



SANTA BARBARA RAPE CRISIS CENTER
CENTRO CONTRA LA VIOLACION SEXUAL

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST THE LGBT COMMUNITY

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) released its annual report on Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Violence throughout the United States. Overall, the total amount of anti-LGBT violence increased by 8%. However, the NCAVP saw a dramatic increase in the number of murders, which rose 80% from 2002 to 2003 and the number of incidents involving rape or sexual assault climbed 20%. Of those victims reporting violence, at least 61% of victims identified as male, 34% identified as female, and 2% of victims were organizations. Lesbians and gay men represented 70% of all victims. With respect to victim race/ethnicity there was a substantial increase of victims identifying as Asian/Pacific Islander (+21%). Other notable increases include victims who identified as African descent (+16%), Indigenous or First peoples (+6%), multiracial (+19%) or Latino/a (+2%).

The NCAVP is a voluntary network of 27 community-based victim service organizations that monitor and respond to hate-motivated crimes and other forms of violence affecting the LGBT community. The authors note that, "in general, increases and decreases are not a function of rising or declining levels of hate, but more reflective of victims' willingness to report incidents and/or advocates' ability to conduct outreach." In addition, the authors credit the increase in reported rape or sexual assaults to better tracking, services and outreach by local programs.

Eleven NCAVP member agencies participated in this report, two of which are in California. Here are some selected narratives from California:

- Communities United Against Violence in San Francisco reported six murders in the Bay Area, including the brutal murder of Gwen Araujo, a 17-year old transgender woman. There was also a notable 266% increase in the use of firearms in this region.
- The LA Gay and Lesbian Center saw a 13% increase in the number of reported incidents. There was an increase in the number of people suffering serious injuries rising by 113%. In addition, the number of incidents in which weapons were used rose by 62%.

Although both of these centers are located in metropolitan areas, California could certainly extrapolate that more work needs to be done in identifying and providing services to victims of anti-LGBT crime, including sexual assault, across the state.

U.S. DEPT. OF DEFENSE RELEASE NEW SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY FOR ALL ARMED SERVICES

On January 4, 2005, the U.S. Department of Defense held a press conference to announce the release of a new department-wide sexual assault policy. The policy includes a new definition of sexual assault, which is intended to clarify which actions constitute sexual assault offenses; sets a baseline standard for prevention and response training for all the armed services; and requires all military installations to have a sexual assault response coordinator with a staff of victim advocates who work directly with victims. The policy also requires the establishment of a senior level of command to handle sexual assault cases and review any administrative discharges of sexual assault victims. For a summary of the new policy, visit this website:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2005/d20050104sum.pdf>

CDC RECOMMENDS HIV DRUGS FOR ALL EXPOSED by *Daniel Yee, Associated Press Writer*

The government recommended for the first time Thursday, January 20th that people exposed to the AIDS virus from rapes, accidents or occasional unsafe sex or drug use be given potentially lifesaving medications that can keep them from becoming infected. Federal health officials had previously recommended emergency drug treatment only for health-care workers accidentally stuck with a needle, splashed in the eye with blood, or exposed in some other way on the job. That recommendation was first made in 1996. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expanded that recommendation. It said the treatment should start no more than 72 hours after a person has been exposed to the virus, and the drugs should be used by patients for 28 days.

For years, U.S. guidelines have trailed those in European countries, Australia and Brazil, which long have had policies in favor of the use of HIV drugs to prevent infection in rape victims. Without a national policy, New York, California, Massachusetts and Rhode Island and cities such as San Francisco and Boston came up with their own such procedures. "It's unconscionable they didn't have a policy for rape victims. It's just ludicrous. They knew they were well behind the curve," said Dr. Charles Gonzalez, assistant professor of medicine at New York University School of Medicine and a member of the New York State AIDS Institute Medical Guidelines board. The CDC said the regimen is not recommended for habitual drug users who share needles or people who frequently engage in risky sex. Those people would have to take the medication practically nonstop, which the health agency does not endorse.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- February 9th: National Girls and Women in Sports Day: "More Than a Game" is the theme of this year's event, which celebrates the participation of girls and women on the playing field. Events are held in all 50 states. www.aahperd.org/ngwsdcentral/
- March 8: International Women's Day: Encourage your employer to make this 94-year-old event, sponsored for the past 30 years by the United Nations, a paid holiday! To generate a celebratory event, visit the online site "Gather the Women" at: www.gatherthewomen.org/gtw/upcoming_events/women_international_day.htm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT ADVOCATE MEETING: FEBRUARY 8, 6PM – 8PM

As always, this mandatory in-service training will be a great opportunity to learn new information, meet other advocates, gain support, and process any client work. This month, Yesenia will provide information about working with teens and helpful ways that advocates can take care of themselves while working with clients. In addition, there will be time to learn more about the "Believe Me" campaign being developed for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Hope you can join us on February 8th!

