

Domestic Violence

A resource for gay men
in Brighton and Hove



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Acknowledgements

This resource has been written to begin explicitly addressing the needs of gay men who experience domestic violence.

It is one of a series of five booklets about domestic violence as it affects lesbians, gay, bisexual men and women and trans people in Brighton and Hove.

The resource has been written and produced by the Brighton and Hove LGBT DV & A Working Group. We would like to thank and acknowledge the work of AVA formerly the Greater London Domestic Violence Project and Barking and Dagenham PCT, who originally developed a leaflet for lesbian and bisexual women.

Thanks are particularly due to Allsorts, Brighton Both Ways, Brighton and Hove City Council, Clare Project, B&H DV Forum, Gender Trust, MindOut, DV Strategic Co-ordinator, Rise, Switchboard and Spectrum.

Most importantly of all, we want to acknowledge and express our gratitude to those who have contributed from their personal experience to help make this a useful resource.

‘He loves me, he loves me not...’

Domestic violence can be difficult to identify, especially for the person experiencing it. People sometimes misunderstand domestic violence and think it is only physical abuse when actually it can be emotional, financial, or sexual abuse.

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviour characterised by the exercise of control by one person over another within the context of an intimate or family relationship.

Gay men experience domestic violence regardless of age, caring responsibility, class, disability, gender identity, immigration status, race or religion. Gay men can find it hard to talk about domestic violence.

Acknowledging that any current or ex-partner or family member is an ‘abuser’ is hard, and this can be made harder by threats of ‘outing’ or because of fear of further isolation, but there are agencies and people who can help and support both you and the ‘abusive’ person.

In this leaflet we refer to gay men, although we recognise that men will identify themselves in many ways including (but not limited to) gay, queer and as men who have sex with men. Men who identify as bisexual or a trans person may find the separate domestic violence resources for bisexual men and/or trans people useful.

Abusers often manipulate victims so that they feel they are to blame for the abuse. Sometimes same sex abusers will try to tell their partners that ‘this is how it is in a gay relationship’.

Abusers often promise to change their behaviour, and the hope for that positive change can keep a victim from identifying the pattern of abuse in the relationship.

Beware if someone is showing you this information to prove to you that you are an abuser. There is no checklist that can determine whether someone is an abuser, one needs to consider the entire relationship and not take individual incidents out of context.

If you are unsure, talk it over with someone who you believe to be objective – or contact a domestic violence helpline or service.

If violence does occur and you are in danger or fear that you are in danger call **999** immediately.

Am I being abused?

Every relationship is different and many relationships have rough patches with arguments and the ups and downs of everyday life. A relationship becomes abusive when there is a pattern of behaviour that means that one person is exerting power and control over another.

Intimate partner abuse takes many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual, identity and financial abuse. The list below outlines some examples of abusive behaviour.

Are you in a relationship with someone who:

- Keeps you from spending time with friends or family members?
- Makes you account for your time when apart from him?
- Is excessively jealous and possessive?
- Makes unreasonable demands for your attention?
- Blames you for all the arguments or problems in the relationship?
- Wants to make all the decisions?
- Invades your privacy – opening your mail, reading your e-mail or going through your personal belongings?
- Gets angry for no apparent reason?
- Seems like two different people – one is charming or loving, the other is mean and hurtful?
- Lies in order to confuse you?
- Prevents you from practicing safer sex?
- Forces or coerces you to have sex or hurts you during sex?
- Becomes angry if you don't go along with his sexual demands?
- Blames his behaviour on alcohol, drugs or his own history of abuse?
- Pressures you to use alcohol or other drugs?

Am I being abused?

- Criticises, ridicules, humiliates or belittles you?
- Controls your finances or feels entitled to your financial support?
- Damages your property?
- Harasses you at work or school?
- Threatens to out you at work, to your family or to others?
- Criticises your body and appearance?
- Manipulates you with the constant threat of mood changes and impending rage? Has you 'walking on eggshells' or living with constant stress, anxiety or fear?
- Threatens you with physical harm or makes you feel afraid?
- Pushes, shoves, grabs, punches, hits or strikes you with hands or fists?
- Threatens or assaults you with weapons, such as household objects or knives?

Am I being abused?

Using someone's sexual orientation to abuse

Whilst much of the abuse described in the previous section is similar to that experienced by heterosexual men, gay men can also experience unique forms of abuse based on their sexual orientation.

Many young men experience abuse from family members when they are exploring their sexual identity and coming out as gay.

