

## WHAT WE DO

### Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline

1.866.723.3014 or TTY 215.456.1529

A free, confidential and 24-hour citywide resource that offers intake into Women Against Abuse's emergency housing, as well as safety planning and crisis counseling.

### Legal Aid


The Women Against Abuse Legal Center helps individuals who have been abused navigate the justice system by providing attorney representation, court advocacy and telephone counseling. Attorneys represent clients seeking protection from abuse orders, child custody and child support.

 Contact the **LEGAL CENTER** at **215.686.7082**

### Community Education, Training & Technical Assistance

Women Against Abuse offers a variety of trainings and technical assistance that can be specialized according to your unique needs.

- For youth, Women Against Abuse offers an inclusive and innovative dating violence prevention education program that reflects a trauma-informed approach. Women Against Abuse also offers a unique, LGBTQ+ youth-specific curriculum.
- Women Against Abuse offers several workshops for organizations, public schools and city agencies as well as technical assistance for organizations to recognize and address intimate partner violence in the populations they serve.

 For training, workshops or technical assistance, call 215.386.1280 ext. 6132 or visit [womenagainstabuse.org](http://womenagainstabuse.org)

These services are available to and inclusive of all LGBTQ+ individuals.

## CONTACT US

### WOMEN AGAINST ABUSE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

100 S Broad Street, Suite 1341  
Philadelphia, PA 19110  
**P** 215.386.1280 **F** 215.964.9121

### WOMEN AGAINST ABUSE LEGAL CENTER

100 S Broad Street, 5th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19110  
**P** 215.686.7082 **F** 215.686.7041

### PHILADELPHIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

1.866.723.3014

## ONLINE

[womenagainstabuse.org](http://womenagainstabuse.org)



Like us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/womenagainstabuse](https://facebook.com/womenagainstabuse)



Follow us on Twitter  
[@WomenAgnstAbuse](https://twitter.com/WomenAgnstAbuse)

**WOMEN  
AGAINST  
ABUSE**

## WOMEN AGAINST ABUSE



**43.8%** of lesbians and  
**26%** of gay men have experienced  
rape, physical violence and/or stalking  
by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

*(The National Intimate Partner and Sexual  
Violence Survey, CDC 2011)*

## WHO WE ARE

Women Against Abuse, Inc. is the leading intimate partner violence service provider and advocate in Philadelphia. Women Against Abuse acknowledges the distinct challenges facing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) individuals experiencing intimate partner violence. To address these challenges, our programs are accessible to the LGBTQ+ community and we provide services in a manner that respects our LGBTQ+ clients' background and experience.

More than **50%** of  
transgender individuals  
experience sexual violence  
at some point in their  
lifetime.

*(FORGE sexuality survey, 2007)*



## Supportive Housing

Because safe housing is essential for survivors of intimate partner violence, Women Against Abuse provides:

- Two confidential safe havens offering 200 beds to women and children for stays of 60–90 days. The safe havens provide specialized, trauma-informed case management, children's services, meals, 24-hour security and behavioral health care. These facilities are accessible to individuals who identify as women.
- Sojourner House, a 15-unit transitional housing program, provides case management, behavioral health care, life skills development workshops and on-site child care for up to 18 months. Sojourner House is accessible to families whose head of household identifies as a woman.

- Community-based, permanent, affordable housing options through the Safe at Home program, which provides case management for up to two years, empowering survivors to overcome obstacles to their long-term safety. Safe at Home services are available to all survivors of intimate partner violence transitioning to permanent housing, including LGBTQ+ individuals.



Women Against Abuse encourages everyone in need of safety from intimate partner violence to reach out to us for help. We can explore options for your safety, regardless of how you may identify.



Access to these **EMERGENCY HOUSING SERVICES** is available through the **PHILADELPHIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE** at 1.866.723.3014!

LGBTQ youth reported significantly higher rates of physical dating abuse victimization and perpetration than heterosexual youth.

(43% vs. 29% and 33% vs. 20%).  
(Zweig, Dank, Lachman, & Yahner, 2013)

## INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) DEFINITION

IPV is a pattern of behavior in which one partner exerts power and control over the other one by using physical, emotional, financial and/or sexual abuse. IPV is common and could happen to anyone regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, social status, educational level, etc.

## DYNAMICS OF IPV

Abusive partners use different strategies to gain and maintain their power and control in the relationship. These are some examples:

### Physical Abuse

- Pushing, shoving, slapping, punching, kicking, strangulation, burning, holding, restraining
- Damaging property or valued items
- Controlling partner's medication and/or hormones
- Targeting body parts related to identity
- Coercing into substance abuse

### Emotional and Psychological Abuse

- Threatens to hurt partner, children, pets or self
- Name-calling, constant criticism
- Imposing identity-related expectations: "You are too gay" or "You are not gay enough."
- Denying, justifying or normalizing abuse
- Threats to "out" partner or spread secrets
- Stalking, excessive possessiveness and jealousy
- Using technology and/or social media to keep track of partner
- Isolating partner from their support systems

### Financial Abuse:

- Preventing partner from working or studying
- Making partner financially dependent on abuser
- Expecting "obedience" in exchange for gifts, money, protection, shelter, drugs, etc.
- Controlling partner's funds or limiting partner's knowledge of finances
- Stealing from partner
- Damaging credit; identity theft; getting partner evicted

## Sexual Abuse

- Pursuing sexual activity when partner cannot or does not consent
- Forcing partner to perform sexual acts in exchange for food, shelter, etc.
- Forcing partner into sex work
- Coercing partner to have sex without protection

## Barriers for Leaving

- Fear
- Economic dependency
- Lack of institutional resources: homophobia/transphobia
- Children
- Isolation
- Nowhere to go
- Mixed feelings: hope, love, embarrassment
- Abuser's status in the community
- Disabilities or medical needs

## HOW TO HELP

These are ways in which you could help someone who is being abused by their partner:

- Recognize that someone may stay in the relationship because they may not be ready to leave.
- Listen without judging :
  - Use gender neutral language (partner; they, etc.)
  - Be aware of your own gender and sexuality biases.
- Provide options, not advice
- Respect the person's decisions
- Help them recognize abuse and its effects.
- Connect them to resources through the Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-866-723-3014
- Always "leave the door open," so they can turn to you for support.



It is important to understand that leaving is a **PROCESS**.