LGBTQ+ CRIME VICTIMS DIGITAL RESOURCE GUIDE









TRIGGER WARNING

The LGBTQ+ Crime Victims Digital Resource Guide is an informative tool that offers resources and support services to help those who have been victims of crime, with a particular focus on individuals and allies of the LGBTQ+ Community.

Although we hope this digital guide can help those in need of support, resources, and tools, the LGBTQ+ Crime Victims Digital Resource Guide contains sensitive content that may be emotionally unsettling for readers. The City of Atlanta Division of LGBTQ+ Affairs acknowledges the diverse experiences of our constituents. In an effort to safeguard how individuals engage with our materials, we have provided a list of trigger and content warnings below:

- Abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, verbal)
- Sexual Assault
- Domestic Violence
- LGBTQ+ based violence
- Homicide

ABOUT NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

APRIL 21 - 27, 2024

Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week is observed annually in April. This week is dedicated to learn about victimization, the effect victimization has on individuals, families. friends and the community, and to promote laws, policies, and programs to help victims of crime. Every year, thousands of communities across the nation honor the dedication of those before us that established victim rights and renew commitment to guarantee that all victims have the rights and services they need to recover from crime. Many individuals participate in marches, tree-planting ceremonies, and other activities that are held each year to promote victims' rights and to honor crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf.

The 2024 theme—How would you help? Options, services, and hope for crime victims asks all of us—friends, family members, neighbors, colleagues, community leaders, victim service providers, criminal justice practitioners, and health professionals—how we can help crime victims. Are you prepared if someone confides in you about a victimization? Is your organization victim-centered and trauma-informed? Are you familiar with the services available in your community?

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From the Desk of **MAYOR DICKENS**

Dear Neighbors,

My Moving Atlanta Forward Agenda relies on four key pillars: A City of Opportunity for All, One Safe City, A City Built for the Future, and an Effective & Ethical Government. Over the past two years, we've made significant strides toward realizing our collective vision for One Safe City. These efforts engage every corner of our community, from law enforcement to non-law enforcement agencies, to enhance safety across Atlanta.

This holistic approach tackles the root causes of crime head-on, targeting issues like gangs, drugs, illegal firearms, and repeat offenders that afflict our neighborhoods, both in Atlanta and throughout Georgia. As a result, the Atlanta Police Department reported a decrease in homicides, rapes, and aggravated assault cases in 2023 compared to the previous year.

Yet, our journey to becoming One Safe City is not complete. We know that too many individuals fall victim to crime, including members of our LGBTQ+ community. In observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), the Mayor's Division of LGBTQ Affairs has assembled the LGBTQ+ Crime Victims Digital Resource Guide. This guide offers resources and support for LGBTQ+ individuals who have been victims of crime.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week serves as a poignant reminder of the significant impact crimes have on countless victims and their families nationwide. I am proud to introduce this guide, the first of its kind released by the City of Atlanta. We acknowledge the intersectionality of identities and the profound impact this has on feelings of safety and justice.



Research shows that members of the LGBTQ+ community are at least twice as likely to be victims of crime. While I fervently wish for a world where this statistic no longer holds true, we must confront the reality we face today and provide the necessary support to LGBTQ+ victims, ensuring they feel included, welcomed, and safe in Atlanta.

Although spearheaded by the Mayor's Division of LGBTQ Affairs, this guide was a collaborative effort involving our dedicated partners such as Solutions NOT Punishment Collaborative (SnapCo), Policing Alternatives & Diversion Initiative, Atlanta Victim Assistance, Inc., the Mayor's Office of Violence Reduction, and the Mayor's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

As a son of Atlanta, I am honored to be your Mayor, and I will continue to do everything in my power to keep this city safe, equitable, and thriving for all. I look forward to working with you and on your behalf to make that happen.

Andre Dickens (he/him) 61st Mayor of Atlanta

ALMA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOUNDATION

The Alma Domestic Violence Foundation, formerly Alma G. Davis Foundation, was founded in 2005 by Alma G. Davis as a result of her own personal trials and triumphs with domestic violence.

Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, the foundation serves thousands of victims at 64 facilities across the state. Alma is a safe haven for all--ready to save and assist in the rebuilding process to ensure victims can be survivors.

almadyf.org

(\$44) 435-6468

ATLANTA LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Atlanta Legal Aid Society provides free civil legal help to individuals who cannot afford a private attorney.

atlantalegalaid.org

Multiple Locations

ATLANTA VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

Atlanta Victim Assistance Inc. (AVA) is a nonprofit service agency that advocates for the fundamental rights of victims of crime with compassion, dignity, and respect. For nearly 40 years, AVA has served more than 145 thousand crime victims including survivors of domestic abuse, families of homicide victims, survivors of child abuse, elder abuse and victims of identity theft. AVA works with numerous community partners including the Atlanta Police Department and the City of Atlanta Municipal Court to reduce the impact of crime and connect victims to various services.

(h) atlantava.org

% (404) 588-4740

(9) 150 Garnett Street Atlanta, GA 30303

info@atlantava.org
info@atlantava.org

ATLANTA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOUNDATION

STANDING WITH SURVIVORS MOBILE TEAM

Standing with Survivors is a mobile advocacy initiative that meets survivors of intimate partner abuse where they are. They help with legal advocacy, emotional support, childcare arrangements, transportation, emergency financial assistance, and more.

avlf.org/programs/standing-with-survivors

ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

LGBTQ+ LIAISON

The LGBTQ+ Liaison Unit is a unit of the Atlanta Police Department whose goal is to improve the relationship between the LGBTQ+ community and the Atlanta Police Department.

Officer Brandon Hayes

(404) 546-LGBT (5428)

☑ BDHayes@AtlantaGa.gov

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AND IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

The mission of the Mayor's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs - Welcoming Atlanta is to develop and foster relationships between Atlanta's international communities, City departments, and external partners to empower our foreign-born population through access to information, to identify economic opportunities, and to address local and global challenges. The Mayor's Office of International & Immigrant Affairs has resources and staff to help foreign-born constituents who have issues regarding safety and are victims of crime.

- welcomingatlanta.com
- ₩ welcomingatlanta@atlantaga.gov
- (9) 55 Trinity Avenue SW Atlanta, GA 30303

CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCACY COUNCIL, INC.

CVAC advocates for victim/survivors by offering the ministry of presence and spiritual healing through prayer and encouragement and physical help through individual and group education, and resource referral services to help survivors of crime cope with crises, stress, trauma, loss, grief and death.

The Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP)

The Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP) was established for two primary purposes, to assist victims with debt incurred as a result of violent crime, and to encourage victims to participate in the criminal justice system. Eligible program applicants can receive compensation for up to \$25,000. View PDF to learn more.

- cvaconline.org
- askcvac@cvaconline.org
- **&** (770) 333-9254
- (9) 3101 Paces Mill Road SE, Atlanta GA, 30339-3747

FULTON COUNTY VICTIMS WITNESS ADVOCATE PROGRAM

The mission of the Victim Witness Assistance Program is to provide quality and compassionate assistance to victims and witnesses of Misdemeanor Crimes in Fulton County. Victim Advocates are available to help you and your family. It is not only about prosecuting the defendant, but it's about saving lives, restoring relationships, and helping anyone who is a victim.

The Victim-Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) is staffed by Victim Advocates whose primary focus is on the needs of the victim. The priority of the VWAP is to reduce the trauma of crime by providing:

- · Referrals for community resources that will address specific needs;
- Orientation for your court appearances;
- Support during the process;
- Case status and disposition information;
- Property return and information about possible restitution.
- fultoncountyga.gov
- **©** (404) 612-6883
- 141 Pryor St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30303

GRADY TRAUMA RECOVERY CENTER

Grady's Trauma Recovery Center can provide you with 16 weeks of free psychotherapy and supportive case management services.

We offer services for patients 5 years or older who are DeKalb/Fulton county residents and have experienced any of the following within the last three years:

- Burns
- Domestic Violence
- Firearm Violence
- Human Sex Trafficking
- Motor Vehicle Collision
- Physical assault
- Sexual Assault
- Stabbing

Grady's Trauma Recovery Center can connect you with the services you need like:

- Access to primary medical care
- Assistance with finding emergency/safe housing
- Case management and assertive outreach
- Individual and group psychotherapy
- Legal and financial assistance referrals and advocacy
- Medication management and support
- Self-care education and emphasis

Receive services through telehealth, in-home/community visits, and in-person at Grady. Insurance is not required to participate.