An abuser can use the fact that their victim is gay in a number of ways, including:

- Threatening to 'Out' i.e. to disclose someone's sexual orientation or gender identity without their consent for example to their employer or other family members.
- Criticising someone for not being a 'real gay', for example if they have only recently come out or had a previous heterosexual relationship.

- Saying that no-one will help because someone ‘deserves’ the abuse, for example, an abuser may be a former heterosexual partner or family member who says the abuse is deserved because the victim started a relationship with another man or came out as gay.
- Promoting the belief that agencies such as the police are homophobic.

Myths surrounding sexual orientation and abuse

Sometimes gay men don't feel able to talk to anyone about the abuse they're experiencing because of some of the myths that are around. Such as:

- ‘Abuse between people of the same-sex is ‘mutual’, so both are equally responsible for any abuse’ – **NOT TRUE**
- ‘If abuse occurs, the person experiencing domestic abuse and the perpetrator will ‘play-out’ heterosexual gender roles (e.g. the abuser is the butch more masculine one)’ – **NOT TRUE**
- ‘Abuse is a ‘normal’ part of relationships between gay men. No one will help a man experiencing domestic violence if they are gay’ – **NOT TRUE**
- ‘Gay men are more able to leave an abusive relationship, perhaps because there are no children, or because they are not the biological parent’ – **NOT TRUE**
- ‘Domestic violence does not happen to gay, bisexual or trans people’ – **NOT TRUE**

All these myths are based on misconceptions and are not true. Where someone is experiencing domestic abuse it is because one person (their former or current partner, or a family member) is attempting to exert power and control over them.

It is important to remember that nobody should have to live with violence or the fear of abuse.

Forced Marriage – what is it?

When we think of forced marriages most would think that this only happens to women – much like domestic violence. However, as with domestic violence, heterosexual men, gay and trans men can also be victims of Forced Marriage. Some 15% of victims that are identified by the Forced Marriage Unit of the Foreign Office are men.

A forced marriage is one where people are coerced into a marriage against their will and under duress. Duress includes both physical and emotional pressure. Forced marriage is an abuse of human rights and cannot be justified on any religious or cultural basis.

It is of course very different from an arranged marriage, where the consent of both parties is present. The tradition of arranged marriages has operated successfully within many communities and many countries for a very long time.

What can you do?

If you fear you may be forced into marriage overseas, or know someone else who may be, there is help and advice. Call the Forced Marriage Unit as soon as possible on **020 7008 0151** (or **0044 20 7008 0151** if you are overseas).

The Forced Marriage Unit has also produced a 'Guide to Forced Marriage for LGBT people' and is written for LGBT people who are being forced into marriage either in the UK or abroad. Go to:

www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/forced-marriage-lgbt

Chronic illnesses including HIV/AIDS and domestic violence

Chronic illnesses (eg HIV/AIDS, cancer, Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's, etc) can cause tension, stress and a range of other problems within a relationship but they do not cause domestic violence.

Abusive partners (or ex-partners) choose the weapons of abuse and control they use, and their health or their partners' health can be used as one of these weapons.

In some abusive relationships the domestic violence begins at or around the time that the illness is diagnosed.

In some cases of domestic violence the abusive partner is the one with the illness while in others it is the one without the illness that is abusive.

Within an abusive relationship, where either or both of the partners has a chronic illness many of the forms of abuse and control discussed earlier may exist, however there are a number of forms of domestic violence that are specific to relationships where either or both partners have a chronic illness.

If the abusive partner does not have a chronic illness they may:

- Threaten to, or actually, disclose their partner's health status to friends, family or colleagues.
- Withhold medication, treatments or access to other medical services.
- Threaten to cut off support or to leave.
- Verbally abuse their partner by saying they are 'diseased, sick, unclean' or other inappropriate comments about their illness, or otherwise undermine their partner's confidence.

If the abusive partner does have a chronic illness they may:

- Use guilt or other psychological abuse to manipulate their partner.
- Refuse to take medication or seek medical services.
- Use their illness to manipulate services, e.g. saying 'I'm weak and sick, how could I control him?'
- Where relevant, threaten to, or actually, infect their partner to prevent them leaving.

As sexual assault is a common form of domestic violence, sexually transmissible infections (e.g. HIV, Hepatitis B) can pose a particular risk to the uninfected partner.

As well as the domestic violence services listed in this resource, there is a range of support services that someone with a chronic illness can contact.

