



# Welcome

## Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex Survivors Following a Sexual Assault

July 29, 2016, 12pm-1pm

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with Significant Contributions from **The Network/La Red**

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The session will be recorded. The session will begin shortly.



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Office for Victims of Crime  
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Transforming The Care of Sexual Assault Survivors

**OVCTTAC**

OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME Training and Technical Assistance Center



## **POLL:** How would you describe your professional discipline?

- Police
- District Attorney/Legal
- Advocate
- SANE Nurse
- Non-SANE Nurse
- Social Worker
- Administration
- Federal Agency/OVC
- Other



# **SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN LGBTQ COMMUNITIES: *WHY IT MATTERS***

- LGBTQ individuals experience disproportionate rates of sexual harassment, childhood sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation, sexual violence while in institutional settings, and gang rape
- LGBTQ individuals experience disproportionate rates of sexual violence in contexts where their straight and/or cisgender counterparts may have little statistical reason to fear such violence – for example, in the context of hate crimes or of police brutality
- LGBTQ individuals may experience multiple forms of overlapping violence & abuse



## The Alphabet

**L**esbian

**G**ay

**B**isexual

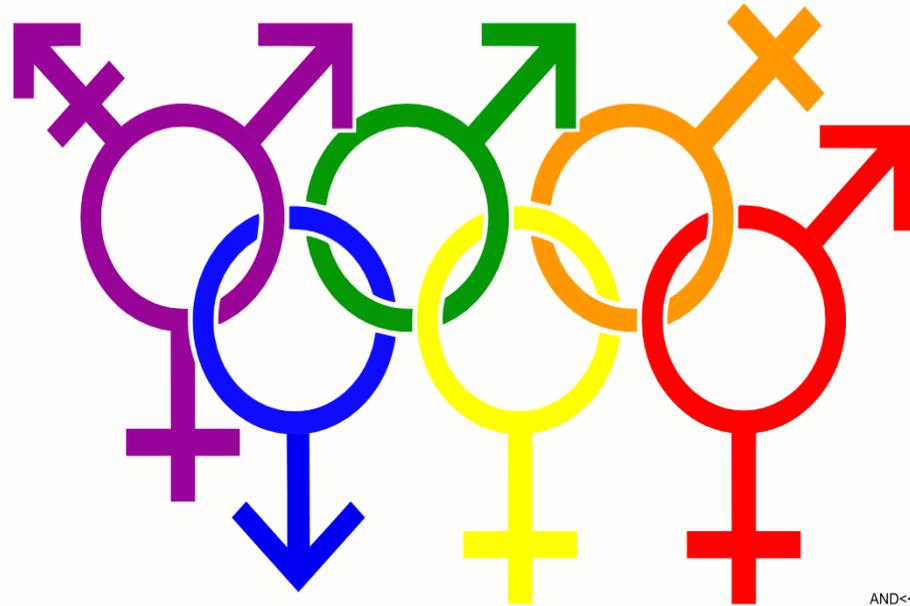
**Q**ueer

**Q**uestioning

**T**rans

**I**ntersex

**A**sexual



AND<<



Transforming The Care of Sexual Assault Survivors



## Sexual Orientation & Behavior

- Pattern of emotional or sexual attraction
- Fixed for some people, while perhaps fluid for others and changeable over the course of the lifespan
- May, or may not, be congruent with behavior
  - *Straight/Pata*
  - *Gay/Maricón*
  - *Lesbian/Lesbiana*
  - *Bisexual*
  - *Queer*
  - *Questioning*
  - *Asexual*
  - *Pansexual/Omnisexual*



# Sex vs. Gender

## Sex

- Biological characteristics of being male or female
- Reproductive anatomy & secondary sex characteristics
- Assigned at birth

## Gender

- The characteristics that communities and cultures decide are “masculine” or “feminine”

Men/boys
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Masculine</li><li>•Independent</li><li>•Aggressive</li><li>•Competitive</li><li>•Strong</li><li>•Self-Confident</li><li>•Funny</li></ul>

Women/girls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Feminine</li><li>•Emotional</li><li>•Sensitive</li><li>•Nurturing</li><li>•Passive</li><li>•Dependent</li><li>•Quiet</li></ul>



