



Illustration by Jessica Krmarik.

**MYTH:** Domestic violence does not exist in the LGBTQ community.

**FACT:** Rates of violence and abuse between LGBTQ partners are generally comparable to straight partners. Sexuality is not a key determinant of violence in a relationship; abuse is rooted in a desire to exert power and control over another person, regardless of sexual identity. However, oppression based upon nondominant sexual identities is a reality.

**MYTH:** In same-sex relationships, the abuser is always the more "butch" or the bigger person.

**FACT:** Dominance and submission are not necessarily related to physical size in any relationship, gay, straight or otherwise. Power and control can be wielded and cause harm even without a physical altercation.

**Remember that you are not alone. There are people here to listen and believe you.**

- You are strong
- You are powerful
- You deserve to love yourself and be loved by others.
- You deserve to live a life without violence.

# Who We Are

## About Us

Humboldt Domestic Violence Services is dedicated to breaking the cycle of domestic and intimate partner violence through services, education, and advocacy.

We serve people of all identities in our community and look to navigate our services through intersectional lens, unlearning harmful practices, and building voices to end violence.

## Contact Us

24hr Support Line: 707.443.6042  
Business Office: 707.444.9255  
Email: [dvservices@hdvs.org](mailto:dvservices@hdvs.org)  
Website: [www.hdvs.org](http://www.hdvs.org)

## Other Resources

### Need to call?

Humboldt Domestic Violence Services: 24hr Support Line: 707-443-6024  
North Coast Rape Crisis Team 24hr Hotline: 707-445-2881  
GLBT National Hotline: 888-843-4564  
\*M-F 1pm-9pm, Sat 9am-2pm

### Online chat?

[www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)  
[www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)



**LGBTQI\* INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)**  
PO Box 969  
Eureka CA 95502



**LGBTQI\*  
INTIMATE  
PARTNER  
VIOLENCE  
(IPV)**

*Humboldt Domestic  
Violence Services*

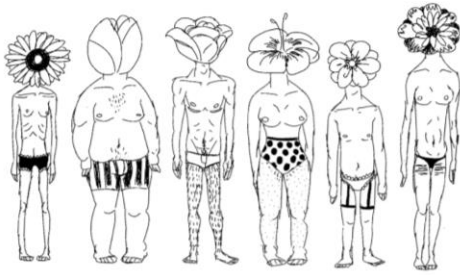


Illustration by Art Guy

## Intimate Partner Violence in LGBTQI\* Communities

LGBTQI\* communities experience severe **barriers** when addressing IPV. Those barriers are emphasized through systems like **homophobia**, **transphobia**, and the **patriarchy**. Violence can also be heightened when people are faced with **racism**, **ableism**, or any other form of **systemic violence**.

The **access to resources and services** for LGBTQI\* communities that are experiencing IPV is limited, and often tinted with **expectation of what IPV "should" looking like**. When in reality IPV can happen in any relationship to any gender. Your experience IS valid. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs reports:

40% of gay and bisexual men identified experience domestic or sexual violence within intimate partner relationships.

46% of lesbians who are woman identified experience repeated acts of violence.

50% of trans\* and intersex individuals are raped or assaulted by intimate partners.

## Ways Power & Control Enforce Intimate Partner Violence

**Using Coercion and Threats:** \*Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt you. \*Threatening to leave you, to commit suicide. \*Making you do illegal things.

**Using economic abuse:** \*Preventing you from getting a job. \*Taking your money. \*Making you ask for money. \*Not letting you know about or have access to income.

**Using Intimidation:** \*Making you afraid by using looks, actions, and gestures. \*Smashing things to scare you. \*Destroying your property. \*Abusing pets. \*Displaying weapons.

**Using Emotional Abuse:** \*Putting you down. \*Making you feel bad about yourself. \*Making you question your mental confidence. \*Playing mind games. \*Humiliating you. \*Making you feel guilty.



**Using Isolation:** \*Controlling what you do, who you see, who you talk to. What you read, where you go. \*Limiting outside involvement. \*Using jealousy to justify actions.

**Using Children:** \*Making you feel guilty about the children. \*Using children to relay messages. \*Using visitation to harass you. \*Threatens to take children away.

**Using Privilege:** \*Using identity to demean, manipulate, and control you. \*Includes perpetuating any isms (racism, transphobia, homophobia, etc.). Use of stereotypes against you. \*Threats to "out" you.

**Minimizing, Denying, Blaming:** \*Making light of the abuse, not taking your concerns seriously. \*Saying abuse didn't happen. \*Shifts responsibility of abusive behavior. \*Says you caused it.



"Hug" by Elias Ericson  
eliasericson.tumblr.com

## Myths/Facts about IPV in LGBTQI\* Communities

\*Facts/Myths cited by Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.\*

**MYTH:** Abusive or rough sex is just a part of who "they" are.

**FACT:** Mutually consensual sexual activity (which can also include roleplaying, BDSM and "rough sex") is NOT the same as abuse. All of those sexual activities, when engaged in a healthy way, involve positive communication and continuous consent from all parties involved; the absence of that communication and consent is what defines violence and abuse. Additionally, many straight people enjoy these same activities; preferences for "rough sex" are not limited to the LGBTQI\* communities.

**MYTH:** In same-sex relationships, partners are more likely to be mutually combative and abusive.

**FACT:** Even if a victim "fights back" or appears to instigate mutual combat, there is nearly always a primary aggressor, or one person who is ultimately the source of abuse in a relationship. This does not justify retaliatory violence, but can help make sense of an abusive situation.