

Domestic Violence (DV) in the LGBTQIA+ Community



What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used to maintain power and control over another person. It does not matter if you met your partner three weeks ago or have been living with them for three years, you can still experience abuse. A lack of LGBTQIA+ representation can make it difficult to determine what a healthy relationship looks like -making members of the LGBTQIA+ community more susceptible to abuse.

Signs of Abuse:

While all abuse is about power and control, there are a few unique tactics that abusive partners in LGBTQIA+ relationships may use to gain that power and control such as:

Threatening to out your sexual orientation or gender identity

Withholding hormones, binders, or gender affirming materials

Using religion or religious beliefs to justify abuse

Refusing to use your affirming pronouns or chosen name

Controlling your gender identity or gender expression

Using LGBTQIA+ slurs or other derogatory language

Myths About Abuse:

- ✗ "Abuse only happens between men and women"
 - ✓ Abuse can happen with partners of any gender or sexual orientation.
- ✗ "There are no services for queer men"
 - ✓ JBWS' services are open to ALL people.
- ✗ "Women aren't violent, so they can't be abusive"
 - ✓ People of any gender can be abusive.
- ✗ "This is just what romantic relationships are supposed to be like"
 - ✓ Love should never hurt.
- ✗ "If I ask for help, I'm bringing shame onto my community"
 - ✓ Asking for help never brings shame onto the community.
- ✗ "They never hit me, it can't be abuse"
 - ✓ Abuse is not always physical.

The word "Love" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Each letter is filled with the colors of the rainbow flag: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a 3D appearance.

Should Never Hurt

No survivor should fear judgment when reaching out for help. At JBWS, we welcome ALL people of any gender identity and sexual orientation who are in an unhealthy relationship.