These include:

National AIDS & Sexual Health Helpline

Free phone 0800 567 123

Terrence Higgins Trust Direct

0845 1221 200

Hepatitis C Trust Helpline

0870 200 1 200

GLAMS – LGBT MS Support Group

07758 146 914

Regard – LGBT Disability Group

020 7688 4111 /

020 7688 0709 (Minicom)

Out With Cancer

www.outwithcancer.com

About abusive relationships

What to expect?

An abuser is reliant upon maintaining his power and control over you. Abusers can be very manipulative in achieving this outcome, but there are some common tactics that they use:

There's no violence so you're not a victim

Most people think of abuse as physical but there are four other types of abuse: emotional, sexual, financial and identity. Even if he's not hitting you, he could be abusing you. Verbal or emotional abuse, for example, is almost always used even if physical abuse is not. Abusers can be extremely creative in the types of abuse that they use.

Abuse is normal

Abusers will try to convince their partners that their abusive behaviour is 'normal' or 'normal for a gay relationship'. This tactic is especially effective with people who are inexperienced in gay relationships. Abuse is not normal in any relationship, including gay relationships.

Abuse has no part in a healthy relationship.

You're the abuser, I'm the victim

A common characteristic of abusers is the lack of responsibility they take for their own behaviours. They may accuse their partner of being the 'abuser' and they, sometimes, genuinely believe that they are the 'abused' party. They may use this claim to manipulate friends, service providers and statutory agencies. An abuser, for example, may seek a civil injunction against his partner, claiming the partner is the abuser.

Partners may defend themselves when experiencing a physical attack, however the abuser may then assert that such action which is done in self defence is actually abuse. Or the abuser may claim that the partner is 'mutually abusive or violent'.

You're to blame

Another ploy is to blame the partner for 'making' the abuser abuse. The abuser will claim that he would not abuse if only the partner did X or if the partner didn't do Y.

Again, the abuser is trying to shift the responsibility from him to his partner.

Unfortunately, this tactic is all too successful. Partners often assume responsibility not only for the abuser's behaviour but also for the relationship as a whole. The reality is that you are not to blame, his violence is a choice he makes not you.

It's the stress, the drugs...

Abusers sometimes claim that circumstance forces them to abuse and if only the circumstance were to change, they would stop.

They blame their abusive behaviour on such circumstances as stress, lack of a job or the use of drugs or alcohol.

Violence is a choice he makes. There is a common misconception that drugs and alcohol cause domestic violence because he loses control. This is not true. While it can act to exacerbate the incident, research shows us that even if he is drunk or high he is still in control and making a choice whether or not to be abusive.

For example, he chooses to abuse you rather than the barman or his boss. This demonstrates that his abuse of you is considered and choice based. There always will be some circumstance that in an abuser's mind justifies the abusive behaviour.

Promises, promises

Abusers commonly promise to change – to stop abusing, to stop using drugs, to stop whatever. These promises often follow an abusive incident. The goal of these promises is to win back the partner and to hold him in the relationship.

The abusers may believe their own promises, but the goal of the promises is not to reform their behaviour but to keep their partner.

Once the partner indicates that he is staying in the relationship, the promise is forgotten. If an abuser is genuinely remorseful he will engage meaningfully with a specialist perpetrator programme.

No legal protection

Abusers may attempt to convince their partners that no one will help them and that they are not entitled to legal protection from abuse. This is not true.

The UK Government defines domestic violence as:

‘Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality’.

There is help available. Not only does the definition of domestic violence recognise the needs of gay men, but Rise the Brighton and Hove domestic violence service run an LGBT Advocacy service. At a national level there are also specific services such as Broken Rainbow to support gay men who are in abusive relationships.

It is possible to obtain same sex injunctions and there are civil legal options as well, so there is legal help out there. If you are not a British citizen, your abuser may also threaten that you will be deported if you leave him. If you have insecure immigration status you should seek advice from a solicitor who can be located on the legal aid website because it might affect your access to public funds.

Go to www.legalservicescommisson.gov.uk

Ending the Abuse

Experience has shown that once abuse begins it is very likely to continue and become more frequent and more severe over time.

Partners can and do have compelling reasons to stay in an abusive relationship.

It is very difficult to admit that the person you love is abusing you and leaving them can mean leaving your home, community and changing your life.

Separation can also be a very dangerous time, as the abuser wants to keep hold of the relationship and their control.

Research suggests that abusers are also very unlikely to end the relationship because in most cases they psychologically need the partner more than the partner needs them.

