

Supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ Victims/ Survivors of GBV & IPV



2SLGBTQIA+ people experience disproportionately high rates of gender-based violence (GBV) including intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence.

Gender based violence (GBV):

An umbrella term referring to any physical, sexual, or other emotional violence perpetrated on the basis of socially ascribed gender differences

Intimate partner violence (IPV):

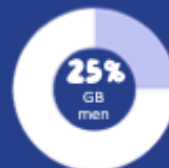
Physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current or former partner (regardless of marriage status, cohabitation, or sexual intimacy)

Sexual Assault:

Any sexual contact or activity that occurs without consent. Under Canadian law, this includes rape, forced sexual contact, or any unwanted sexual touching. Sexual assault is a prevalent form of sexual violence and part of a broader pattern of GBV.



In Canada, **67% of LGB women**, **60% of Trans women** and **54% of GB men** experience some form of IPV.

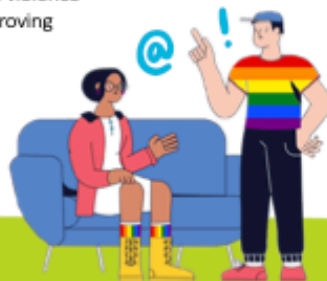


In Ontario **57% of Trans people** experience unwanted sexual behaviour. **50% of LGB women** and **25% of GB men** experience sexual assault.

Unique Forms of GBV/IPV

2SLGBTQIA+ people can experience unique forms of abuse that target their identity and access to community. These forms often reflect attempts to control or invalidate who someone is:

- Threatening to disclose one's 2SLGBTQIA+ identity
- Financially preventing access to gender affirming care/apparel
- Isolating someone from 2SLGBTQIA+ supportive spaces and people
- Sexual assault or coercion linked to one's gender identity or sexual orientation (e.g., "corrective" sexual violence or non-consensual acts framed as proving or denying someone's identity)
- Targeting of certain physical/body features
- Invalidating one's 2SLGBTQIA+ identity
- Frequent misgendering



Warning Signs of GBV/IPV

Some warning signs of abusive behaviours, that signal a (ex)partner is becoming controlling or harmful may include:

- Suggesting no one else would love them because of their 2SLGBTQIA+ status.
- Threatening to 'out' a partner or former partner as 2SLGBTQIA+
- Forcing or pressuring a partner or former partner into doing something that doesn't agree with their sexuality/gender.
- Hiding, destroying, or preventing access to gender affirming items.
- Expressing fear of sexual situations or intimacy.

These patterns often reinforce isolation and control, key dynamics of IPV and GBV.

Showing Support for Victims/Survivors:

Showing support for 2SLGBTQIA+ victims/survivors can mean responding safely to disclosures of GBV/IPV and helping to raise awareness and challenge harmful myths and stereotypes, such as:

- Remember that GBV/IPV is rooted in oppressive systems and abusers exerting their power; it's never the victims'/survivors' fault
- Challenge unconscious biases about victims/survivors, abusers, gender, gender identity, gender expression and sexuality
- Educate people who share stereotypes/misinformation about GBV/IPV
- Avoid gender-specific language and assumptions
- Respect the language and terms people use for themselves
- Believe and validate victims/survivors
- Offer to connect victims/survivors with queer and trans affirming support

Every victim's/survivor's situation is different. Listening and affirming their choices are key to responding safely.

Tips for Safety Planning with Victims/Survivors

Safety planning looks different for everyone. Supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ survivors/victims often means recognizing informal supports and affirming their choices, such as:

- Consider informal sources of support (e.g. friends, chosen family, neighbours); not everyone feels comfortable in, or has access to, a 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusive IPV shelter
- Offer to keep important items safe (e.g. identification, gender affirming apparel)
- Respect their confidentiality and privacy



www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.ca/learn/2slgbtqia

