



Asian Women's Shelter

San Francisco, CA

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How to support LGBT survivors of IPV/DV?



About Us

- Founded in 1988
- To address the needs of women and children survivors of IPV
- Capacity to serve immigrants, refugees, limited English survivors
- Services include:
 - Direct Services: Shelter, Comprehensive Case Management, Advocacy, Counseling, Support Group, Follow-Up, Anti-Trafficking, Queer Asian Women and Transgender Support (QAWTS), Multi-Lingual Access Model (MLAM)
 - Community Building: Education, Training, Technical Assistance, Institutional Advocacy, Anti-Trafficking, QAWTS, Coalitions & Collaborations

Queer Asian Women and Transgender Support at Asian Women's Shelter



Why Talk about Queer relationships in Intimate Partner Violence Work?

- Violence happens all different kinds of relationships
- Violence in LGBTQ Relationships, can be overlooked or denied
- We focus our support to the most marginalized survivors

History of QAWTS

- Founded in the mid 1990's
- Originally named:
 - Lesbian Services Project
 - Queer Asian Women's Services Program
- In early 2000-s: QAWTS: more intentional in our work to include transgender survivors.
- Has provided support and services for both transgender women and transgender men.



QAWTS program

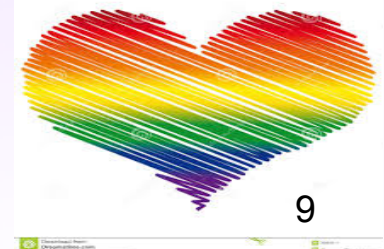
- Direct Services inside & outside shelter
- Community education on IPV in Queer Communities
- Anti-Homophobia Trainings
- National & International networking and technical assistance

QAWTS' twin: Homophobia Busters

- Established as part of our commitment to non-violence
- Its task is to eliminate all forms of oppression in the organization
- Implemented by Homophobia Busters' Team

Homophobia Busters

- Straight identified staff as allies
- Educating selves and confronting homophobia
- Addressing homophobic incidents within the organization
- Organize trainings
- Mobilize on equality events



Anti-Homophobia work in the shelter

- Quarterly workshops with residents
- Conducted by Homophobia Busters
- Education on queer survivors, homophobia, heterosexism, transgender survivors
- The goal is to create a safe place for all survivors of violence

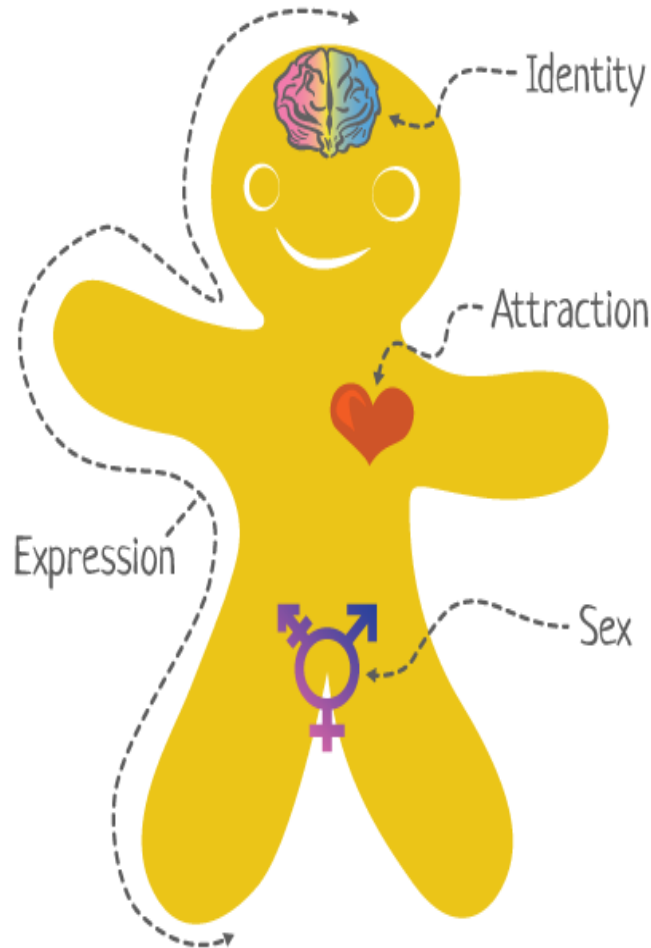
Homo/transphobia

- Homophobia is the hatred or fear of homosexuals - that is, lesbians and gay men - sometimes leading to acts of violence and expressions of hostility.
- Transphobia: intense dislike of or prejudice against transsexual or transgender people.

Brainstorm:

- What is homophobia? How does it look like in your line of work?
- What is transphobia? How does it look like in your line of work?
- Heterosex-ism.

Gender Spectrum



20/02/16

💞 Sexually Attracted to

💞 Romantically Attracted to

Case Study: Michelle and Chris

Michelle moved to San Francisco last year from Illinois to be with her partner, Chris. In Illinois, she worked in the local organic grocery store as a cashier and went to college part time. She wanted to get a degree in Fine Arts. Her friends said that she was a talented painter and photographer.

She met Chris at the grocery store while Chris was visiting family in Illinois for almost a month. Chris was doing some shopping for Christmas and saw Michelle at the store. They soon started dating. As they spent a lot of time together, Michelle felt she knew Chris quite well. At the end of the month, Michelle decided to move to San Francisco to be with Chris. They seemed to be getting along great. In San Francisco, Michelle found part-time work at the college she was attending. She continued to take art classes. Chris worked in the tech field.

But life was not quite that great at home. Chris started to be grumpy and short tempered. Chris kept complaining that their studio was too small and Michelle had too much stuff. Chris said that their fridge was too small and Michelle had too much food.

When feeling “grumpy”, Chris ignored Michelle and watched TV loudly all night long. Chris also often said hurtful things to Michelle such as “do you know that you are a chronic hoarder?” or, “you are not as sharp as I thought.” Michelle found herself feeling dizzy or feeling sick during the day due to lack of sleep. She also had gotten a note from her professors about falling asleep in the classroom. But, there were days that Chris came home with a big smile and brought home dessert or flowers.

One night something strange happened. Michelle was doing dishes and cleaning their kitchen when Chris came home and yelled at her saying that Michelle was “a traitor, a user, and a prostitute.” Chris threw a stack of postcards at Michelle’s face. The postcards were an announcement of Michelle’s upcoming photography show. Chris accused her of doing things in secret.

Michelle was shocked and stunned. She was going to surprise Chris about her small but significant success. But now she was frozen with fear. She stood in silence not knowing how to respond. The next thing she felt was a sharp pain on her temple and then everything turned black.



Discussion

- 1) What are the signs of unhealthy relationship in this case study?
- 2) Why have not Michelle leave?
- 3) How do you create a safe and friendly space for Michelle so she will trust you?
- 4) She is interested to join your support group. You know that most of the women in the support group are heterosexual and their abusers are male. Do you think you should prepare the group that a non- heterosexual person will join your group?

Useful tips:

- Never assume you know
- Let survivor tell their story
- Work with them to create safety planning
- Keep in contact with local LGBT organization



Thank you!



Contact us:

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415-751-0880 (crisis line)

sfaws.org