- gradyhealth.org/marcus-trauma-center
- **&** (404) 616-1000
- <u>★ traumarecoverycenter@gmh.edu</u>
- 80 Jesse Hill Jr Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30303



GRADY RAPE CRISIS CENTER

Since 1974, Grady's Rape Crisis Center has been helping people affected by sexual violence. Their mission is to serve patients of sexual assault. Their focus during the visit is on empowering survivors and providing growth opportunities. Their current core services include a 24-hours crisis line, counseling (individual and group), education, consultation, community awareness/education, medical accompaniment, information, and referral. At the Grady Rape Crisis Center, they are committed to ending the community's violence cycle by focusing on trauma-informed patient interactions.

The Grady Crisis Center is located inside Grady Memorial Hospital. Their targeted population includes all victims of sexual assault irrespective of race, gender identity, disability, and legal hold status. As a hospital-based program, they also have the unique opportunity to recognize and help victims of human trafficking and domestic violence. Grady Rape Crisis Center's goal is to continue increasing awareness of interpersonal violence, encouraging survivors' support, and preventing sex crimes in our community.

% (404) 616-4861

☑ gradyrapecrisiscenter@gmh.edu

Grady Memorial Hospital, 80 Jesse Hill Jr Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30303

POLICING ALTERNATIVES & DIVERSION INITIATIVE (PAD)

The Policing Alternatives & Diversion Initiative works to reduce arrest and incarceration of people experiencing extreme poverty, problematic substance use, or mental health concerns, and increase the accessibility of supportive services in Atlanta and Fulton County.

PAD accepts referrals through the City of Atlanta 311 non-emergency city services line for quality of life concerns. They provide Atlanta Police Department, MARTA, and Georgia Tech police officers with the ability to divert to PAD when an individual is detained for law violations related to mental health, substance use, and extreme poverty.

atlantapad.org

% (470) 819.4853

M info@atlantapad.org

SOLUTIONS NOT PUNISHMENT COLLABORATIVE (SNAPCO.)

SnapCo is a strategic, visionary collective of Black, trans and queer community builders. Since 2013, their mission has been to create safer and bolder spaces for Black and LGBTQI+ people by building political power and cultivating trans and queer leadership. SnapCo serves as an alternative approach to policing by keeping community members in less contact with police, and in deeper relationships with community by supporting members with social programming, civic engagement, and service learning opportunities. Through SnapCo's Taking Care of our Fund, they provide financial and peer support for emergency bailouts, short-term housing, gender affirming care, and utility assistance.

To qualify, you must be a SnapCo member and/or be referred by one of our partner organizations

snap4freedom.org/thecollabo

TRANS HOUSING COALITION (THC)

The Trans Housing Coalition helps Atlanta's chronically homeless Transgender and gender non-conforming people move from the streets into long-term housing and onto the lives they want to lead. THC utilizes a housing-first, person-centered approach to get Trans folks into permanent, affirmative housing.

transhousing coalition.org

<u>info@transhousingcoalition.org</u>



STATE RESOURCES

GEORGIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCADV) is Georgia's federally recognized domestic violence coalition, representing over 53 domestic violence organizations and programs across the state. GCADV engages in capacity building, communications, and public policy efforts to ensure effective domestic violence prevention and intervention. GCADV and its members and allies work collaboratively, along with community, corporate, and foundation partners, to achieve social and systems change on behalf of domestic violence survivors and their families. Every day they motivate, inform, and connect with stakeholders concerned with this issue. No one organization offers all of the solutions, and they believe that by coming together with a wide range of partners and creating new approaches, they can ensure that survivors are safe and empowered and healthy relationships are nurtured.

They offer a list of domestic violence shelter programs throughout the state of Georgia.

You can reach Georgia's 24-Hour Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline at **1 (800) 33-HAVEN** (1.800.334.2836)

- gcadv.org
- **(**404) 209-0280
- 2295 Parklake Drive, Suite 130, Atlanta, GA 30345

GEORGIA CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program eases the financial burden faced by victims of violent crimes by covering expenses related to medical bills, funeral expenses, mental health counseling and crime scene sanitization, as well as loss of income or support.

- Medical and Dental Expenses (including prescriptions and copays) Up to \$15,000
- Loss of Income or Support Up to \$20,000
- Mental Health Counseling Up to \$3,000
- Funeral Expenses Up to \$6,000
- Crime Scene Sanitization Up to \$1,500
- crimevictimscomp.ga.gov
- **(** (404) 657-2222
- □ victims.info@cicc.ga.gov
- (a) 104 Marietta Street NW, Suite 440, Atlanta, GA 30303

STATE RESOURCES

PARTNERSHIP AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Partnership Against Domestic Violence is the first and largest domestic violence organization in Georgia providing professional and empowering support to abused women, children, and men in the city of Atlanta, Gwinnett County, and Fulton County.