They can be quite successful at hiding their dependency on the partner and their fear of losing him, and they often work to convince the partner that he would be lost without the abuser.

Abusers may threaten to harm themselves if a partner says they want to end the relationship. This can mean that out of concern, partners remain in the relationship.

Whether a partner stays or leaves, it is wise to have a safety or crisis plan to maximize his safety.

If you are experiencing any form of domestic violence you might consider making a crisis plan. A crisis plan can set out what you could do under certain circumstances to help reduce the risk of emotional or physical injury to yourself (and your children).

Your crisis plan can include strategies for reducing risk to yourself while living with your partner or it may outline how you could get away. You can make a crisis plan on your own or speak with a trusted friend, a counsellor or a Domestic Violence worker.

What to do

As a gay man you are entitled to the same provisions afforded to heterosexual men. Reach out for help! There is help available.

If your partner (or ex-partner) has assaulted you or you are afraid for your own or for others' safety you can call the police. Sussex Police are committed to holding domestic violence offenders accountable and they will arrest given reasonable grounds.

Where the evidence exists, the police are also able to pursue offenders without having to rely upon a victim statement. The police have the power to provide you with immediate protection at any time of the day or night.

Call **999**.

In a non-emergency you can contact the police on **0845 6070 999**.

You can also email the police on:
contact.centre@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Sussex Police regard domestic violence as serious crime and will respond as soon as possible. If you need an interpreter, the police will be able to provide you with one.

The police have guidelines that instruct them to respond to domestic violence in a particular way. They should:

- Respond promptly;
- Ensure your safety;
- Stop the violence;
- Thoroughly investigate what has happened;
- Speak to you and your partner separately;
- Get a statement from you and any witnesses;
- Collect evidence; take photos of any injuries and the scene;
- Arrest the violent person if they have committed a criminal offence.
- Carry out a risk assessment.

All statutory agencies have a duty to respond to all members of the public, regardless of sexual orientation. The few exceptions would be voluntary sector led women-only services such as refuges. In addition, services specifically for gay men do exist, but they are limited.

In Brighton and Hove there is a specific service for Gay men and Trans People which is the Rise LGBT Domestic Violence Advisor who can be contacted on **07581 466 438**.

There are also gay-friendly services of all types such as mental and physical health care providers, counsellors, social service agencies, housing support and support groups.

The Equality Act (2006) gave the government powers to introduce regulations outlawing discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in regards to access to goods, facilities and services.

This means that service providers from hotels to GPs, shops to local authorities cannot refuse to serve gay men or offer them a service of lesser quality than that provided to heterosexuals.

For more information go to:
www.equalityhumanrights.com or
www.stonewall.org.uk

The contact details for a range of organisations are included at the end of this leaflet.

Computer safety warning

For your own safety – when you search for information or communicate about domestic violence – try not to use any computer to which your abuser has access. Your Internet, e-mail and document use activities leave traces on your computer that can be found by your abuser.

Ideally, use a computer to which he does not have access, such as at work, in a library, or a friend's or family member's computer.

If you do use your own computer, there are some basic steps that can provide some measure of protection and to remove most traces of your computer activities. Guidance on how to clear your computer of information is regularly updated.

There is really helpful information and advice on how to clear your computer of cookies, temporary website files, browser and search engine history go to the Men's advice line website at:

www.mensadvice.org.uk/pages/cover-your-tracks.html

About abusers

The most frequently reported reason why partners stay in abusive relationships is 'hope for change'. Partners believe the abuser's promises to get help or to change.

Experience shows that once a person begins to abuse, the problem is likely to get worse. Review the Types of Abuse, the examples of abusive tactics to get a perspective on your own experience

Abusers may feel guilty and apologetic after an abusive incident and promise themselves and their partner that they will change. Unfortunately, even with the best intentions, most abusers do not stop being abusive without support.

Respect is the UK association for domestic violence perpetrator programmes and associated support services. Respect runs the Respect Phonenumber, a helpline for anyone concerned about their violence and abuse towards their partner.

The Respect Phonenumber provides information about specialist behaviour-change programmes across the country, some of which work with gay men.

