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BEST PRACTICES IN SERVING TRANSGENDER SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Presenters

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- Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

This training is supported by Subgrant No. W18-8-008 awarded by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council administering office for the STOP Formula Grant Program. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed are those of the trainers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council or the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



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The Language We Use

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THE DEFINITION OF THE TERM "TRANSGENDER" AND HOW IT FITS INTO THE LARGER LGBT UMBRELLA

THE UNIQUE LIVED EXPERIENCES, BARRIERS TO SAFETY, AND RESILIENCY OF TRANSGENDER SURVIVORS



What is meant by the term Gender

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GENDER DEFINITIONS



GENDER
The state of being male or female is typically regarding to social constructs rather than physical attributes.



TRANSGENDER
Refers to someone who does not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth.



CISGENDER
Refers to someone who identifies with the gender they were assigned at birth.



NON-BINARY
Refers to someone who does not identify as exclusively male or female.



GENDER FLUID
Refers to someone whose gender identity changes over time from one end of the spectrum to the other.



GENDERQUEER
Refers to someone whose gender identity falls on the spectrum between male and female.

What Does it Mean to be Transgender/Gender Nonconforming (TGNC)?

TRANSGENDER

People whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth

- Trans Man
- Trans Woman

GENDER NONCONFORMING

People whose gender expression is different from conventional expectations of masculinity and femininity

- Non-Binary
- Gender Queer



Gender Terminology

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Gender Pronouns

Please note that these are not the only pronouns. There are an infinite number of pronouns as new ones emerge in our language. Always ask someone for their pronouns.

Subjective	Objective	Possessive	Reflexive	Example
She	Her	Hers	Herself	She is speaking. I listened to her. The backpack is hers.
He	Him	His	Himself	He is speaking. I listened to him. The backpack is his.
They	Them	Theirs	Themselves	They are speaking. I listened to them. The backpack is theirs.
Zo	Hi/ Ziv	Mrs/ Zirs	Hirself/ Zirselt	Zo is speaking. I listened to hir. The backpack is zirs.

Transstudent.Tumblr.com
facebook.com/transstudent
twitter.com/transstudent

For more information, go to transstudent.org/graphics

TSER
Trans Student Education Resource

Transgender Terminology

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TRANSGENDER
Gender Identity

A person whose gender identity is the opposite of their assigned biological sex

Transman Transwoman

Crossdresser
Drag queen

Transgender Terminology

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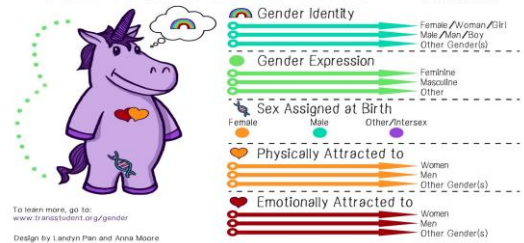


Gender Identity

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The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by **TSEB**



Who is This

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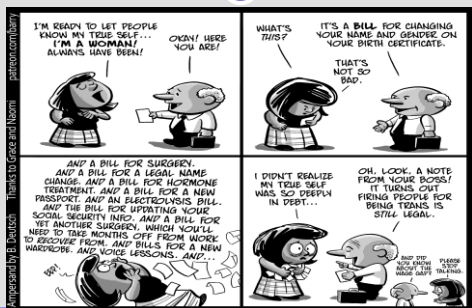
Children who Identify as Transgender

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Healthcare and Health related concerns

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Strength and Resilience

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Serving Transgender Survivors

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THE RATES OF IPV AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED BY TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

THE DO'S AND DON'TS' OF PROVIDING ADVOCACY SERVICES TO TRANSGENDER SURVIVORS

LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES AVAILABLE SPECIFICALLY FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE



Definitions

Transphobia- Fear, negative attitudes, and unfair treatment of an individual because they identify as transgender.

Heterosexual Privilege- Benefits that heterosexual people receive that are denied to people of other sexual orientations.

Gender Oppression- The societal, institutional, and individual beliefs and practices that privilege heterosexual people and subjugate and disparage transgender or gender non-conforming people.

Transgender / Gender Nonconforming Domestic Violence

- Transgender people experience domestic violence at **disturbingly high rates.**
 - 31%-50% - Transgender people
 - 28%-33% - General population
- 19% from family because they are transgender / gender nonconforming
 - 57% experience family rejection
- 47% have experienced sexual assault.
 - 10% in the past year.
- 53% of **Black** transgender experienced sexual assault.
 - 13% in the past year.

