

# Welcome to the Seminar

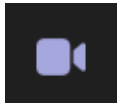
The session will start shortly...

If you're new to Microsoft Teams, let us know 😊

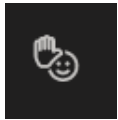
Tips for engaging with this session:



Mute your microphone in the main space



Please have your camera off to preserve bandwidth



Please engage with the chat function throughout the session to ask questions or make comments.

# LGBT Domestic Abuse Seminar



Janice Stevenson: Development Officer  
@Janice\_LGBTYS @lgbtDAproject

# Safer Space Agreement

**Language** - Safe space to make mistakes, respectfully. Ask questions and don't be afraid to get it wrong

**Confidentiality** – Keep names and identifying info private

**Online Safety** – No recording, photos or screenshots without prior permission

**Distractions** – Close all your tabs and anything which might pop up

**Facilitation/ Car park** – If we don't have time to answer something today, we will follow-up

# Content Warning

This presentation contains verbal and written references to the following;

- Homophobia Biphobia and Transphobia
- Domestic Abuse
- Physical Violence
- Sexual Violence
- Discrimination

# Learning Outcomes

Participants will:

- Understand the impact and dynamics of LGBT people's experiences of domestic abuse
- Reflect on the nature of homo/bi/transphobia and consider how this impacts on LGBT people's experience of domestic abuse
- Reflect on the nature of homo/bi/transphobia and heterosexism and consider how this impacts on LGBT people's access to support service.



# Definitions & Language

# Terminology – Sexual Orientation

**Lesbian** - a girl or woman who is emotionally and/or sexually attracted to other girls or women.

**Gay** – someone who is emotionally and/or sexually attracted to people of the same gender. *Some women prefer to use this term.*

