



GIVE & LEARN

TOPIC 4: SUPPORTING TRANS AND NON-BINARY SURVIVORS

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, nearly half of all transgender people have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives, and these rates are even higher for trans people of color and those who have done sex work, been homeless, or have a disability. Despite this alarming statistic, the needs of trans and non-binary survivors of sexual assault are rarely discussed. So how do we provide more welcoming and supportive care to trans and nonbinary survivors?



Signaling inclusivity in every aspect of our work, from our websites and resources (e.g., factsheets) to our intake forms, is an important first step, since trans and non-binary individuals rarely see themselves represented or their identities included in affirming ways. However, much more needs to be done than just updating program materials and documents, and, in fact, making only superficial changes can create false expectations and cause further harm. This is where training is essential. The Transgender Training Institute in Philadelphia is an ideal resource, as they are a team of transgender and non-binary educators who facilitate professional development and personal growth trainings tailored for a wide range of clients, including sexual violence service providers. Check out their Teaching Transgender Toolkit for a collection of 30 lesson plans designed to support facilitators in implementing impactful Transgender 101+ Trainings.

Also, New Jersey represents the first state in the country to have a Transgender Equality Taskforce. The recommendations of the taskforce were released in 2019 and include the following:

- **Collection of SOGI Data:** The task force recommends that the State begins to collect sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data across state agencies.
- **Training at State Agencies:** The report recommends anti-discrimination training for state employees on how to serve transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming people, ensuring both compliance with the law and greater access to programs to services.



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Public Outreach: The task force recommends that certain state agencies engage in strategic outreach to transgender communities, including the creation and dissemination of “Know Your Rights” materials related to non-discrimination law.

Law Enforcement Guidelines: The task force urges the Attorney General’s Office to develop and issue guidelines ensuring respectful, non-discriminatory treatment of transgender people by all state law enforcement agencies. This includes appropriate search procedures, respectful communication including proper use of pronouns, and a prohibition of profiling based on transgender status. It also asks the Juvenile Justice Commission to develop comprehensive policies for dealing appropriately with transgender youth in the juvenile justice system.

Using these guidelines as they apply to inform our own work as allies and advocates represents another step towards better serving trans and nonbinary survivors in our communities. For additional resources, visit:

- [Resources Trans Lifeline \(1-877-565-8860\)](#)
- [Demonstrate LGBTQ Access](#)
- [CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers](#)
- [FORGE](#)
- [Anti-Violence Project](#)
- [National Center for Transgender Equality](#)
- [Transgender Law Center](#)

To learn more, join us on Day-One of [Creating Transformative Spaces](#) for our workshop entitled “Sexual Violence & Gender Identity: Supporting Trans and Non-Binary Survivors