Crisis Line is Always Available

Metro Atlanta Crisis Line (404) 873-1766

\(\square\) National Crisis Line (800) 621-4673

padv.org

☑ info@padv.org

STONEWALL BAR ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA, MEMBER DIRECTORY

The Stonewall Bar Association ("SBA") is a professional association of attorneys, judges, law students, paralegals and other legal professionals who support the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, and who oppose discrimination based upon sexual orientation or gender identity. Their website offers a directory of attorneys.

stonewallbar.org/resources/member-directory



NATIONAL RESOURCES

VICTIM CONNECT RESOURCE MAP

The Victim Connect Resource Map is a searchable tool with national and local resources commonly used by our visitors. The resources can be filtered by categories, services, location, and keywords.

victimconnect.org/resources/search-resources

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU)

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER PROJECT

The LGBTQ+ Project fights discrimination and moves public opinion on LGBTQ+ rights through the courts, legislatures and public education.



aclu.org/lgbt-rights

THE NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM BAR ASSOCIATION

The National Crime Victim Bar Association maintains a nationwide network of attorneys who are dedicated to helping victims of crime rebuild their lives through the Civil Justice system. If you are the victim of a crime and are interested in receiving a referral for a civil attorney, please complete the form linked below.



victimbar.org/attorney-referral-request-form



□ victimbar@victimsofcrime.org

RAPE, ABUSE & INCEST NATIONAL NETWORK (RAINN)

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) is the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800.656.HOPE, online.rainn.org, rainn.org/es) in partnership with more than 1,000 local sexual assault service providers across the country and operates the DoD Safe Helpline for the Department of Defense. RAINN also carries out programs to prevent sexual violence, help survivors, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.



mainn.org or en español rainn.org/es

(\$00)656-HOPE (4673)

NATIONAL RESOURCES

TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER

The Tahirih Justice Center is a national, nonprofit organization that serves immigrant survivors fleeing gender-based violence. By amplifying the experiences of survivors in communities, courts, and Congress, Tahirih's mission is to create a world in which all people share equal rights and live in safety and with dignity.



Atlanta Office

% (470) 481-4700

atlanta@tahirih.org

230 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1960, Atlanta, GA 30303

National Office

& (571) 282-6161

6400 Arlington Blvd., Suite 400, Falls Church, VA 22042

TRANS LIFELINE

Trans Lifeline is a grassroots hotline and microgrants 501(c)(3) non-profit organization offering direct emotional and financial support to trans people in crisis – for the trans community, by the trans community.

translifeline.org

(, (877) 565-8860

THE TREVOR PROJECT

The Trevor Project is the leading suicide prevention and crisis intervention nonprofit organization for LGBTQ+ young people.

thetrevorproject.org

(212) 695-8650

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Abuser: A person choosing to cause harm to their partner.

Aggravated Assault: An unlawful attack by one person upon another, inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied with the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

Assault: Any intentional act that causes another person to fear an attack or imminent physical harm.

Bullying: Repeated, negative acts committed by one or more children against another child. These negative acts may be physical or verbal in nature—for example, hitting or kicking, teasing or taunting—or they may involve indirect actions such as manipulating friendships or purposely excluding other children from activities. Implicit in this definition is an imbalance in real or perceived power between the bully and victim.

Burglary: The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

Child Abuse, Neglect:

Physical abuse that is nonaccidental physical injury (ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures or death) because of punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting (with a hand, stick, strap, or other object), burning, or otherwise harming a child, that is inflicted by a parent, caregiver, or other person. Such injury is considered abuse regardless of whether the caregiver intended to hurt the child. Physical discipline, such as spanking or paddling, is not considered abuse as long as it is reasonable and causes no bodily injury to the child.

Criminalizing: Making an activity, especially survival activity, a crime and punishable by law.

Dating Violence: The term "dating violence" means abuse committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the survivor. While they have never married, the partners may or may not live together and/or share children in common.

Digital Abuse: Digital abuse is the use of technology, the Internet, and online spaces (e.g. social media) to bully, harass, stalk, intimidate, or control a partner. This behavior is often a form of verbal or emotional abuse conducted online.