## Gender Identity & Expression

- Gender **identity** describes how someone conceives of themselves
- Gender identity may or may not match biological sex or gender legally assigned at birth
- Gender **expression** describes how one expresses or “performs” their gender identity
  - *Cisgender*
  - *Transgender Man*
  - *Transgender Woman*
  - *MTF*
  - *FTM*
  - *GenderQueer*
  - *Androgynous*
  - *Third Gender*
  - *Drag King*
  - *Drag Queen*
  - *Cross Dresser*
  - *Butch*
  - *Femme*



## Transgender Man

- A person whose assigned sex at birth was female and gender was girl
- Transitions to live full time as a man.
- May use terms such as:
  - female to male [FTM] transsexual
  - transgender man
  - transsexual man
  - transman
  - man
- Prefers pronouns “he,” “his,” and “him.”
- Please do not use offensive terms such as:
  - “man who is really a woman”
  - “he-she”
  - “shim”
  - “shemale”



Slide Content: The Network/La Red



## Transgender Woman

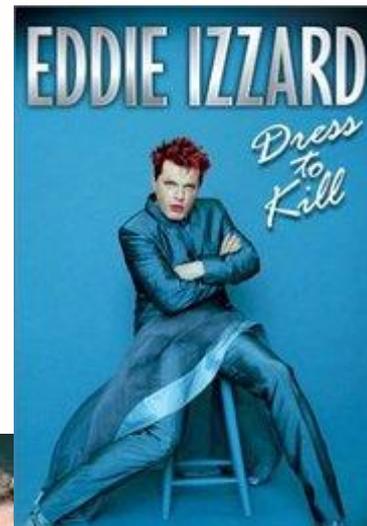
- A person whose assigned sex at birth was male and gender at birth was boy
- Transitions to live full time as a woman.
- May use terms such as:
  - male to female [MTF] transsexual
  - transsexual woman
  - transwoman
  - woman
- Prefers the pronouns “she,” “her,” and “hers.”
- Please do not use offensive terms like:
  - “woman who is really a man”
  - “shemale”
  - “he-she”
  - “shim”