**Bisexual** - A person who is emotionally and/or sexually attracted to both men and women or to more than one gender

**Pansexual** A person who is emotionally and/or sexually attracted to someone regardless of gender.

**Heterosexual** – someone who is emotionally and/or sexually attracted to people of the opposite gender

**Asexual** – A person who does not experience sexual attraction

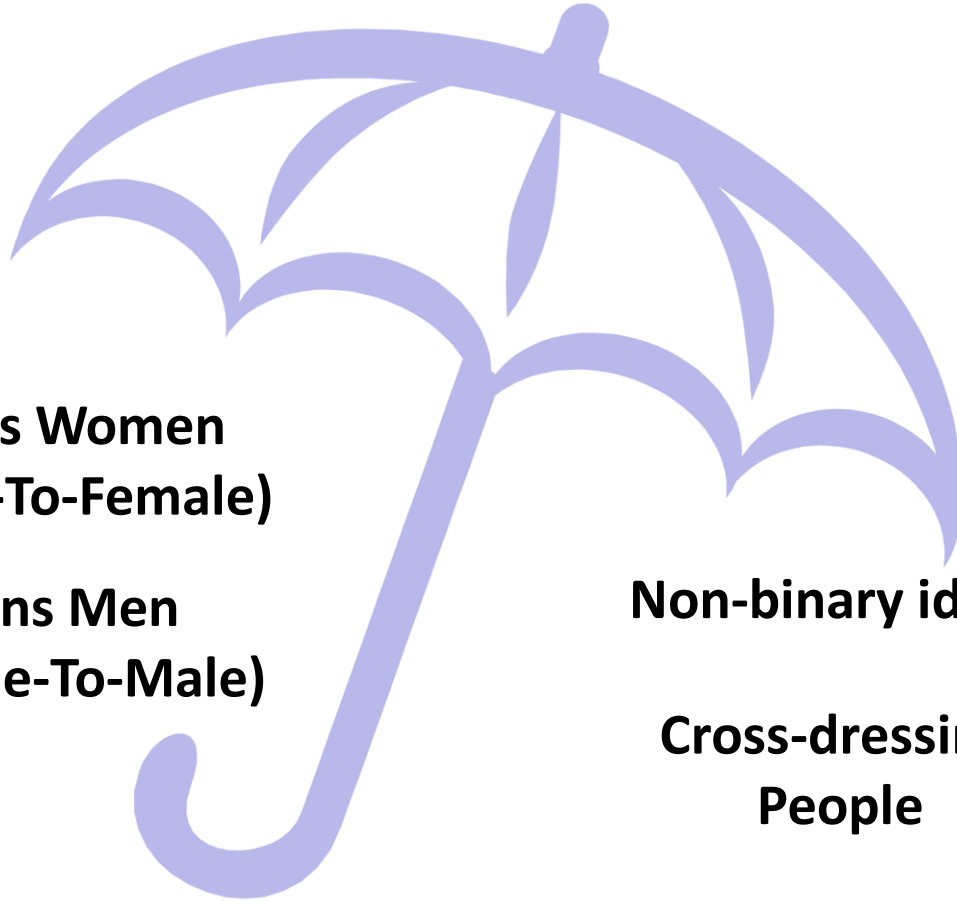
# Transgender

An umbrella term for those whose **gender identity** or **expression differs** in some way from the gender **assigned** to them at birth





# Transgender Identities



**Trans Women  
(Male-To-Female)**

**Trans Men  
(Female-To-Male)**

**Non-binary identities**

**Cross-dressing  
People**

# Important Distinctions

**Sexual Orientation** - A person's attraction to other people. This could be romantic, physical or sexual.

**Gender identity** - A person's innate sense of their own gender, whether male, female or non-binary. This may or may not correspond to the sex assigned at birth.

**Gender expression** – the way in which a person expresses their gender outwardly.



# Gender-Based Violence

# Gender Based Violence

*“Any form of violence used to establish, enforce or perpetuate gender inequalities and keep in place gendered orders. In other words gender based violence is a policing mechanism”*

(James Lang 2002).



# LGBT Domestic Abuse

# Domestic Abuse in Scotland

Domestic Abuse is a pattern of abusive behaviour **perpetrated by partners or ex-partners** and can include:

- physical abuse (assault and physical attack involving a range of behaviour)
- sexual abuse (acts which degrade and humiliate and are perpetrated against the person's will, including rape),
- mental and emotional abuse (such as threats, verbal abuse, degradation, withholding money or 'gaslighting' etc.)
- other types of controlling behaviour such as isolation from family and friends or monitoring online activity

# Aspects of LGBT Domestic Abuse

Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia may be used as tools of abuse and control in relationships:

- Threats to 'out' sexual orientation or gender identity
- Undermining someone's sense of identity or preventing them from expressing their gender identity
- Normalising abuse in LGBT relationships
- Potential for isolation
- Reinforcing beliefs that no one will help

# LGBT Community Awareness

## *Prevalence*

- 1 in 4 LGBT people will experience domestic abuse, the same rate as for heterosexual women (Henderson 2003).

## *Lack of Recognition of Abuse*

- Domestic abuse in the context of 'Men's Violence Against Women'
- Lack of visibility of LGBT domestic abuse in relationships and sexual health education and in mainstream domestic abuse campaigns
- Negative stereotypes of same-sex relationships and transgender identities in media.
- Minimisation and internalised homo/bi/transphobia.



# Transgender Experiences of DA

‘Out of Sight, Out of Mind’ research.

- 80% of respondents had experienced some form of abusive behaviour from a partner or ex-partner.
- 73% of respondents had experienced transphobic abuse from a partner or ex-partner.
- Unique experiences and barriers to reporting or accessing support.

# GBT Men's Experiences of DA

Men's gender identities or ideas of masculinity may be used against them. Their physical sex may also be used.

- Being told that no one will believe that men can experience abuse
- Being told that he will be reported as the perpetrator
- Body parts highlighted: Bisexual men in mixed sex relationships may be hit in the groin and transgender men may be hurt in the breasts if they have not undergone surgery
- Threats to disclose HIV diagnosis – whether true or not
- Men in same-sex relationships are more likely than women in same-sex relationships to experience sexual abuse and assault

# LGBT Young People's Experiences

- High risk of domestic abuse in first LGBT relationship
- Only 37% of young people felt that they had experienced abuse from a partner or ex-partner although 53% indicated experience of some form of abusive behaviour.
- 25% said that they had experienced physical violence from a partner or ex-partner.
- 79% of participants felt that LGBT young people who witnessed domestic abuse in the family or home would be less confident to come out as LGB or T.