Domestic Violence/Family Violence: A crime in which there is a past or present

familial, household, or other intimate relationship between the victim and the offender, including spouses. ex-spouses, boyfriends and girlfriends, ex-boyfriends and ex-girlfriends, and any family members or persons residing in the same household as the victim, Involves a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

Elder Abuse/Neglect:

Also known as elder mistreatment, elder abuse/ neglect generally refers to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a family member, caregiver, or other person in a trusting relationship that causes harm or creates a serious risk of harm to an older person. Elder abuse may include abuse that is physical, emotional/ psychological (including threats), or sexual; neglect (including abandonment); and financial exploitation.

This is a general definition; state definitions of elder abuse vary. Some definitions may also include fraud, scams, or financial crimes targeted at older people.

Emotional Abuse:

Emotional abuse includes non-physical behaviors that are meant to control, isolate, or frighten a survivor. Undermining an individual's sense of self-worth or self-esteem is abusive. This may include but is not limited to constant criticism, diminishing one's abilities. name-calling, or damaging one's relationship with their family, children, friends, or coworkers.

Financial Abuse: Financial or economic abuse occurs when an abusive partner extends their power and control into your financial situation and limits a survivor's earning potential. This might include employment-related abuse, coerced debt, restricting access to existing funds or equity, or any combination of these.

Gaslighting: An extremely effective form of emotional abuse that causes a victim to question their own feelings, instincts, and sanity. An abusive partner may employ one or several gaslighting techniques. including withholding, countering, blocking/ diverting, trivializing, or forgetting/denial.

Hate Crime: A criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.

Narcissism: This word has grown in popularity recently to describe a person who is egotistic or self-serving and does not acknowledge the feelings of others. However, the term originates from a clinical diagnosis of narcissistic personality disorder, or NPD. While it can be easy to equate with "abusive," it is important to remember that not all people who abuse have NPD, and not all people who have NPD abuse their partners. The Hotline does not recommend using the "narcissist" label unless a psychologist has confirmed an NPD diagnosis.

Physical Abuse: Physical abuse is one of the most easily identified types of abuse. It involves the use of physical violence, or threats of it, to maintain power over an individual.

Power and Control Model:

The Power and Control model from the Duluth Project identifies power and control as the goal of all tactics of abuse. Survivors' experiences consistently indicate that their partners' behavior is not random or arbitrary, but purposeful and systematic, disputing common myths like "they just snapped" or "they had a bad day."

Reproductive Coercion:

Reproductive coercion is a form of power and control where one partner strips another of the ability to control their own reproductive healthcare.

Restitution: Restitution is court ordered monetary compensation for crime victims. A legitimate order for restitution is applied during the sentencing of an offender and the amount and manner of payment is determined by the courts.

Restorative Justice: A system that centers the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims of their crimes and the community.

Robbery: Taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear, including carjacking.

Safety: A state of being where conditions that lead to material, psychological, or physical harm are reduced and eliminated.

Sex Trafficking: The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act. It involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to make an adult engage in commercial sex acts.

Sex work: The language we use to reference the activities of adults who receive money or goods in exchange for consensual sexual services or erotic performances, either regularly or occasionally. This activity doesn't affect the human rights of others.

Sexual Abuse: Sexual abuse is when a partner controls the physical and sexual intimacy in a relationship.

Sexual Assault:

Includes a wide range of victimizations/crimes that include attacks or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and include such things as grabbing, fondling, and verbal threats. Also included is rape, which is defined as penetration of anv kind, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration of a sex organ by another person, without the consent of the victim; may also include penetration of the mouth by a sex organ by another person.

Stalking/Harassment:

Stalking occurs when someone watches, follows. or harasses a survivor repeatedly, making them feel afraid or unsafe. It may occur from someone they know, a past partner, or a stranger.

Sexual Coercion: Sexual coercion lies on the continuum of sexually aggressive behavior. It can range from begging and persuasion to forced sexual contact.

Simple Assault: Assaults and attempted assaults where no weapon was used, or no serious or aggravated injury resulted to the victim. Intimidation, coercion, and hazing are included.

Teen Dating Violence:

Teen dating violence also called intimate relationship violence or intimate partner violence among adolescents or adolescent relationship abuse — includes physical, psychological or sexual abuse; harassment; or stalking of any person ages 12 to 18 in the context of a past or present romantic or consensual relationship.

Transformative Justice: A framework that prioritizes harm reduction and guides society on how to respond to violence without enacting more violence.



