

25 Ways to Support LGBTQ Survivors

- 1 Believe them
- 2 Know that coming out may affect every option
- 3 Know the custody laws affecting LGBTQ families
- 4 Ask survivors what language they use to identify themselves
- 5 Don't make assumptions about gender identity
- 6 Know that homophobia or transphobia are abusers' tools
- 7 Believe that men can be victimized
- 8 Believe that women can be violent and dangerous abusers
- 9 Listen to the realities of LGBTQ survivors' lives
- 10 Understand the LGBTQ community's history with the police
- 11 Know about LGBTQ specific resources (i.e legal, faith, counseling)
- 12 Understand LGBTQ families are *real families*
- 13 Read, read, read
- 14 Assume that it will take even more time to build trust
- 15 Know your county, city or town's protections against discrimination
- 16 Recognize unique LGBTQ relationship dynamics
- 17 Don't make assumptions about anything
- 18 Know the trust required for an LGBTQ survivor to come out to you
- 19 Make LGBTQ people visible with posters, flyers and other materials
- 20 Have clear anti-discrimination policies in staff and survivor materials
- 21 Reach out to the LGBTQ community - ODVN can help!
- 22 Get trained on best practices for working with LGBTQ survivors
- 23 Become more familiar with LGBTQ terminology and identities
- 24 Be an active ally against stereotypes and myths
- 25 Create a safe environment for LGBTQ survivors to be who they are

For more information, contact the Ohio Domestic Violence Network at 614-781-9651 and at www.odvn.org. Published as part of the 25 for 25 years of ODVN celebration!



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