Slide Content: The Network/La Red

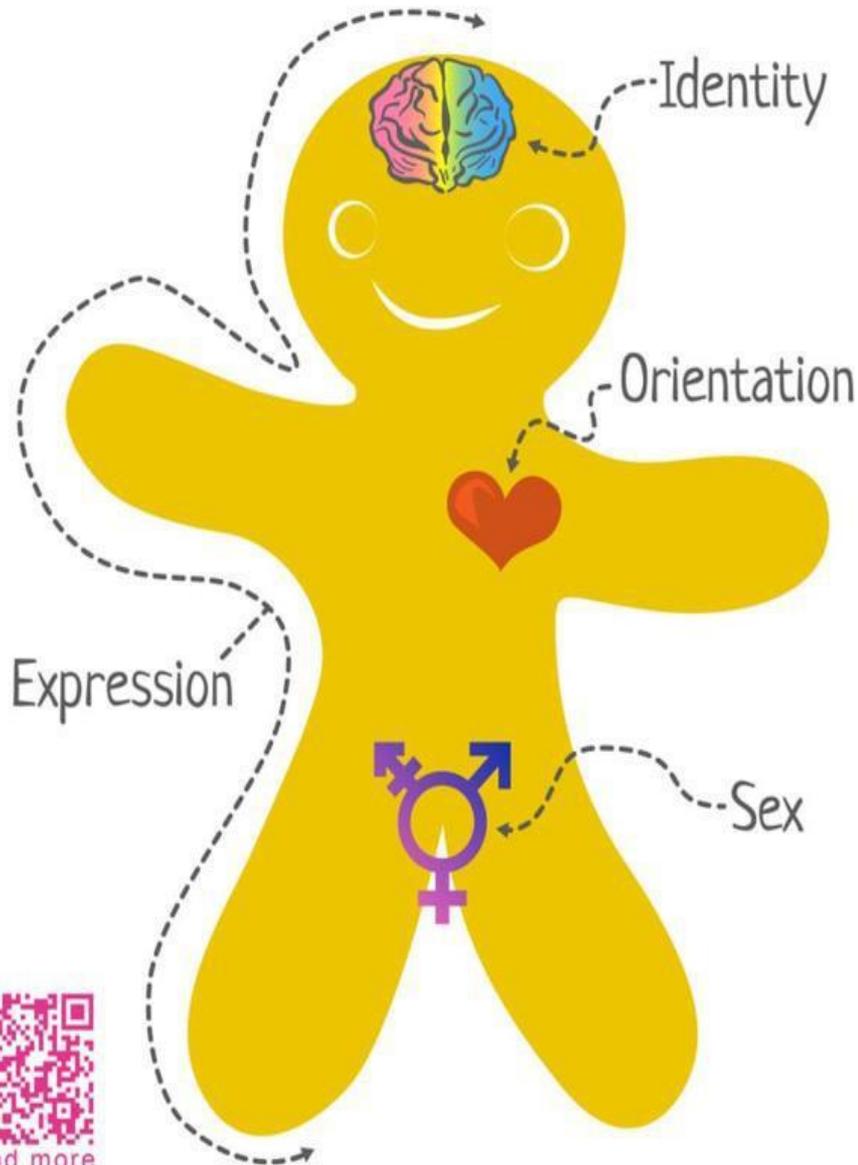


# OVC TTAC



# The Genderbread Person

by [www.ItsPronouncedMetrosexual.com](http://www.ItsPronouncedMetrosexual.com)



## Gender Identity



Gender identity is how you, in your head, think about yourself. It's the chemistry that composes you (e.g., hormonal levels) and how you interpret what that means.

## Gender Expression



Gender expression is how you demonstrate your gender (based on traditional gender roles) through the ways you act, dress, behave, and interact.

## Biological Sex



Biological sex refers to the objectively measurable organs, hormones, and chromosomes. Female = vagina, ovaries, XX chromosomes; male = penis, testes, XY chromosomes; intersex = a combination of the two.

## Sexual Orientation



Sexual orientation is who you are physically, spiritually, and emotionally attracted to, based on their sex/gender in relation to your own.



## Medical Transitions

### Reasons to Transition

#### Medically

- Appearing to conform may lessen the possibility for discrimination/assault
- May help some trans individuals to feel more comfortable in their own bodies
- May aid legal process in some jurisdictions

### Barriers/Reasons not to Transition Medically

- Lack of access to appropriate and culturally responsive healthcare
- Cost
- Health impact/Medical contraindications
- May create immigration challenges
- Questions of faith



## Intersex Conditions or DSD

- Children who experience intersex conditions, or disorders of sexual development (DSD), are born with external genitalia, or internal reproductive organs, that are not considered “standard” for either males or females.
- Approximately 1 in 2,000 babies are born with DSD in the USA each year.
- Most intersex people identify as men or women.



\*Adapted from **Intersex Initiative** (IPDX) and \*Adapted from “Introduction to intersex activism” from Intersex Society of North America [www.isna.org](http://www.isna.org)



# **BARRIERS TO SERVICES FOR LGBTQ SURVIVORS**

- Silence and invisibility of same-sex sexual violence
- Internalized homo/bi/transphobia
- Fear of being outed
- Fear of losing community support
- Fear of being disbelieved
- Fear of airing the community's "dirty laundry"
- Fear of being retraumatized or revictimized by system's gatekeepers
- Continuing context of discrimination and oppression





# Strategies for Working with All Patients

## So You Can Better Serve LGBTQ Patients

- Embrace humility and radical compassion
- Examine your feelings, prejudices, biases and attitudes towards LGBTQ individuals
- Validate all patients seeking services
- Believe LGBTQ patients, just as you would straight/cisgender patients
- Do not assume gender identity/sexual orientation of any patient
- Respect name and preferred pronouns – even if it doesn't match the EHR
- Mirror language, where respectful
- Do not force a disclosure of sexual orientation





# Strategies for Working with All Patients

## So You Can Better Serve LGBTQ Patients

- Keep an ear out for internalized homo/bi/transphobia
- Use gender inclusive language
- Discuss safety planning with an awareness of the multiple kinds of violence and abuse LGBTQ people may experience
- Be aware that the referrals you might offer straight/cisgender patients might not be safe for LGBTQ patients
- Be realistic about the homo/bi/transphobia in the service systems that the survivor may encounter. (And where relevant, be transparent about other institutionalized forms of oppression as well.)



