

DCADV Celebrates Pride Month & Acknowledges the Need for Support for LGBTQ Victims of Intimate Partner Violence

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June is Pride Month and an opportunity to acknowledge the strengths of our diverse state and local communities. Delaware is enriched by the LGBTQ community and is committed to being welcoming and inclusive. Reflective of this commitment, this week Delaware's General Assembly passed Senate Bill 65 which protects LGBTQ youth in the state from a discredited and harmful practice called "conversion therapy." With this legislation, sponsored by State Senator Harris McDowell and State Representative Debra Heffernan, and expected to be signed by Governor Carney, Delaware will join 13 other states, Washington, DC and several municipalities in banning this destructive practice. Delaware continues to be a leader in ensuring LGBTQ equality.

As we celebrate Pride Month, we must remain vigilant in protecting LGBTQ rights and persons, including protections for LGBTQ victims of domestic violence. Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people experience intimate partner violence and sexual violence at the same or higher rates as heterosexual people, but also experience the added fear of being judged, turned away, or victimized further when they seek assistance. As a community, we need supportive responses and services that recognize the unique concerns of LGBTQ victims of intimate partner violence. We have a shared responsibility to ensure we are offering welcoming, inclusive, and responsive safety, health, and legal protections for LGBTQ victims of domestic violence.

The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV) offers training and resources for providers, first responders, medical personnel on trauma-informed best practices for assisting LGBTQ victims of violence. DCADV stands in solidarity with the LGBTQ community, in celebration of the community's strengths and in acknowledgement of the need for support and collaboration.

Resources:

Domestic Violence Hotlines

New Castle County	302-762-6110
Kent & Sussex Counties	302-422-8058
Abriendo Puertas	302-745-9874

Sexual Assault Hotlines

New Castle & Sussex Counties	800-773-8570
Kent & Sussex Counties	800-262-9800

LGBTQ Resources

CAMP Rehoboth www.camprehoboth.com

- Education, advocacy, support, health care services

PFLAG Wilmington Delaware www.pflagwilmde.org

- PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. Uniting people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) with families, friends, and allies, PFLAG is committed to advancing equality and full societal affirmation of LGBTQ people through its threefold mission of support, education, and advocacy.