

NAVIGATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN 2SLGBTQIA+ RELATIONSHIPS



What Is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)?

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) encompasses a range of abusive behaviors used to exert power and control over a partner. These behaviors can include:

- Emotional abuse (e.g., manipulation, threats, outing)
- Physical harm or intimidation
- Sexual coercion or assault
- Financial control
- Digital harassment
- Isolation from community and support networks

Abuse can occur in any relationship, regardless of gender, sexuality, or identity. It is never the survivor's fault.

1 Understanding 2SLGBTQIA+ Specific Dynamics

In 2SLGBTQIA+ relationships, IPV may involve unique forms of abuse and dynamics, such as:

- Threats to out someone to family, employers, or immigration authorities, also known as “identity abuse.”
- Undermining gender identity or transition, including misgendering or denying access to gender-affirming care.
- Exploitation of societal biases, leading to dismissal by service providers or lack of access to affirming resources.
- Internalized homophobia, stigma, sexism, and a lack of recognition of abusive behaviours can often lead to not seeking help and underreporting.
- Abusers may gaslight their 2SLGBTQIA+ victims into thinking they cannot be abused due to their relationship not conforming to heterosexual stereotypes around IPV.

These dynamics can compound the challenges faced by survivors in seeking support and safety.

2 Steps to Take:

If you or someone you know is experiencing IPV:

- Reach out to someone you trust—a friend, support worker, or helpline
- Develop a safety plan, including strategies for safe communication and emergency contacts
- Document instances of abuse, if it is safe to do so
- Connect with 2SLGBTQIA+ affirming services listed on the back of this flyer



You are not alone. Abuse is never acceptable. Support is available, and your safety, identity, and well-being are important.



Resources

Guelph Wellington Women in Crisis:

www.gwwomenincrisis.org

24 Hour Crisis Line: 519-836-5710 or 1-800-265-7233

Out on the Shelf

www.outontheshelf.com

info@outontheshelf.com

Trans Lifeline

www.translifeline.org

877-330-6366

Guelph General Hospital Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Treatment Centre:

24 hour Services: 519-837-6440 ext. 42210 | Administration: 519-837-6440 ext. 42728

Victim Services Wellington

<https://vswguelph.on.ca/>

519-824-1212 ext. 704 | Tiviotdale, ON: 519-546-5691

Family and Children's Services

<https://www.fcsgw.org/>

1-800-265-8300 or 519-824-2410

Here 24/7:

<https://here247.ca/>

1-844-HERE247

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