<https://vawnet.org/material/2015-us-transgender-survey-report>

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Demographics: Who is most impacted



Fatal violence disproportionately affects transgender people of color

- In the past 6 years of reporting, 110 victims were people of color
 - 95 Black or African American
 - 14 Latinx

Nearly 9 in every 10 victims were transgender women

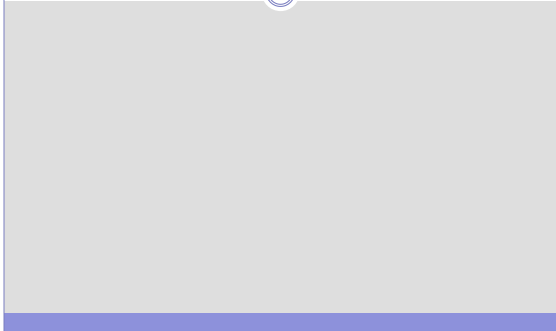
- 115 women
- 7 men
- 0 other identity (non-binary, questioning, unknown)

At least 103 victims (80%) were transgender women of color. Black trans women are critically impacted, representing 69% of all known victims.

https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/ActOnTransViolence-2018Report-Final.pdf?_ga=2.204226768.130283446.1553266296-519348437.1552010640

Video: Trans Women and #MeToo

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Trans-Specific Power & Control Tactics

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Safety, Outing, Disclosure.

- Threatening to "out" you to your employer, friends, or family
- Threatening to take the children or turn them against you

Violating Boundaries

- Eroticizing/fetishizing your body against your will
- Touching parts of your body you don't want touched, or using terms about your body they know you find offensive
- Forbidding you to talk to others about transgender topics

Gender Stereotypes and Transphobia

- Telling you they thought you liked "rough sex" or "this is how real men/women like sex"
- Declaring you are not a real man/woman
- Telling you that you don't deserve better

http://forge-forward.org/wp-content/docs/power-control-tactics-categories_FINAL.pdf

Trans-Specific Power & Control Tactics

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Using or Undermining Identity

- Not using preferred pronouns, calling you "it"
- Ridiculing how your body looks
- Saying no one will believe you

Restricting Access

- Medical treatment, hormones
- Hiding or throwing away clothes, prosthetics
- Controlling finances re: medical treatment

Community Attitudes

- Ridiculing or belittling your identity
- Claiming they are more "politically correct"
- Accusing you of harming the LGBTQ Community

http://forge-forward.org/wp-content/docs/power-control-tactics-categories_FINAL.pdf

What Leads to Anti-Transgender Violence

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Dehumanization of transgender people stems from anti-transgender stigma

- Family Culture / Religion
- Political Climate (e.g. Bathroom Bill & redefining the definition of sex)
- Marginalization

Denial of Opportunities

- Education Setbacks
- Housing & Employment Discrimination
- Unfair Policing & Criminal Justice System
- Immigrants & Refugees
- Legal Identification
- Exclusion from Health Care & Social Services

https://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/AntiTransViolence-2018Report-Final.pdf?_ga=2.204226768.1302833466.155326296-51934437.1552010640

What Leads to Anti-Transgender Violence

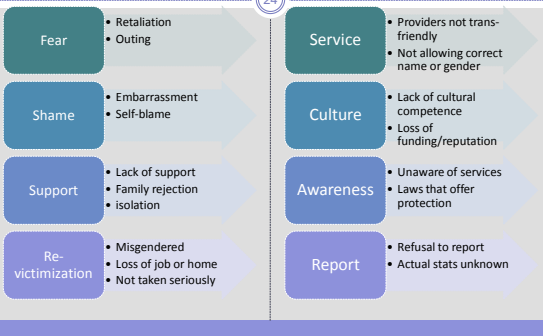
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Increased Risk Factors

- Intimate Partner Violence
- Poverty & Homelessness
 - 41% of Black transgender have been homeless in their lifetime
- Engagement in Survival Sex Work
 - Ten times more likely to contract HIV
- Physical & Mental Health Disparities
 - STI & HIV infections
 - Depression & Suicide
 - Need for hormone replacement therapy

Barriers to Accessing Services


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**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Federal Fair Housing Act**

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Prohibits discrimination of transgender individuals based on gender identity or gender nonconformity.



Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)


Shelters and service providers that receive federal funding under VAWA are prohibited from discriminating against transgender individuals.

If shelter housing is segregated by gender then they must allow transgender people to access services based on their gender identity.

Best Practices for Service Providers


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- Create a welcoming trans-friendly environment.
 - Intake- Ask about preferred pronouns & discuss safety concerns.
 - Keep their status confidential unless otherwise requested.
- Respect how an individual chooses to self-identify & house them accordingly
 - Do not ask if they have had gender assignment surgery (GAS)
 - Do not ask for ID, go by sex on ID



Best Practices for Service Providers

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- Develop policies that prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or expression.
 - Acts of harassment / discrimination should not be permitted by staff or residents.
 - Keeps you VAWA compliant.
 - Their safety & dignity should be upheld.
- Handling residents concerns about being housed with transgender individuals:
 - Speak with them individually & address their fears/concerns.
 - May require a discussion on shelter policy & cultural competence training.

