



Broken Rainbow

Domestic violence is often hidden within adult LGBT relationships. Same sex domestic violence is reported to be so common that at least 1 in 4 LGBT people will experience it at some time in their lives, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

When we talk about domestic violence we often think it means bruises and broken bones. But that's not all. Domestic violence and abuse includes physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and financial incidents of power imbalances. Members of the LGBT community may also face threats of being 'outed' to family, friends and employers, or suffer abuse because of their LGBT identity. Therefore an LGBT individual could be the victim of a long term campaign of violence and abuse that has left no scarring or bruises and no history of events.

Domestic violence is hidden in our community and as such many



of us don't recognise it when it is happening to us. When we do, we often hide the truth from everyone or worry that there are no services that will help us.

Broken Rainbow LGBT Domestic Violence Service (UK) was formed in 2004 to give a voice

and provide support to LGBT people experiencing domestic violence. Since then we have helped mainstream domestic violence agencies to understand the needs of LGBT people and provide us with better services.

Since starting we have grown our core services from a two-person organisation to running the only national LGBT DV&A helpline. This has been possible by the excellent support from our main funders the Home Office.

Broken Rainbow wants lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people to have the same level of support as mainstream sections of society. To do this we raise awareness of the differing factors



surrounding lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered domestic violence and abuse; having to come out to police or GPs and hospitals just to be able to report the domestic violence; DV & civil partnerships and the implications; the silence in our own community.

Our trained sessional workers run our national helpline and take over 1600 calls a year from those needing help or wanting a listening ear.

We also advise local professionals on those very high risk cases that can end up in extreme violence or death for the victim.

We lobby MP's, consult with the Criminal Prosecution Service and Ministry Of Justice with regards to LGBT domestic violence issues. We provide LGBT perpetrator training, LGBT survivor support training to local authorities, the Probation Service, Women's Aid branches, Refuge and male Domestic violence charities,

In 2008 our Pride season included: Brighton, London, Thanet, Reading, Cambridge, Belfast, Derry, Glasgow, SoHo, Derby, Hull, Nottingham, Newcastle and Oxford.

UNISON LGBT South Eastern Region worked closely with us during 2008 to help raise awareness of LGBT DV in the workplace.

We advertise our services in the LGBT press: DIVA, PINK PAPER, 3Sixty, one80, GScene, Crave, Out North-East, Scotsgay, QS Magazine, G3, Out in the City.

We also run a very successful website that has received so far this year over 88,000 visitors, double the hits from 2007.