

MI Network

Of Bi, Trans, Lesbian, Gay and Queer Survivors of Abuse

Who We Are

We are LGBTQ+ survivors of abuse, and loved ones of LGBTQ+ survivors of abuse. As a survivor centered movement promoting healthy relationships, we offer a gender robust approach to responding to and preventing LGBTQ+ partner abuse and sexual violence that is centered on self-determination and anti-oppression values. We work in solidarity with the NW Network and The Network/La Red.

Why We Act

According to several national studies, the prevalence of partner abuse and sexual violence in LGBTQ+ communities is as high as in heterosexual or cisgender communities. However, LGBTQ+ survivors are less likely to seek help and more likely to encounter institutional barriers or community silence. We believe we can build accountable LGBTQ+ communities where partner abuse and sexual violence does not occur and healthy relationships are the norm. Service providers are often unsure how to help LGBTQ+ survivors, sometimes cause more harm and frequently do not know where to go to learn more about this topic. We believe building capacity in existing service providers is the best way to ensure the most effective and comprehensive support for LGBTQ+ survivors of partner abuse and sexual violence.

How We Work

The founding organizers of the MI Network collaborate on a wide range of projects and make decisions together about the direction and scope of our work. We implement our mission together and separately. We respect and trust each founding organizer to carry the work and values of the MI Network, and we support each other in our efforts.

What We Do

The MI Network creates community and organizational change to respond to partner abuse and sexual violence and promote healthy relationships in LGBTQ+ communities.

We RESPOND to partner abuse and sexual violence through providing training and technical assistance to domestic and sexual violence organizations on LGBTQ+ partner abuse and sexual violence. Additionally, we engage LGBTQ+ communities in discussions around community accountability and responses to survivors.

We PREVENT partner abuse and sexual violence by facilitating Relationship Skills Classes for LGBTQ+ communities.

We CONNECT people who share these values and goals with each other through the MI Network Roundtable, a group of service providers and survivors dedicated to learning more about LGBTQ+ partner abuse and sexual violence.

The MI Network Founding Organizers are: Lydia Ahlum Hanson, Leah Taraskiewicz, Bryan Victor , Kole Wyckhuys and Carmen Wargel representing: Affirmations, Equality Michigan, HAVEN, the Macomb Community Domestic Violence Council and Turning Point

For more information about us, please contact: Carmen Wargel at MCDVCouncil@gmail.com

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	Organizational Change Building capacity of domestic violence and sexual assault organizations to better serve LGBTQ+ populations	Cultural Change Building accountable LGBTQ+ communities where partner abuse and sexual violence does not occur and healthy relationships are the norm
Respond	Serving LGBTQ+ Survivors of Partner Abuse and Sexual Violence trainings for people serving LGBTQ+ survivors of abuse Policy & Procedures technical assistance for DV/SA orgs	Recognizing & Responding to LGBTQ+ Partner Abuse and Sexual Violence trainings to build peer support Take Back the Night Equality Community Hour at AFF
Prevent	Facilitate connection between DV/SA orgs & LGBTQ+ communities	Relationship Skills Class a 7 week curriculum designed by and for LGBTQ+ communities at the NW Network. These sessions are facilitated by LGBTQ+ folk with experience in domestic and sexual violence work
Connect	Roundtable - Professionals serving LGBTQ+ survivors of partner abuse and sexual violence come together to network and share best practices	Social media messages
The Macomb Community Domestic Violence Council (MCDVC) created the Respond, Prevent, Connect (RPC) Alliance to work in deep partnership with community organizations.		

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