***'I never told him until I was eighteen, because I had seen what he had done to my mum'***

(young person, the Borders).

# Prevalence of Types of Abuse

	LGBT CLIENT GROUP	NON-LGBT CLIENT GROUP
Physical abuse	64%	57%
Sexual abuse	28%	21%
Harassment and stalking	68%	66%
Jealous and Controlling behaviour	83%	80%

Proportion of clients experiencing specific types of abuse at intake

Breakdown of severity of abuse experienced

	LGBT CLIENT GROUP			NON-LGBT CLIENT GROUP		
	Standard	Moderate	High	Standard	Moderate	High
Physical abuse	9%	17%	37%	9%	16%	33%
Sexual abuse	9%	9%	9%	7%	7%	7%
Harassment and stalking	15%	21%	32%	13%	21%	33%
Jealous and Controlling behaviour	14%	27%	42%	15%	26%	39%

[LGBT practice briefing for Idvas FINAL.pdf \(safelives.org.uk\)](#)

# Risk in LGBT+ Domestic Abuse

- Fear
- Isolation
- Conflict over child contact
- Control
- Substance misuse
- Sexual abuse
- Age



# Barriers

To Seeking Support  
And Reporting

# Barriers to Accessing Support

- Stereotyping around relationships involving LGBT people
- Impact of internalised homo/bi/transphobia
- Lack of appropriate or specialist services
- Real or perceived homo/bi/transphobia from service providers
- The need to 'out' oneself to access services and concerns about subsequent referrals
- Lack of training in relation to LGBT Domestic Abuse, including failure to screen for alleged perpetrator and victim
- Lack of confidence in criminal justice system

# GBT Men's Barriers

- Pressures of gender stereotyping and masculinity
  - Prevent men from speaking about their feelings or seeking support
- GBT men's invisibility in domestic abuse campaigns and media
- Concerns that services wouldn't understand or accept the individual's gender identity or sexual orientation, or understand the issues for GBT men.
- Feared a loss of their community, particularly in small towns and rural areas.

*“The fear that no one would believe you regarding why you left. The gay scene in Aberdeen tends to be rather small, and everyone knows everyone—things can spread like wildfire”.*



# Transgender People's Barriers

- Lack of awareness of trans identities and issues within services
- Having to out oneself to access services/ being outed by service providers
- Fear of transphobia; being misgendered or not being taken seriously
- Concern about whether services are inclusive
- Concern about identification documents not matching identity
- Fear of the criminal justice system; being outed in court

# Professional Barriers

- Fear of getting it wrong language and terminology
- Specific concern about misgendering a trans person/ use of pronouns
- Uncertainty about trans inclusion in single sex services
- Lack of training in relation to LGBT Domestic Abuse – specific risks and considerations
- Availability of tools to assess for alleged perpetrator and victim
- Lack of knowledge of local services/ organisations (LGBT)
- Lack of confidence to respond effectively



# LGBT Inclusive Services

# Inclusive Environments

- Never make assumptions about sexual orientation or gender identity
- Ensure visibility of LGBT people in services and be explicit about services offered to LGBT people
- Ensure you have training and resources
- Acknowledge and respond to concerns about the risk of discrimination from other services
- Have clear links with other organisations and be able to make referrals
- Consider how you can address the unique aspects of LGBT Domestic abuse in risk assessment and safety planning

# LGBT Charter Mark

The LGBT Charter is a straightforward programme that enables your organisation to proactively include LGBT people in every aspect of your work.

Being awarded our LGBT Charter enables you to send a positive message, with confidence, that your organisation is a champion of LGBT inclusion where LGBT employees, customers, or service users will be safe, supported and included.

The LGBT Charter makes a clear statement that equality and diversity are at the heart of your organisation.



[lgbtyouth.org.uk](http://lgbtyouth.org.uk)

[Janice.Stevenson@lgbtyouth.org.uk](mailto:Janice.Stevenson@lgbtyouth.org.uk)