UPCOMING ADVOCATE MEETINGS IN ENGLISH

After the February meeting, Advocate meetings in English will be held on the second Monday night of each month from 6pm – 8pm. The next three meeting dates are: Monday, March 14, 2005; Monday, April 11, 2005; and Monday, May 9, 2005. See you then!

SAVE THE DATE: MANDATORY HUMAN RELATIONS TRAINING

Mark your calendars! It's time for the annual Human Relations Training! SBRCC has been undertaking extensive education and policy revision as a part of our Transgender Inclusion Project. We would now like to share this education with you. As a result, this year's Human Relations Training will focus on the Transgender/Genderqueer (TG/GQ) community, how sexual assault affects TG/GQ individuals, barriers to receiving adequate and effective services, and how we can better our services to provide a safe place for people who identify as TG/GQ. This training is mandatory for all advocates, and will take place on **Monday, March**

14 from 6:00pm - 8:00 p.m. We have a number of fantastic presenters lined up to lead us in discussion and exploration, so we look forward to you joining us for a night of broadening horizons!

FEBRUARY OFFICE CLOSURE

SBRCC's office will be closed on Monday, February 21st in observance of President's Day. Of course, the 24-hour hotline will still be operational throughout the holiday.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you to everyone who made it to the Sexual Assault Awareness Month meeting on January 18! Planning for the April kick-off of the "Believe Me" campaign is off to a great start, but we would love more help. If you would like to be a part of the campaign, check out the following committees and let Alena know where you would like to plug in.

1. **"Believe Me" Committee:** This group will help coordinate the "Believe Me" Wall. The mural and collage will bring together contributions of artwork, crafts, poetry, letters, testimonials, photography, and more. Contributors are encouraged to explore this year's theme: "Believe Me": *Celebrating the Courage and Resilience of Sexual Assault Survivors*. The wall will be unveiled during our April campaign. The "Believe Me" committee will help create the mural, collect and arrange contributions to the wall, organize craft nights, and help plan events.
2. **Publicity & Outreach Committee:** This group will spread the word about all the events of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The committee will publicize the Call for Contributions for the Believe Me Wall and work to include our community in all our April events.
3. **Denim Day:** Denim Day was created in response to a 1999 Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the survivor wore jeans. On April 27, SBRCC will encourage community members to wear denim and a button reading, "Why Denim?" as a symbol of protest against lingering myths and attitudes that blame sexual assault survivors and excuse perpetrators. This committee will spread the word about Denim Day, distribute buttons and denim patches, and coordinate the Denim Day event.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Alena at alena@sbrcc.net or 963-6832 x. 29.

"BELIEVE ME" WALL: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Express solidarity with sexual assault survivors and help shake up the foundation of rape culture! Help Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center build a wall that expresses our support for survivors and our commitment to ending sexual assault. This mural and collage will bring together contributions of artwork, crafts, poetry, letters, testimonials, photography, and more. We encourage you to explore this year's theme:

*Believe Me:
Celebrating the Courage and Resilience of Sexual Assault Survivors*

Contribute a piece that expresses your own reflections on healing from sexual violence and embodies your desire to build a safe, inclusive, and just society. We welcome your contribution whether you are a survivor, friend or family member, or anyone who wants to see the end of sexual violence. You can remain anonymous if you like, or let the world know what you've created. The point is to create!

The "Believe Me" Wall will be unveiled during Sexual Assault Awareness Month this April, so we need your contribution soon! Sign up now to contribute a piece. Information about craft nights and deadlines will be available soon. Contact Alena at alena@sbrcc.net or 963-6832 for more information.

GENDERQUEER/QUEERGENDERS: CONVERSATIONS AMONG ARTISTS, ACTIVISTS, & ACADEMICS

The GenderQueer/QueerGenders Conference will take place at UCSB February 11th, 12th, and 13th. The conference takes a multifaceted look at the ways that academic work, art, and activism overlap, intersect, and build off one another as we discuss, debate, theorize and learn about gender. The conference is free, and will include amazing plenary speakers, performers and artists, including Judith Halberstam, Thea Hillman, Gayatri Gopinath, Turner Schofield, Ryka Aoki de la Cruz, Yesenio Lewis, Susan Stryker, and Imani Henry!

Take part in workshops about the restroom revolution, queers on wheels, harnessing desire, and being “trans enough.” Come to presentations by artists, activists and academics from all over the country! Get your body painted! See two full-length performance pieces, and an evening of poetry, dance and short performance! Don't miss a fabulous Cabaret night!

To find out more details, to register for the conference, and for a full schedule of events, visit the conference website at <http://www.ihc.ucsb.edu/queergender>.

SBRCC NEEDS MORE ADVOCATES – HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

The next **English Crisis Intervention Training** is scheduled for **April 18, 2005 – June 6, 2005**. Classes will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. and one Saturday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. If you know individuals who may be interested, please have them call Heather at 963-6832 or send an email to heather@sbrcc.net

WE ESPECIALLY NEED VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE SPANISH/ENGLISH BILINGUAL!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:



- Kimi K. on February 18th
- Efrain M. on February 19th
- Diane D. on February 25th
- Alicia B. on February 28th