Shelter Services

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Bathroom Access
Unisex, gender neutral, private

Paperwork
Gender options, sexual orientation

Signs/Printed Materials
LGBTQ representation

Supplies
Toiletry items, clothing, sizes

Roommates
Yes or no? Deciding factors

Making Referrals

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- **Never disclose that a person is transgender/gender nonconforming**
 - Prevents possible discrimination from referral agency
 - Some instances may require disclosure, ask client if they prefer to self-disclose or permit staff to disclose on their behalf
- **Provide transgender-specific resource referrals**
 - Builds trusting relationships with staff
 - Reduces further victimization and/or discrimination
- **Never refer to agencies that are known to discriminate**
 - Share your agency's transgender-inclusive policy with referral agencies
 - Educate referral agencies on nondiscrimination laws
 - Encourage them to develop transgender-friendly policies

Scenario – Let's Practice!

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"Dee" arrives at your intake office to talk about services. She relays that she is in an abusive relationship and needs help leaving her partner.



She reveals that she is transgender, and she explains that her partner is preventing her from completing the process of legally changing her name, in addition to being physically and sexually abusive.

Dee explains that she does not have family support, since they have not spoken with her since she came out as transgender. She is concerned about where she will stay, and how she can be safe from her partner continuing to harass and intimidate her after she leaves.

Scenario – Let’s Practice!

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- What gender pronoun would you use with Dee?
- What questions would you ask to learn more about Dee’s situation?
- What questions should you not ask?
- What safety concerns do you have for Dee?
- What services would you offer?
- What are other things you could do to let Dee know she is welcome?



Resources for Providers

- FORGE Sheltering Transgender Survivors Webinar Series
 - <https://forge-forward.org/event/sheltering-non-binary-survivors/>
 - <https://forge-forward.org/event/sheltering-trans-men/>
 - <https://forge-forward.org/event/sheltering-trans-women/>
- Transgender IPV Toolkit
 - https://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ncavp_trans_ipvtoolkit.pdf
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Equal Access Inclusion:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/09/21/2016-22589/equal-access-in-accordance-with-an-individuals-gender-identity-in-community-planning-and-development>

Transgender IPV Resources

National

- The National Network to End Domestic Violence
 - <https://nnedv.org/>
- The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
 - <https://www.nrcdv.org/>
 - VAWnet- <https://vawnet.org/>
- The National Center for Transgender Equality-
 - <https://transequality.org/>
- National Coalition of Anti-Violent Programs-
 - <https://avp.org/ncavp/>
- The NW Network of Bi, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse
 - <https://www.nwnetwork.org/>

Transgender IPV Resources

State



- Georgia Equality
<https://www.georgiaequality.org>
 - Georgia Trans Resource Guide



- American Civil Liberties Union of GA (ACLU)
<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/transgender-people-and-law>



- The Health Initiative
<https://www.thehealthinitiative.org>

Additional Resources in Georgia

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- **Trans Housing Atlanta Program**
<http://transhousingatlanta.org>
- **Atlanta Gender Explorations**
 Monthly meetings
<https://www.atlantagender.org>
- **Juxtaposed Center for Transformation**
 Provides basic, necessary and fundamental services for trans individuals
<http://juxtaposed.com/jct-sage-the-jct-org>
- **LaGender, Inc.**
 Provides HIV resources for trans individuals
 2861 East Point Street, Atlanta
www.facebook.com/lagenderinc
- **Pink Essence**
 Social network for transgender and gender expressive individuals, partners and allies
www.pinkessence.com
- **Sigma Epsilon**
 Cross-dressing support group
www.sigmapsiatlanta.org
- **Someone Cares, Inc.**
 1950 Spectrum Circle, Marietta
www.someonecaresatl.org

- **Positive Impact Health Centers**
 Centers Located in Decatur and Duluth
 Direct Line: 678-990-6449
 Duluth Center Main No. 770-962-8306
 Decatur Center Main No. 404-589-9040
<https://www.positiveimpacthealthcenters.org>
- **SAGE Atlanta**
 Services and advocacy for LGBT elders
 1530 DeKalb Avenue NE, Suite A, Atlanta
www.sageatl.org
- **THEA-Plus**
 Transgender Health and Education Alliance
 1530 DeKalb Avenue NE, Atlanta
www.thea-families.com
- **TILT**
 Transgender Individuals Living Their Truth
 1530 DeKalb Avenue NE, Atlanta
www.transgendercenter.org
- **Trans Health Initiative at the Feminist Women's Health Center**
 1924 Cliff Valley Way, Atlanta
www.fwhcenter.org

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Upcoming Training

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LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER COMMUNITY (LGBTQ) AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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Thank you!

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