Respect Phonenumber

0845 122 8609

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

10am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm

Useful contacts

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

BRIGHTON & HOVE

Rise LGBT Domestic Violence Advisor

07581 466 438

This service provides a proactive service to support, advise and advocate for LGBT people whose lives have been impacted by domestic violence, with a particular focus on GBT men. For telephone and one to one support please use the above telephone number. If you are not able to speak to someone straight away please leave a message and the advisor will call you back as soon as they can. You can also text using the same number or email

mark.sole@riseuk.org.uk

Broken Rainbow

08452 60 44 60 or www.broken-rainbow.org.uk

National helpline offering confidential listening support for LGBT people experiencing domestic violence. Helpline open Monday: 2pm to 8pm, Wednesday 10am to 1pm, Thursday 2pm to 8pm, All LGBT operators are trained and experienced in the specifics of LGBT domestic violence and available to listen, signpost to other services and provide safety planning information. Information is also available via

Men's Advice Line

Monday - Friday 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm

0808 801 0327 or email: info@mensadvice.org.uk

A confidential helpline for all men experiencing domestic violence by a current or ex-partner. This includes all men – in heterosexual, bisexual or same-sex relationships.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES

BRIGHTON & HOVE AND SUSSEX

Survivors Network

advocacy@survivorsnetwork.org.uk

www.survivorsnetwork.org.uk

They offer an advocacy service for men and women over the age of 14 years if age.

This service is additional to Survivors Network's other services which support female survivors of sexual violence and abuse. They are developing this work with Mankind UK.

The Saturn Centre

01293 600469 or www.saturncentre.org

The Saturn Centre, Crawley Hospital, West Green Drive, Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 7DH

Available Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. They also provide an out of hours emergency service.

Men, women and children who have just been raped or experienced a sexual assault can choose to go to the Saturn Centre in Crawley. This is a specialist sexual assault referral centre. Here staff specifically trained in sexual assaults can medically examine you, check you for STIs, provide emergency contraception (should you wish it). They can also collect forensic evidence. This doesn't mean that you have to report to the police, it can be frozen to give you time to decide if you want to report to the police or it can be passed anonymously to the police.

Mankind UK

01273 510447 or www.mankindcounselling.org.uk

Sussex based service providing information support and counselling for men who have been sexually abused or assaulted.

NATIONAL**Survivors UK**

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 7pm to 10pm on:

0845 122 1201

A national organisation providing information, support and counselling for men who have been raped or sexually abused.

**SERVICES FOR ABUSIVE PEOPLE
WHO WANT TO STOP**

BRIGHTON & HOVE**Living Without Violence Programme**

01273 294561

This is a group work programme of 36 weeks to help address violence and abuse by men to their female partners. There is a women's service which sits alongside the programme, providing 1-1 support for (ex) partners, which can continue until six months after the man leaves the programme. The women's service is provided by Rise – a specialist domestic violence service for women.

NATIONAL

Respect

0845 122 8609 or www.respect.uk.net

For people who are abusive to their partners and want to stop.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

BRIGHTON & HOVE

LGBT Alcoholic Anonymous

01273 203343 (general AA line)

Meets Sundays at 7.30pm Chapel Royal, North St, Brighton (side entrance)

LGBT Narcotics Anonymous (NA)

NA Helpline 01273 604604

Brighton based LGBT group. Meets 6pm Fridays at 61 Ship St, Brighton

NATIONAL

LGBT Goal

thegoalgroup.co.uk/lgbt.aspx

Support service for LGBT people with alcohol dependence.

HOUSING

B&H City Council Housing Options Team

The Housing Options Services are on the First Floor, Bartholomew House, Bartholomew Square, Brighton, BN1 1JP

The Housing Options telephone service is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday on **01273 294400** or email: housing.advice@brighton-hove.gov.uk

The team offer a range of services to help people of all ages and circumstances. Where possible, they aim to make sure nobody actually becomes homeless and do this by providing advice at an early stage about what housing options are available. They have a dedicated LGBT officer and DV officers.

NATIONAL

Shelter

0808 800 4444 or www.shelter.org.uk

A free, national telephone advice line staffed by trained housing advisers. We have helped thousands of people, from finding them a place to sleep to suggesting how to handle mortgage arrears.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

BRIGHTON &HOVE

Claude Nicol Centre Sexual health and HIV centre

www.brightonsexualhealth.com

Range of services including sexual health screening, management of patients with HIV, including a young persons clinic and a gay & bisexual men's clinic.

Terrence Higgins Trust

Tel: **01273 764 200** Fax: **01273 764 201**

Email: info.brighton@ttht.org.uk or visit www.ttht.org.uk

61 Ship Street, Brighton BN1 1AE.

HIV and sexual health charity with range of services and resources.