## Best Programmatic Practices

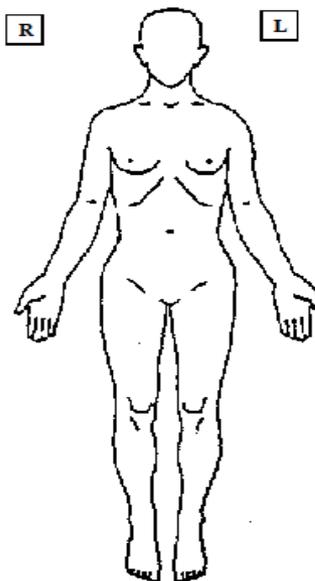
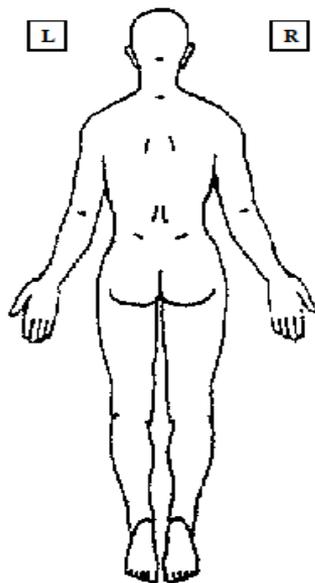
- Examine hiring policies to ensure inclusion
- Let all survivors know you are LGBTQ- and male-inclusive
  - intake, policies, website, pamphlets, posters, information
- Validate experiences of discrimination
- Interrupt discrimination from coworkers, police, or others on the multidisciplinary team
- Let the survivor know it is not their fault
- Network with LGBTQ organizations
- Take guidance and leadership from LGBTQ organizations and program on policy, protocols, and practice
- Share your social capital





## ANATOMICAL DIAGRAMS-SKIN SURFACE ASSESSMENT

Utilize diagrams to document all injuries and findings including cuts, lacerations, bruises, abrasions, redness, swelling, bites, burns, scars and stains/foreign material on patient's body. Distinguish pre-existing injuries from those resulting from the incident. Record size, color and appearance of all injuries. If an Alternate Light Source is used to assist in visualizing secretions, denote areas of (+)findings with "+ALS".



Case Number  
ORIGINALS-EXAMINER

YELLOW COPY-INVESTIGATOR

Initials of Examiner  
PINK COPY-LAB



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## Additional Resources

### LGBTQ Anti-Violence Organizations

- National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs – [www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org)
- Communities United Against Violence – [www.cuav.org](http://www.cuav.org)
- The Northwest Network – [www.nwnetwork.org](http://www.nwnetwork.org)
- Violence Recovery Program at Fenway Health – <http://fenwayhealth.org/care/behavioral-health/vrp/>
- The Network/La Red – [www.tnlr.org](http://www.tnlr.org)
- Also, FORGE (Trans-specific) – [www.forgeforward.org](http://www.forgeforward.org)
  - Not a direct service organization, but can connect survivors to transgender-responsive anti-abuse services throughout the country.

### In addition:

- Many, but not all, rape crisis centers that are good with men are also good with LGBTQ survivors of sexual assault/abuse.
- *Male Survivor.org* and *1 in 6* are responsible national organizations that provide virtual community and connection to all men, including affirmative services for gay and bisexual men.



## Additional Resources

### Books about Sexual Violence in LGBTQ Communities

- *Queering Sexual Violence* by Jennifer Patterson
- *Does She Call It Rape: Woman to Woman Sexual Violence* by Lori Girshick
- *Joining Forces* by Howard Fradkin (specifically for male survivors, but an excellent resource for gay and bisexual men)

### Trans-Specific Resources

- FORGE (Trans-specific) – [www.forgeforward.org](http://www.forgeforward.org)
  - Excellent resource for professionals seeking guidance on violence against transgender individuals
- *Trans Bodies, Trans Selves* by Laura Erickson-Schroth
- “TRANSforming Healthcare” – a film about transgender access to culturally responsive healthcare by Frameline Films



## Additional Resources

### Intersex/DSD Resources

- The Intersex Society of North America - [www.isna.org](http://www.isna.org)
- The Survivor Project - [www.survivorproject.org](http://www.survivorproject.org)
  - Indeed anything by Emi Koyama
- *As Nature Made Him* by John Colapinto



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