



Sexual Orientation and Violence

Types of Violence and Abuse

Violence and abuse are best understood as a pattern of behaviour intended to establish power and maintain control over individuals. The roots of all forms of violence are founded in the many types of inequality which continue to exist and grow in our society. Violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals is a reflection of an imbalance of power between victim and abuser.

Violence and abuse against LGBT individuals may occur only once, it may involve various tactics of subtle manipulation or it may occur frequently while escalating over a period of months or years. In any form, violence and abuse profoundly affect an individual's safety, health and well-being.

LGBT individuals in Newfoundland and Labrador experience physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, spiritual and cultural violence, as well as verbal and financial or material abuse and neglect.

Physical Violence

Physical violence against LGBT individuals occurs when someone uses a part of their body or an object to harm an individual or control an individual's actions. Physical violence includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- pushing or shoving;
- pinning or holding an individual down;
- confinement;
- pinching;
- hair-pulling;
- punching;
- arm twisting;
- kicking;
- biting;
- strangling;
- choking;
- burning;
- overmedication;
- assault with an object or weapon;
- threats with an object or weapon;
- stabbing;
- murder.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence against LGBT individuals occurs when someone forces an individual to take part in sexual activity when they do not want to. Sexual violence includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- touching an individual in a sexual manner against their will (i.e. kissing, grabbing, fondling);
- forced sexual intercourse (vaginal or anal);
- forcing an individual to perform sexual acts they find degrading, confusing or painful;
- use of a weapon to make an individual comply with a sexual act;
- beating sexual parts of an individual's body;
- denial of an individual's sexuality;
- withholding sexual affection;
- humiliating, criticizing or trying to control an individual's sexuality;
- exposure to AIDS or other sexually transmitted infections;
- forced abortion or sterilization;
- forced prostitution;
- unfounded allegations of promiscuity and/or infidelity.

Emotional Violence

Emotional violence against LGBT individuals occurs when someone says or does something to make an individual feel stupid or worthless. Emotional violence includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- name calling;
- constant criticism;
- blaming all family problems on an individual;
- humiliating or belittling an individual in front of others;
- using silent treatment;
- confinement to the home;
- not allowing an individual to have contact with certain family and friends;
- destroying possessions;
- threats;
- jealousy;
- intimidation;
- threatening to commit suicide.



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Psychological Violence

Psychological violence against LGBT individuals occurs when someone uses threats and causes fear in an individual to gain control. Psychological violence includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- threats of violence;
- threats of abandonment;
- destruction of an individual's personal property;
- constant humiliation;
- confinement to the home;
- verbal aggression;
- social isolation from an individual's family and friends.

Spiritual Violence

Spiritual violence against LGBT individuals occurs when someone uses an individual's religious or spiritual beliefs to manipulate, dominate, or control them. Spiritual violence includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- trying to prevent an individual from practicing their religious or spiritual beliefs;
- making fun of an individual's religious or spiritual beliefs;
- using your/their religious or spiritual beliefs to manipulate, dominate or control an individual;
- forcing a religious or spiritual practice or ritual on an individual.

Cultural Violence

Cultural violence against LGBT individuals occurs when an individual is harmed as a result of practices condoned by their culture, religion or tradition. Cultural violence includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- rape - marriage;
- female circumcision;
- sexual slavery;
- honour crimes.

Verbal Violence

Verbal abuse against LGBT individuals occurs when someone uses language, whether spoken or written, to cause an individual harm. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- constant criticism;
- cursing;
- name calling;
- repeated insults;
- recalling an individual's past mistakes;
- expressing negative expectations;
- expressing distrust;
- threats of violence against an individual or other family members.

Financial or Material Abuse

Financial abuse against LGBT individuals occurs when someone controls an individual's financial or material resources to the extent that harm is the ultimate outcome. Financial and material abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- withholding financial support in an attempt to control and manipulate an individual;
- illegally using an individual's money, assets or property;
- denying an individual access to basic needs such as food and health care;
- destruction of an individual's personal property.

Neglect

Neglect of LGBT individuals occurs when someone has the responsibility to provide care or assistance to an individual but does not. Neglect includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- not providing needed medication, food, shelter or clean clothing;
- criminal negligence causing bodily harm;
- failure to provide emotional attention to an individual when they are hurt, ill, frightened or upset.

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