

Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence

IPV Survivors--including LGBT Survivors--may experience:

LGBT Survivors may also experience:

Emotional Abuse

- Put downs
- Humiliation

- Questioning the validity of the survivor's gender identity or sexual orientation
- Controlling how partner expresses their gender or sexuality
- Using homo/bi/transphobic slurs

Minimizing, Denying or Blaming

- Minimizing abuse
- Blaming survivor for the abuse

- Accusing survivor of "mutual abuse"
- Denying abuse can occur in same sex relationships or with transgender partner

Physical Abuse

- Shoving, pushing
- Slapping, hitting
- Kicking
- Biting
- Strangulation

- Withholding hormones for gender transition
- Forced public displays of affection in areas that are not LGBT friendly to intimidate or scare partner
- Forced public displays of affection that "out" a partner

Sexual Abuse

- Physical assaults to "sexual" body areas
- Forced sex
- Refusal to allow safe sex practices

- Using gender roles to control what partner does sexually
- Forcing partner to have sex in a way that doesn't align with their gender identity

Cultural/Identity Abuse

- Using the survivor's culture/identity against them
- Preventing survivors from observing the customs of their faith

- Using the survivor's sexual orientation or gender identity against them
- Reinforcing internalized homo/bi/transphobia

Using Children

- Using children to relay abusive messages
- Threatening to take the children
- Threatening to harm the children

- Threats to or revealing sexual orientation and gender identity to children
- Threats to use sexual orientation or gender identity to gain custody of children

Using Isolation

- Limiting the survivor's activities and contact with others
- Making survivors account for their whereabouts

- Threatening to or isolating from LGBT networks and social spaces
- Threatening to "out" survivors to estrange them from family or friends

Economic Abuse

- Controlling finances
- Making survivor ask for money
- Interfering with work or education
- Using credit cards without permission

- Threatening to "out" partner to employer
- Identity theft which can be easier if the partner is the same sex