

Who is SafePlace?

A service for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence to receive support, advocacy, and resources.

All of our services are confidential, voluntary and discrimination-free.

Additionally, all services are free of cost and can be offered in multiple languages. SafePlace is dedicated to providing quality services to all survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, including those in the LGBTQ communities.

A SafePlace advocate can help you:

- Find emergency shelter
- Access therapy
- Join a support group
- Go with you to the hospital for a Sexual Assault Nurse Exam
- Get a legal protection order
- Get free legal advice from an attorney
- Provide you a safe space to share your story and process feelings
- Create a safety plan for your situation
- Connect with other community resources

Connect With Us

Our Help Line runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Call us, any time.

(360) 754-6300 TTY: 711

Translators Available



Our Business Office is located at:

521 Legion Way SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Business Phone:

(360) 786-8754

Email:

safeplace@safeplaceolympia.org

SAFEPLACE
FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

LGBTQ Communities and Sexual Violence



Information, Resources,
and Experiences of
LGBTQ Survivors

What Is Sexual Violence?

Sexual violence is any sexual act forced upon an individual against their will and explicit consent.

This can include but is not limited to rape, sexual harassment, childhood sexual abuse, "revenge porn," prison rape, groping, and verbal sexual abuse.

Despite popular belief, it is most common to experience sexual violence by an intimate partner or someone familiar rather than a stranger.

What Is Consent?

Consent is freely and affirmatively communicated willingness to participate in sexual activity, expressed by clear, unambiguous words or actions.

A partner can communicate that they no longer consent to continuing any sexual activity at any time. Consent may never be obtained through the use of force, coercion, or intimidation or if the person is mentally or physically incapacitated including through the use of drugs or alcohol. Consent may not be assumed because of the existence of a previous dating or sexual relationship.

How Does Sexual Violence Affect LGBTQ Communities?

Statistically, LGBTQ communities experience higher rates of sexual violence than those who do not identify as LGBTQ.

According to the CDC (2010) and the National LGBTQ Task Force (2011):

- 64% of transgender individuals report experiencing sexual assault
- 46% of bisexual women report experiencing rape
- 40% of gay men and 47% of bisexual men report experiencing sexual violence other than rape
- 44% of lesbian women report experiencing rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner

In addition:

LGBTQ survivors of sexual violence may have also experienced sexual violence as a form of hate crime or punishment for their identity.

LGBTQ people of color face even higher rates of sexual violence, especially by police forces, immigration detention centers, healthcare providers, and prisons/jails.

Healing IS Possible

We are here to support you. LGBTQ survivors often face barriers, such as:

- Not being taken seriously or having their experience minimized
- Not having their experience named as sexual assault or rape
- Having their experience sensationalized
- Being seen as the perpetrator
- Being blamed for the assault, often "as a result of" their identity
- Being treated in a homo/transphobic manner by police, hospital staff, rape crisis center, counselors and others.
- Being "outed" (having their identity revealed without their consent)

Other issues affecting LGBTQ folk also increase their vulnerability for violence, such as homelessness, lack of accessible and safe health care, hostile "home" environments, and financial instability.