

**Griffin Centre**

A non-profit charitable mental health agency providing flexible and accessible services to youth, adults and their families.

Our mission is to promote positive change for vulnerable youth and adults with mental health challenges and/or developmental disabilities and their families. We are dedicated to delivering innovative services and developing creative partnerships that enhance lives and communities.

**ReachOUT**

A creative, inclusive & accessible program for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning (LGBT2IQQ) youth in north Toronto.

Includes drop-in groups, community outreach, counselling, art & skills exchange. We offer a safe space for all youth that reflects the diversity of our queer and trans communities.

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**Need more HIV and/or Hep C information and resources?**

Contact CATIE (Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange) [www.catie.ca](http://www.catie.ca) | [www.hepcinfo.ca](http://www.hepcinfo.ca) | 1-800-263-1638

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This fact sheet is one in a series of four. To find other fact sheets in the series, please download them at [www.griffin-centre.org](http://www.griffin-centre.org) or contact ReachOUT.



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where can i get more info?

Where can we turn for support when we need it? Find an agency near you for support and services. It's a good idea to find out what these agencies do in advance, so that if we need support we know who to call. Check out the list below:

**National Agencies:**

**Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition** [www.rainbowhealth.ca](http://www.rainbowhealth.ca)

**The Trans PULSE Resource Guide** is a compilation of resources currently available for trans and transitioned people across Canada. This resource is available at [www.transpulse.ca](http://www.transpulse.ca)

**Canadian Human Rights Commission** [www.chrc-ccdp.ca](http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca)

**Canadian Human Rights Tribunal** [www.chrt-tcdp.gc.ca](http://www.chrt-tcdp.gc.ca)

**SafeCanada.ca** [www.safecanada.ca](http://www.safecanada.ca)

**Legal AID Offices** [www.legalaid.on.ca](http://www.legalaid.on.ca)

**Canadian Crime Stoppers Association** [www.canadiancrimestoppers.org](http://www.canadiancrimestoppers.org)

**Ontario and Toronto Agencies:**

**Griffin Centre - ReachOUT Program**

Counselling and weekly drop-in groups to hang out and meet other LGBT2IQQ youth  
416-222-1153 ♦ [www.griffin-centre.org](http://www.griffin-centre.org)

**Justice for Children and Youth**

416-920-1633 (Toronto) or 1-866-999-JFCY (Toll Free) ♦ [www.jfcy.org](http://www.jfcy.org)

**Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)**

Victim Support Line: 416-314-2447 (Toronto) or 1-888-579-2888 (Toll Free)

**Bashing Reporting Line, Anti-Violence Programme at The 519 Church Street Community Centre** 416-392-6877 ♦ [www.the519.org/programs/avp/avp.shtml](http://www.the519.org/programs/avp/avp.shtml)

**Toronto Police Service Hate Crimes Unit**

416-808-3500 ♦ [www.torontopolice.on.ca/crimeprevention/hatecrime.php](http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/crimeprevention/hatecrime.php)

**Peel Police – LGBT Hate Crime Hotline** 905-456-5905

**Crime Stoppers** For making an anonymous report 416-222-TIPS ♦ [www.222tips.com](http://www.222tips.com)

**Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario**

416-326-1519 (Toronto) or 1-866-598-0322 (Toll Free) [www.hrto.ca/NEW/home.asp](http://www.hrto.ca/NEW/home.asp)

**Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line**

416-962-9688 (Toronto) or 1-800-268-YOUTH (9688) (Toll Free) [www.youthline.ca](http://www.youthline.ca)

finding out more:

What does "LGBT2IQQ" stand for?  
Check out these guides for more information:

**About "GLBTQ" and GLBTQ Youth: from The Safe Schools Coalition**  
[www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-glbtyouth.html](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-glbtyouth.html)

**Beyond the Binary: A Tool Kit for Gender Identity Activism in Schools: from Gay-Straight Alliance Network**  
[www.gsanetwork.org/BeyondtheBinary/btbonline.pdf](http://www.gsanetwork.org/BeyondtheBinary/btbonline.pdf)

**Info and Support for GLBTQ Youth: from Advocates for Youth**  
[www.advocatesforyouth.org/youth/info/glbtcq.htm](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/youth/info/glbtcq.htm)

**Resources used in creating this Fact Sheet:**

**Addressing Hate Crime in Ontario: Final Report**  
[www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/pubs/hatecrimes/HCCWG\\_full.pdf](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/pubs/hatecrimes/HCCWG_full.pdf)

**Hate Crimes: What are Hate Crimes?**  
**DAWN Ontario: DisAbled Women's Network of Ontario**  
[dawn.thot.net/hate\\_crimes.html](http://dawn.thot.net/hate_crimes.html)

**Stop the Bashing: Self Defense Resources and Information for Gay Men, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Trans People**  
**Anti-Violence Programme, The 519 Church Street Community Centre**  
[www.the519.org/programs/avp/stopbashing.pdf](http://www.the519.org/programs/avp/stopbashing.pdf)

**Violence Against Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexuals, Transgendered and Transsexuals: Understanding the Legal System.**  
[www.the519.org/programs/avp/legalsystem.pdf](http://www.the519.org/programs/avp/legalsystem.pdf)

REPORTING IT

HOMOPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC HATE, BULLYING AND HARASSMENT ARE NOT TOLERATED





(goes on reverse of Front Cover Panel 1)

### Panel 2

Even though it happens often to a lot of us, being bashed for being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer or questioning (LGBT2IQQ) is not okay.

