



MEDIA RELEASE

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REPORT OF HATE VIOLENCE AGAINST LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER (LGBTQ) COMMUNITIES RELEASED TODAY

- **Murders at second-highest rate in a decade;**
- **Spike in anti-LGBTQ violence at time of federal hate crimes law passage;**
- **Economic crisis depletes resources for LGBTQ survivors of violence**

NATIONAL— The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) today released its report on Hate Violence against the LGBTQ Communities in the United States in 2009. Anti-LGBTQ hate violence continues to be a pervasive social problem at the same time as vital resources and support for hate violence survivors are at risk amidst economic crisis. This year, **22 victims of hate murder were reported by NCAVP, the second-highest rate in a decade**, reflecting a pattern of severe and persistent violence against LGBTQ communities. Notably, NCAVP saw the **highest spike in reported incidents of violence in October 2009, coinciding with the passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act**. This statistic seems to reflect a correlation between increased visibility and increased vulnerability and targeting. Despite these disturbing trends, financial support and much needed services for hate violence survivors have only declined due to ongoing economic conditions.

Of the 22 reported hate murder victims in 2009, **79% were people of color, and most were transgender women or were feminine-presenting**. As evidenced in this report, members of traditionally marginalized communities continue to be disproportionately targeted for severe violence. *“These facts are deeply disturbing as these are the same people who are more likely to face discrimination, criminalization or further violence when interacting with criminal legal and social service systems. What we see is that they are less likely to seek and access support from these institutions,”* said Maria Carolina Morales, Intervention Director of Community United Against Violence (CUAV) in San Francisco.

“During the past year, NCAVP member organizations lost crucial staff and programming in the wake of the fiscal crisis. In a survey of members participating in this report, 50% of respondents laid off staff (at an average decrease of 56% of all positions), 70% reported budget decreases, and others could not expand positions, staff hours or programming, despite a demonstrated need for such growth. We believe that this drastically limited the ability of LGBTQ people to report violence and access vital support and services in 2009,” said Lisa Gilmore, Director of Education and Victim Advocacy at Center on Halsted in Chicago. *“While the total number of reported incidents of hate violence declined slightly in 2009, we suspect that this represents a decrease in reporting, not in actual violence.”*

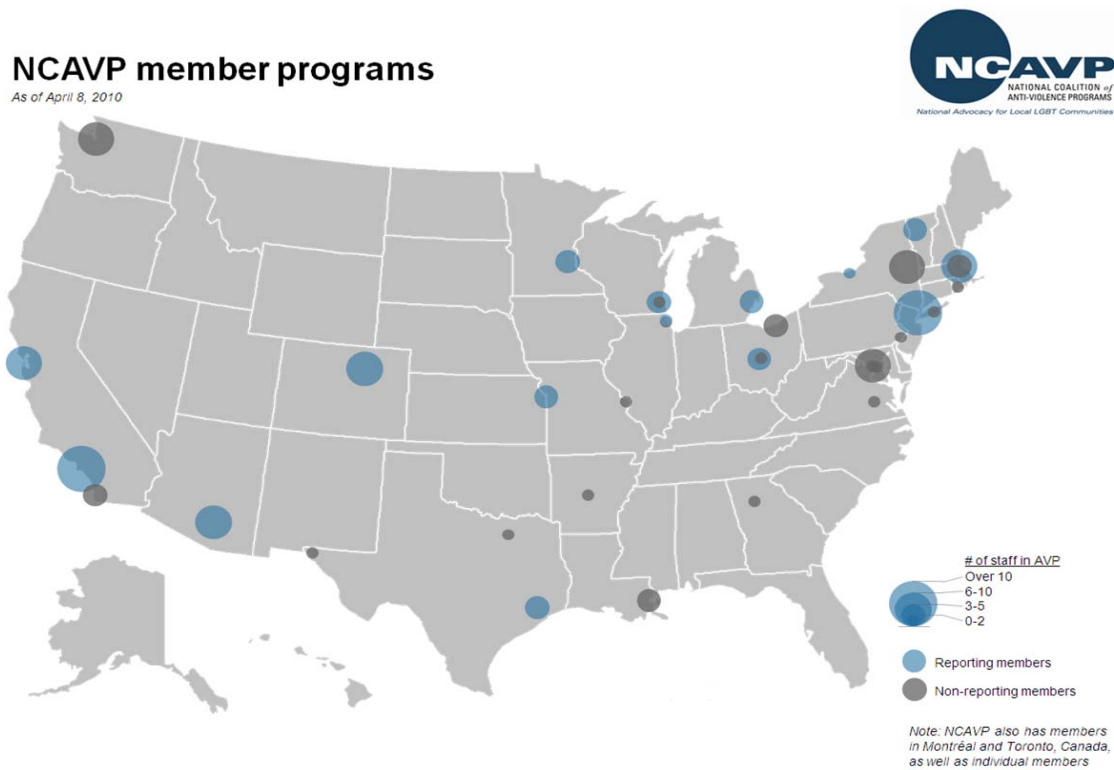
“For many people, acts of hate violence come to be an expected part of being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer,” said Kelly Clark, Community Safety Director at the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley in Rochester, NY. *“Hate violence exists in many forms, ranging from hate speech to sexual assault and murder. All can be traumatic and have life-long impact.”*

Many of the incidents reported to NCAVP, such as intimidation, harassment and other forms of discrimination (62%), may not fall in the category of criminal acts. Ann Atkins, Program Director of SafeSpace at the R U 1 2? Community Center in Winooski, VT, states, *“Hate violence can be challenged by everyone, on all levels, by working with and reporting even what seem to be the slightest acts to local anti-violence programs. This sort*

of reporting supports efforts to prevent the escalation of incidents as well as document the scope of anti-LGBTQ hate in our communities.”

NCAVP’s report strongly recommends that the federal and state governments and criminal legal systems support anti-violence programs by ceasing cutbacks, releasing allocated funding and increasing funding for prevention, education, and data collection. Most critically, NCAVP calls upon these institutions to end discriminatory practices that further promote anti-LGBTQ hate violence.

“Ending anti-LGBTQ hate violence will require nothing less than a profound cultural shift supported at all levels of society,” said Crystal Middlestadt, Director of Education & Advocacy at the Colorado Anti-Violence Program. “Educators, lawmakers, service providers and the general public must support the work of anti-violence programs and LGBTQ people to transform a culture of hate into one that is inclusive, healthy and safe for all.”



This report is a product of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), a coalition of 40 anti-violence organizations that monitor, respond to, and work to end hate, domestic and sexual violence, HIV-related violence, and other forms of violence affecting LGBTQ communities. As demonstrated in the above map, fifteen NCAVP member organizations from the Pacific Coast, the Southwest, the Midwest and the Northeast collected data for this report. No programs reported from the Southeast or the South, due to a highly limited number of programs and resources. NCAVP member organizations are found in 22 states throughout the country and many are the single resource in their entire state.

While this report covers hate violence in 2009, NCAVP would like to acknowledge an important [report published today by New York City Stands in Solidarity with the Puerto Rican Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community](#) on more recent incidents. This network of non-profit organizations and elected officials in New York City and State organized in the spring of 2010 to monitor and respond to recent heinous and ongoing acts of hate violence affecting the Puerto Rican LGBT communities.

To download a complete version of the report, visit: <http://www.avp.org/ncavp.htm> .

NCAVP is a program of the New York City Anti-Violence Project.

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