

# Transgender Anti-Violence Model Intervention for DC



## **WARNING:**

This report draws directly from focus groups with young men and includes many direct quotes. As a result, it includes adult language and profanity. You must be 18 years of age or older to view this document. Please close this screen now if you do not want to proceed.



## Key Messaging Points

1. I don't get transgender women, and that makes me uncomfortable.
2. Transgender women are an offense to my manhood and masculinity.
3. Transgender women are always coming on and trying to test me.
4. Transgender women are frauds who are trying to deceive me.
5. If I know a transgender woman, soon my friends will start taunting and avoiding me.
6. I've been attracted to a transgender woman; the only way to save my manhood is attack her. *[We do not plan to address this point in the intervention]*



**Kehinde Hall is Community Liaison for DC's Community Education Group, the lead community organization doing HIV testing and condom distribution in Anacostia and Wards 6-8. Over four years he has established deep ties to the community and relationships in this project's target neighborhoods.**

## Video

### Announcer & "Bridge" Person—Kehinde Hall



I'm Kehinde Hall. I live in Ward 7 and many of you may know me from my neighborhood outreach with Community Education Group,

DC is an amazing city with all types of people and groups. Have you seen LGBT? Well it stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender. It is a lot to get and a lot to understand. Transgender is means people who feel they are one sex, but their body is another. About 10,000 transgender people live in and around DC.

Accepting and acknowledging other groups can be difficult. I hope you'll listen to what the facts are and what the truth is about living transgender in DC.

We asked 200 young men in SE DC. 98% said they wouldn't personally be hostile towards someone who knew or was friendly with a transgender woman. 95% said they didn't have any personal hostility towards transgender women.

I would like to introduce Terra Moore; she is from here in DC. She is going to share a bit about living in DC as a transgender woman. We want to have a frank discussion afterwards so, take a moment and listen to her story.

Now you don't have to like her, or agree with her, or with what she says. But she's going to talk a bit about herself.

Take it all in, and then tell people in the discussion afterwards what you really think. Again, this is Kehinde Hall, and I'm glad you're here to today. ”



### Our Video Spokesperson

**Terra Moore is a 24-year-old out, Black transgender woman. She works closely with the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL) and does LGBT sex education information because she realizes how AIDS has disproportionately affected the Black gay community. Moore grew up in D.C. and Maryland.**

## Transgender Spokeswoman—Terra Moore

*This script was developed specifically to address the key message points. It also echoes the current city-wide RESPECT campaign mounted by the DC Office of Human Rights.*

“ Thank you Kehinde.

I’m Terra Moore, and I’m a Black and I’m a transgender women.

What is a man? What is a woman? Being transgender means I was born physically male, but inside I always felt like a woman. That’s just how I felt, and I still do.

That’s what it means to be a transgender woman. You may not understand me. You may not like me. And you may not think I’m a woman.

But what I’m here to talk about today is respect. You’ve got your side of the street and I’ve got mine. We’re both people, we’re both human beings.

When you see me on the street, know that I’m not playing games. My being transgender does not mean I’m trying to test you. It doesn’t mean I’m coming on to you. It doesn’t mean I’m checking out your manhood. I’m not.

What I am, is doing my own thing, just like you. This is who and what I am. I’m proud of myself the same as you are. Coming from where we come from, having respect for yourself, and giving respect for others isn’t always easy, I know.

I don’t need you to get me, or understand me. I don’t need you to like me or go out with me.

I need you to get that DC is my home, too.

I’m not hiding. I’m not backing up. And I’m not going away.

I’m here to tell you I want your respect. As a person. The same respect I give you.

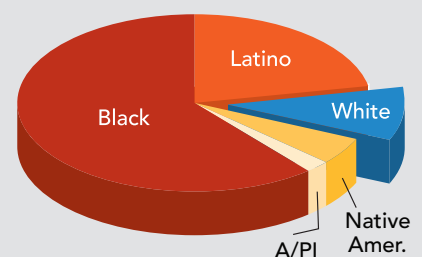
Thank you again for coming today. ”

## DC Transgender Victims 2000-2012

1. Deoni Jones, Age 23  
Stabbing—February 2, 2012  
Assailant Gary Niles (55) arrested
2. Gaurav “GiGi” Gopolan, Age 35  
Bludgeoned, September 10, 2011
3. LaShay McClean, Age 23  
Gunfire—July 20, 2011
4. Nana Boo Mack, Age 21  
Stabbing—August 26, 2009
5. Diamond Lee Person, Age 42  
Bludgeoned—January 6, 2007  
Assailant Preston Randolph Logan (43) convicted
6. Elexius Woodland, Age 24  
Gunfire—December 2, 2005
7. Emonie Spaulding, Age 25  
Beating and Gunfire—August 21, 2003  
Assailant Derrick A. Lewis (23) convicted
8. Bella Evangelista, Age 25  
Murder by Gunfire—August 16, 2003  
Assailant Antoine Jacobs (22) convicted
9. Kim “MiMi” Young, Age 38  
Stabbed – April 9, 2003  
Assailant Corena Niko Watkins (34) arrested
10. Ukea Davis, Age 18  
Gunfire—August 12, 2002
11. Stephanie Thomas, Age 19  
Gunfire—August 12, 2002
12. Tyra Henderson, Age 22  
Bludgeoned—April 23, 2000

Courtesy of Transgender Health Empowerment (THE)

### US Victims by Race



# Model Small Group Intervention

This activity seeks to make the participants aware of the need to respect the sexual preferences of each person, making use of case studies.

