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The Transgender Anti-Violence Project

Transgender People and People of Diverse Gender Identities are at Risk of Experiencing Violence Every Day

by Tahlia

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Tahlia

Hello! Let me introduce myself. My name is Tahlia and I am the new Transgender Anti-Violence Project (T.A.V.P.) Officer at the Gender Centre. I've been volunteering at the Centre since the beginning of the year, so you may have already seen me 'round the traps, but I have now become a more permanent feature of this little terrace by the park. Some of you may know about the T.A.V.P. and some of you may not. Before I tell you about the project and how it can help you, let's start from scratch.

Demanding a life free of violence, oppression and discrimination on the grounds of your sexual or gender diversity is a sign of strength and bravery.

What is violence, and how do I know if what I've experienced even counts as violence?

There are many different forms of violence and just as many myths about what counts and what doesn't. Violence may take the form of physical assault, emotional abuse, sexual assault or domestic and family violence. And what if you don't have cuts or bruises?

Emotional or psychological abuse, verbal abuse, threats, harassment, stalking, online abuse or cyber bullying, bullying at school or work, destroying your belongings or even harming your pets ... that still counts as violence.

If you are in a relationship with someone who is restricting your access to money, socially isolating you or forbidding you to see your family and friends ... that counts too. There are other forms of violence that transgender people in particular may experience.

This includes having your testosterone, H.R.T. or H.I.V. medication taken away from you and or having your trans* identity or H.I.V. status outed – or threatened to be outed – against your will. Nothing is too small to report.

Hopefully, you will never experience violence or harassment related to your gender identity (or at all of course). Tragically, however, transgender people and people of diverse gender identities are at risk of experiencing violence every day. And many do. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of violence, harassment or hate crime based on your gender expression, you don't need to remain silent. Speaking up is a start to regaining your sense of self and empowerment.

Demanding a life free of violence, oppression and discrimination on the grounds of your sexual or gender diversity is a sign of strength and bravery. That's where I come in.

As the Transgender Anti-Violence Project Officer, I am here to provide you with support in a number of areas.

The first and most important area is reporting the violence. If you prefer, you can report to the T.A.V.P. without reporting to the police. What you tell me or other Gender Centre staff will remain confidential and your name and other identifying information will not be released without your permission. When you report to the T.A.V.P., in person, by phone, or online, you can provide me with as much information about yourself and the incident as you feel comfortable with.

The more information you provide, the more support I will be able to offer you and the more I can try to stop the violence happening to someone else.

I will support you throughout the process of reporting to the T.A.V.P. and/or the police, seeking legal advice, accompanying you to court, helping you to get medical assistance, providing education, organising counselling, making referrals to other services, offering follow-up support and advocating on your behalf about situations specifically related to violence, transphobia and hate crimes. Any or all of these avenues might feel right for you. After reporting an incident to the T.A.V.P., you will not be forced to take any further action. Your experiences mean your decisions.

Okay, so maybe I do want to do something about it. Now what?

- In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000) or find the nearest police station.
- If it is not an emergency, go to your local police station and/or contact me.
- Phone the Gender Centre: 9:00am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday on (02) 9519 7599.
- Rather report online? Visit the [Transgender Anti-Violence Project](#)  and follow the links.
- For more information or support, [email me at the Gender Centre](#) 

Remember, experiencing violence is not your fault. You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, no matter who you are or how you identify. I'm here to tell you that you're not alone and you can get help. Together we can.

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The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities, which enhance the ability of people with gender issues to make informed choices. We offer a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, family members and friends in New South Wales. We are an accommodation service and also act as an education, support, training and referral resource centre to other organisations and service providers. The Gender Centre is committed to educating the public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues. We specifically aim to provide a high quality service, which acknowledges human rights and ensures respect and confidentiality.