

Broken Rainbow (UK) National LGBT Domestic Violence Service

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Charity No 1103624



**What was your Valentine's
gift wrapped in this year?**



**Broken Rainbow,
LGBT Domestic Violence
helpline**

08452 60 44 60





Broken Rainbow

Don't fall for it



**1 In 4 LGBT people
will experience
domestic violence**

**Broken Rainbow,
LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline**

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www.broken-rainbow.org.uk

What is Broken Rainbow UK

Broken Rainbow UK is the only **national Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans** (LGBT) charity providing support and awareness around **Domestic Violence** (DV)

Core Services:

- National LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline staffed by LGBT people for survivors, perpetrators, friends, family, and service providers/agencies
- help@brokenrainbow.org.uk - email advice service
- Trans specific session (& email) staffed by trans people
- Deliver LGBT DV Awareness Training & Consultancy nationally

What is Domestic Violence?

A pattern of behaviours... **power and control**... can be emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, financial between adults, intimate or family members regardless of **gender** or **sexuality**.. **includes Forced Marriage (HBV)**.

- DV affects at least 1 in 4 LGB people, up to 80% trans people
- DV sector: heterosexual model of male violence against women
- Heterosexism: service bias, lack of awareness training
- Homophobia: same sex relationship stereotypes, coming out
- Equality Act 2010 (LGB & T protected characteristics/services inclusive)

LGBT identity

1974 Being LGB was a mental disorder

1993 homosexuality removed from International classification of Diseases

2003 Section 28 Local Govt. Act repealed

2005 BMA report 76% of doctors considered important to be "out" but only 39% were out to close work colleagues (fear homophobia)

Studies show LGBT people are:

- less likely to name DV (but experience DV abusive behaviour)
- greater risk in some health areas; self harm, addiction, suicide, alcohol
- if disabled / BMER even greater risk
- Fear "coming out" to eg, GP/service providers and so less likely to take up screening, information, and preventative services

LGB & T identities vary across time, culture, & terminology changes

Emotional/sexual attraction – who you are, not what you do!

Prevention of DV – LGBT communities

Understanding of LGBT context is necessary to identify DV!

Similarities

- ⌘ DV is about power & control, interpersonal violence, isolation, with at least 1 in 4 prevalence

Differences

- ⌘ Lack of awareness of LGBT DV (within & outside of LGBT communities)
- ⌘ Additional LGBT barriers; homophobia, gender stereotypes, coming out
- ⌘ Lack of services – what's the point of disclosure?
- ⌘ Perpetrator/s use additional strategies eg, threats to out, the past
- ⌘ Perpetrator's power is reinforced when agencies, CJS fail to intervene

Inclusive approach to DV assessment needed including LGBT considerations

Identification & interventions LGBT DV

Helping health practitioners to identify and intervene to prevent DV

- ⌘ LGBT DV training to better grasp LGBT DV experience
- ⌘ Equality around access to general services eg, routine screening units, physio, cancer, smoking cessation clinics
- ⌘ Where DV suspected, have LGBT DV specific literature available
- ⌘ Integrate message that LGBT people experience DV too..

Effective responses to LGBT DV

Helping health practitioners to respond effectively

- ⌘ Integrate LGBT domestic violence risk factors in assessments; first relationship, under 35yrs of age if LGBT identified, (need more research)
- ⌘ Reinforce confidentiality statements to include sexual orientation (encourage disclosure)
- ⌘ Apply DV protocols equally; where DV suspected, separate and treat individual away from partner/friend/abuser (similar to heterosexual victim separated from abuser/male partner)
- ⌘ Have referral/sign post information available in public areas

Effective approaches & partnerships

Effective approaches & partnerships to assess and respond to LGBT DV

- ✎ Utilise local expertise and partnerships eg, LGBT and DV experts to share skills, training, information, set up pilots, surgeries, referral protocols
- ✎ Integrate LGBT concerns into equalities agenda (similar to sex, race, disability)
- ✎ Referral protocols & sign post information readily available for practitioners to use (inc National Helplines, frontline services)

LGBT People experience domestic violence too..

**National Rainbow Ribbon Campaign
February LGBT History Month**



**in partnership
with White Ribbon UK**

Broken Rainbow: LGBT DV relationships

LGBT people experience domestic violence too..

44% calls from gay, 35% as lesbian,
13% heterosexual, 4% as bisexual.

- 3000 contacts - Average call 40 minutes

Partnership Projects:

- 18 & Under in Dundee produced DVD for schools
- H.O Teenage Relationship Abuse Campaign
- LGBT History Month Events / Rainbow Ribbon
- DAP/Domestic Abuse Partnership for London Survivors



Website:

- Web search main referral source
- Valentines Day Campaign increased website hits by 85%, HL 75%

LGBT people experience domestic violence too...

Does your partner use your sexuality by:

Telling you that all abuse is 'mutual' in a same sex / lesbian / gay relationship?

Making threats to 'out' you at work, with family or friends?

Questioning where you go, or put you down for going out on the Scene?

Getting jealous, possessive or angry about your friends or family?

Telling you you're not a real LGBT person based on how you look, act, or past relationships?

Do you:

Feel responsible for your partner's behaviour and take the blame for their problems?

Worry about upsetting your partner, or being the cause of an argument?

Sometimes get the 'silent treatment' and feel on edge?

Feel nervous in your partner's company, but when away from them feel more confident and easier?

You're not alone.
Research shows 1 in 4 LGBT people may experience domestic violence.



Broken Rainbow National LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline

0300 999 5428 (LGBT)
(LGBT = 5428 on telephone keypad)

Run by LGBT people for LGBT people

Office: 08452 60 55 60
mail@broken-rainbow.org.uk
www.broken-rainbow.org.uk

* 0300 numbers are billed as 01/02 landline numbers.

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We are members of the Telephone Helpline Association.



Broken Rainbow UK

LGBT people experience domestic violence too..



**For lesbian, gay, bisexual
& transgender people
experiencing
domestic violence**

Summary of LGBT Domestic Violence

Areas of abuse / strategies:

- 40%+ reported **physical** abuse
- 40% reported **sexual** abuse
- 78% reported **emotional** abuse

(Donovan and Hester 2006)

General Findings:

- At least 1 in 4 women experience DV
- LGB people could be 1 in 3, Trans people 1 in 2
- Limited LGBT DV research

DV is about power and control:

- Systematic pattern of behaviour, **sexual orientation** additional factor
- LGBT people forced to 'Come Out' (every conversation = coming out)
- Lack of awareness and services: heterosexism / homophobia



LGBT DV Helpline Callers – feedback

- Impact / issues of LGBT DV:

Isolation, LGBT identity abused, control of victim on/off scene, choice of being 'out' taken away, health, employment, debt, use of technology to stalk, threats to family, pets, children, victim charged/put on record as offender

- LGBT person wants:

appreciation of LGBT cultural issues, to be believed, taken seriously, no stereotyping, appropriate help, counselling, intervention (from police, housing, healthcare agencies)

We need a co-ordinated response from agencies

Contact Broken Rainbow UK

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