**Purpose:** Promote reflection about homosexuality and homophobia, seeking to make the participants aware of the need for greater acceptance of sexual diversity.

**Materials required:** Flip-chart. Felt-tip pens. Tape.

**Recommended time:** 1 hour.



*Adapted with permission from Promundo/US's Program H(ombres)*

## 1. PLANNING TIPS/NOTES

This activity promotes a discussion on themes that are often considered taboo among young people, or which arouse anger and rejection. The facilitator should himself/herself examine his/her opinions and attitudes toward gender identity and sexual orientation. The facilitator should seek to maintain a position of advocating respect toward people of every gender identity and sexual orientation without, however, censuring the participants. The facilitator should listen to the young men's comments – even when transphobic or homophobic – and question them, but without judging them.

There are countless examples in the city of violence and aggression against young people of color who are gay or transgender. Hating those who are LGBT is widespread and some young men consider it a fundamental part of manliness, especially to prevent their being labeled or suspected of being gay themselves. Even when physical violence does not occur, many transgender or gay individuals are the target of ridicule, taunting or abuse on the street.

## 2. PROCEDURE

a. Explain to the group that the purpose of the activity is to discuss and analyze anger and hate against gay and transgender people.

- Ask the group if they can define gayness.
- Ask the group if they can define transgender.
- Ask the group if they know the difference (be prepared that many may think they are the same).
- Ask the group to define homophobic and/or transphobia.

b. Explain to the group that you are going to discuss examples of young people who are transgender or gay, beginning with Terra's message in the video.

c. Form a semi-circle with all the participants facing the video. Explain to the group that they are going to watch a video and then ask them some questions. Together you will

discuss it, and then invent a story around it where they will add in the details.

d. Show the video with Kehinde Hall and Terra Moore.

e. Discuss the following questions.

- How did the video make you feel?
- Did you feel differently towards Kehinde vs Terra?
- Do you think Terra was gay or transgender? What is the difference ?
- Why is it difficult for many people to accept transgender or homosexual behavior?
- What type of violence against gays or transgender lesbians have you seen or heard about?
- What do you think about this kind of violence?
- Have you ever been called gay or "fag" by friends for not doing something, such as knowing a gay person or not hassling a transgender person? What do you think about this?

f. Read participants this beginning to a story.

**One night, Alex went out with a group of boys all from the same class at school. One of them, said: "See that transgender on the corner? I think it's the one from the video. I think she's testing us, testing our manhood, coming on to us. Let's go see about this..."**

Participants invent the rest of the story. Do a go round asking each person to add details. The idea is for each person to add details to the initial story.

Afterwards ask the group: is this realistic? Why do you think that the group created the story this way. Was it in any way affected by our watching the video? For good or bad? Why?

### 3. CLOSING

Some groups of young men might deny the existence of transgender, that transgender women are really gay men who want to sleep with me but don't want to be seen as gay. Explain to the group that transgender people have been recorded around the world and throughout history and that about one or two in every 100 people is transgender. Moreover, about a third of transgender people who started out as male and became women, are still attracted to women. This shows how it is different from homosexuality. Over the last 15 years, DC has had more attacks on Black transgender women than every city, and almost more than most states, even though we are a fraction of the size.

Part of the assaults on transgender women is fear that men who don't take part, or who admit not caring if someone is transgender, or even to knowing a particular transgender person, will be called or suspected of being gay themselves.

Yet when 200 young men of color in DC were surveyed, 98% said that while they thought others wanted to attack transgender women, they themselves did not. This shows how much of violence against transgender women is connected to trying to preserve public manhood in front of other men.

### Model Curriculum builds off DC Office of Human Rights groundbreaking *RESPECT* Campaign.

I'm a **transgender woman** and I'm part of DC.

**"Groundbreaking" Gender Identity Campaign**  
OHR launches transgender & gender identity campaign

Some think I should dress more like a woman. Some think I should dress more like a man.

I may not fit some **ideas about gender**, and I am a proud part of DC.

I love wandering through Smithsonian museums, eating on H Street with friends, and going to shows at Howard Theatre.

I'm a **transgender woman** and I'm part of DC.

**Please treat me the way any woman would want to be treated: with courtesy and respect.**

Discrimination based on gender identity and expression is illegal in the District of Columbia. If you think you've been the target of discrimination, visit [www.ohr.dc.gov](http://www.ohr.dc.gov) or call (202) 727-4559.

Office of Human Rights DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
GLBT ALLIANCE

Show your support! Spread word of the **#TransRespect** campaign by photographing this ad and sharing on Twitter.