Getting bashed is not an isolated event that happens by chance. It's related to bigger forces in our society where everyone is not valued equally and where there are messages that say it is okay to hurt people because of who we are: whether we are LGBT2IQQ or for being an immigrant, for being told we have intellectual disabilities, for our physical disabilities, our gender, our race or for a combination of these or other things.



Most important to remember is that being bashed is not our fault and that we have choices and options in how we want to deal with it.

## hate crimes and hate incidents

A **hate crime** is a negative act against a person or property that is based on age, language, gender, race, religion, nationality or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability or any other similar factor.

Hate crimes are against the law, which means that anything that can be considered a crime can be a hate crime when an attacker uses who we are (as opposed to anything we've done) as the basis for their action against us.

From: Addressing Hate Crime in Ontario: Final Report.  
[http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/pubs/hatecrimes/HCCWG\\_full.pdf](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/about/pubs/hatecrimes/HCCWG_full.pdf)

(goes on reverse of Panel 7)

### Panel 3

#### Hate Crimes

- vandalism** (e.g. homophobic or transphobic graffiti on school lockers)
- arson** (e.g. setting fire to queer and trans youth space)
- verbal assault** (e.g. being threatened because of our identity)
- physical assault** (e.g. being kicked, scratched, punched, slapped)
- unwanted touching** (e.g. being grabbed)
- getting hate mail** (e.g. flyers, letters, e-mails, text messages)

A **hate incident** is an action that is motivated by hate that isn't necessarily against the law but can be just as hurtful. Hate incidents can be reported; to find out where, contact the Canadian Human Rights Commission ([www.chrc-ccdp.ca](http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca)) for a list of provincial tribunals and commissions as well as other groups. In Ontario, hate incidents can be reported to the 519's Bashing Reporting Line (416-392-6877), the Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line (416-962-9686) or the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario.

#### Hate Incidents

- verbal assault including slurs, name calling and insults
- drawing or writing hateful words or symbols on our personal property that isn't a public space (e.g. on notebooks)
- wearing homophobic, transphobic or other hateful symbols or words on clothing or skin
- being refused services because of who we are

## WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

- ♦ **Making sure that we are okay:** Figuring out what we need to be physically safe and getting it.
- ♦ **Talk to someone:** It's hard to deal with being hurt all by ourselves. Talking to somebody we trust can help us cope with the situation.
- ♦ **Know that it is not our fault:** No one deserves to be hurt.
- ♦ **Write it down:** Try to record everything about what happened such as the date, time, the people involved and their descriptions. Take photos of any injuries or property that was damaged. Get names and contact info of any witnesses.
- ♦ **Reporting it to the police**

(goes on reverse of Panel 6)

### Panel 4

## REPORTING A HATE CRIME:

**Deciding whether we want to report a hate crime can be a big decision.** Especially if it just happened to us, it can be hard for us to call it out and name it as a hate crime. It's important to know that there is no "right" decision and we should feel comfortable with whatever choice we end up making.

### Here are a few things to think about in making up our mind:

#### Why we would want to report

- We may feel as though we are doing something to fight back against our negative experience.
- It is easier to protect against hate crimes when it is reported that they still exist.
- When hate crimes are reported, it shows the need for programs, resources and services that can help prevent these crimes from happening again.
- If hate crimes are not reported and acted on, attackers may get the message that it is okay to keep committing them and may see LGBT2IQQ people as easy targets.

#### Why we might not want to report

- We might be afraid that the harassment will get worse if we report it. This is especially true at school or work.
- We may be afraid that the situation will be made public and/or we will be 'outed'.
- We may be afraid of the police and what they might do, or if they will harass us as well. This is especially true if we are reporting against a police officer.
- We may not have a lot of support, or know where to get help.

(goes on reverse of Back Cover Panel 8)

### Panel 5



#### If this happens:

- ♦ We should try to remember that the trial is not between us and the accused but between the accused and the country of Canada
- ♦ We can have other people to support us in the courtroom at the time
- ♦ We can get support from Victim/Witness Assistance Programs. To find an anti-violence program in your area, contact the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs at [www.ncavp.org](http://www.ncavp.org). In Toronto, the Victim/Witness Assistance program can be reached at 416-314-2447).

#### Things to keep in mind:

It is important to think about our own pros and cons when deciding whether to report a hate crime. We should also figure out what we want to come out of making the report and try to prepare for both positive and negative outcomes. There are people who can provide support in this process. See the Resources page for more info.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE MAKE A REPORT?