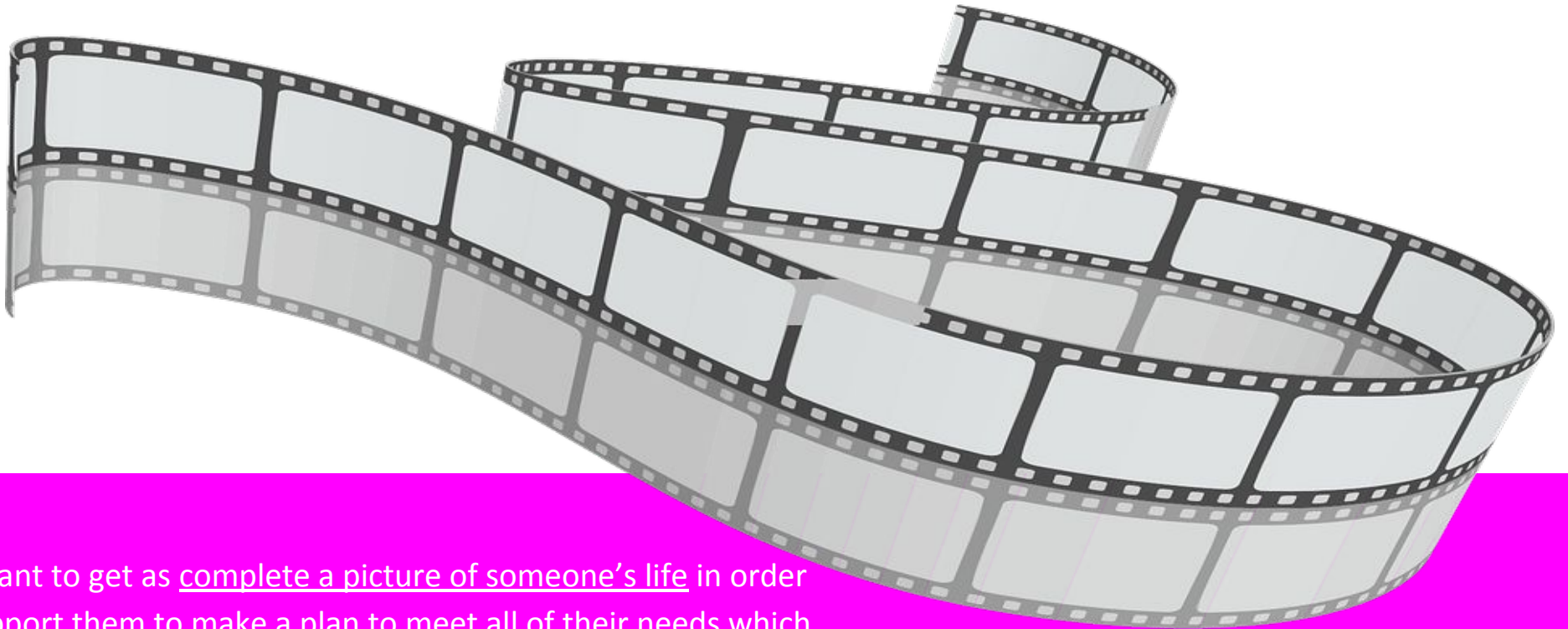
- **Using Immigration Status**

- Threats to call ICE

- **Leveraging Institutional Violence/ Isolation**

- State violence has historically been used against LGBTQ people

MOVIE VS. SNAPSHOT



We want to get as complete a picture of someone's life in order to support them to make a plan to meet all of their needs which could include **DV support, mental health support, basic needs, legal advocacy, housing, etc.**



DV ASSESSMENT TIPS

Many people have the misconception that the larger, more masculine-looking or masculine identified partner is the batterer in same-sex abusive relationships. However, gender identity and presentation do not determine one's behavioral patterns with regard to power, control and abuse.



DV ASSESSMENT TIPS

Be cautious and self-aware about any stereotypes, biases, prejudices, or assumptions that you may bring to your work.

The focus should be on determining behavioral patterns and the feelings behind them, rather than on making determinations based on the individual's appearance or identity.



DV ASSESSMENT TIPS

- Movie not snapshot
- Talk with co-workers + others
- Check your assumptions
- Intuition, Body Language, and noticing how we feel



UNDERSTANDING VIOLENCE



Determined to Survive: CUAV Stories

CUAV CUAV

Values:

Liberation
Healing
Transformation
Mutual Safety
Community
Leadership



What are some barriers that queer and trans survivors may experience in accessing services? (check all that apply)

1. Turned away for services due to gender or sexual orientation
2. No lgbtqi+ specific programs/excluded from programs
3. Getting misgendered
4. Lack of knowledge of services that can meet their needs
5. All the above

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SUPPORT



Some barriers that queer and trans survivors face when accessing services

- Not having their gender / pronouns respected
- Being turned away from services because of their gender or sexual orientation
- Not feeling safe in a space
- Not knowing where to go to get their needs met
- Not having their relationship or themselves taken seriously
- Feeling judgment
- A lot of trans women, especially Black trans women, tend to be turned away at shelters (either it's difficult to place them in a shelter or they can't stay too long because they're not built to support them)
- Non profit spaces are not built to support or culturally competent to support black trans women
- Lack of language justice (for survivors that speak languages besides Spanish)
- Survivors might not be believed
- DV isolation when the person using the violence uses the resource first



KEY PRINCIPLES FOR SUPPORTING LGBTQI SURVIVORS

1. Respect pronouns and names
2. Survivors are experts of their lives and their safety
3. Acknowledge the rich diversity within the LGBTQI+ communities [i.e. sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression]
 4. We cannot change anyone or their behavior
 - a. We can only change ourselves and be responsible for our own behavior
 5. Counter isolation through non-shaming
 6. The abuser/survivor binary does not equal bad/good
 - a. People are complex and we want to affirm all parts of survivors' experiences while acknowledging that people who have been violent can change if they decide to change
 7. Ask respectful questions
 8. Notice your personal bias
 9. Have a critical lens around the intersections of violence and gender
 10. You cannot turn someone away for services because they are transgender*
 11. Understand your own power and privilege to becoming a better ally!



WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR
TAKE-AWAYS?



THANK YOU,

OFFICE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND
THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL !!!

YOU CAN REACH US AT

GLORIA@CUAV.ORG OR KYLE@CUAV.ORG

Stay Connected with CUAV!

Website: www.cuav.org

Instagram: [cuav_sf](https://www.instagram.com/cuav_sf)

Facebook: [cuav.bayarea](https://www.facebook.com/cuav.bayarea)

Twitter: [cuav](https://twitter.com/cuav)

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