Mind Out

01273 739847 or www.lgbtmind.com

LGBT Advocacy, information, advice, and support for people with mental health problems

NATIONAL

PACE

0808 1807 223 (helpline) or www.pacehealth.org.uk

London's leading charity promoting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

DISABILITY

GLAMS

0208 438 0959 or www.mssociety.org.uk/support_and_services/support_groups/gay_and_lesbian.html

GLAMS is a national self-help support group for lesbians, gay men, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people affected by MS.

Regard – LGBT (Disability Group)

020 7688 4111 or 020 7688 0709 (Minicom)

For the contact details of other generic and LGBT organisations consult

www.stonewall.org.uk/information%5Fbank/disability/

OLDER PEOPLE

Age concern

0800 00 99 66 (helpline)

www.ageconcern.org.uk

The UK's largest charity working with and for older people.

YOUNG PEOPLE

BRIGHTON & HOVE

Allsorts

01273 721211

www.allsortsyouth.org.uk

info@allsortsyouth.org.uk

Allsorts Youth Project, 69 Ship St,
Brighton, BN1 1AE

Drop in for LGBT young people under 26
on Tuesday evening

TRANS ORGANISATIONS IN B&H

The Clare Project

www.clareproject.org.uk

Community Base, 113 Queens Road,
Brighton, BN1 3XG

Safe and confidential place for people to explore
issues surrounding their Gender identity

The Gender Trust

0845 231 0505 (national helpline)

www.gendertrust.org.uk

The Gender Trust is a registered charity. Their web site carries details of the regional support organisation and affiliated groups around the UK and across the world. They also run a confidential service offering help and support to anyone with queries about all aspects of gender identity issues. The national helpline operates 7 days a week from Monday to Friday 10am to 10pm and Saturday & Sunday 1pm to 10pm.

BLACK, ASIAN AND MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

Imaan

www.imaan.org.uk

A social/support group for LGBT Muslims.

IMMIGRATION ISSUES

UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group

020 7922 7811 or www.uklgig.org.uk

Information and advice for LGBT people who have immigration issues.

Forced Marriage Unit

0207 008 0151 or <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/information-for-victims>

The FMU offers confidential advice and assistance to those who have been forced into marriage overseas; are at risk of being forced into marriage or people worried about friends or relatives.

The FMU recently produced a booklet for LGBT people. For hard copies email

fmu@fco.gov.uk

OTHER LGBT ORGANISATIONS

Brighton Lesbian and Gay Switchboard

01273 204050 daily from 5pm or

www.switchboard.org.uk

Offers a range of services to members of the LGBT community, their families, friends and others who would like to discuss issues surrounding sexual identity or gender:

- Telephone Helpline
- Face to Face Low Cost Counselling
- Relationship/Couples Counselling
- E-Mail Queries
- Hate Crime Reporting

NATIONAL

Stonewall

08000 50 20 20 (Info Line)

www.stonewall.org.uk/information_bank/

Stonewall works to achieve equality and justice for lesbians, gay men and bisexual people. Stonewall's Information Service provides details about a number of different topics and local support groups, activities and services for lesbian gay and bisexual people.

FOR PRACTITIONERS

BRIGHTON & HOVE

Brighton and Hove LGBT Domestic Violence & Abuse Working Group

This is an inter-agency network of practitioners, activists and researchers working around the issue of LGBT domestic violence. It is a development group co-hosted by the Domestic Violence Forum and Spectrum and meets on a monthly basis and aims to provide leadership on LGBT Domestic Violence; identify needs and solutions; influence local policy and strategies; inform research; work towards making local services LGBT-aware; and developing models for service delivery. For further information contact the co-chairs via bhdvalgbt@googlemail.com

Spectrum LGBT Community Forum

www.spectrum-lgbt.org

Provides infrastructure and community development support for the LGBT community. Also co-hosts LGBT DV&A working group.

NATIONAL

LGBT Domestic Abuse Forum

<http://lgbtdaf.org/> Or

The LGBT Domestic Abuse Forum is a national network of practitioners, activists and researchers working around the issue of LGBT domestic abuse. It exists to provide a forum in which to meet, network and exchange good practice.

Email contact: info@lgbtdaf.org

As well as Brighton and Hove organisations we have tried to give information about national organisations as well. There is also more information relating to other national/London-based services available at www.avaproject.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL WEBSITES FOR GAY MEN EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project

www.gmdvp.org

Another Closet

www.ssdv.acon.org.au

Right Here, Right Now

www.rightnow.acon.org.au/domestic_violence

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NHS
Barking and Dagenham