

Battered Pride in Brooklyn:

A Public Anti-Violence Forum for the LGBTQ Community and their Allies
presented by Weaving the Fabric of Diversity

Saturday, February 15th 2014 from 2 pm to 5 pm
in the Chapel of First Unitarian Church – 121 Pierrepont St. at Monroe Place,
Brooklyn Heights

Now that Same Sex Marriage has become legal in 18 States*, more than 1/3 of all American's have a level of gay rights that seemed impossible 25 years ago. And yet with all this progress, violence against the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender, Queer) community are dramatically up to an all-time high, especially in places like Greenwich Village, Chelsea and Brooklyn -- places that one would think would be the most progressive. This "dirty secret" must now be talked about so we can take action.

The First Unitarian's Weaving the Fabric of Diversity Committee is hosting this public forum to provide a safe space for people who have experienced or fear anti- (Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender, Queer) Violence. We will also hear from Anti-Violence advocates and professional and in this field with suggestions for what Allies of this community can do to help both on a personal level and on a community level.

Speakers Include:

Robert Lopez, Program Associate in Community Organizing and Public Advocacy New York City Anti-Violence Project

Robert began working with the New York City Anti-Violence Project in early 2012 as a volunteer and is now Program Associate in Community Organizing and Public Advocacy.

The New York City Anti-Violence Project empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected communities and allies to end all forms of violence through organizing and education, and supports survivors through counseling and advocacy.

Melissa Sklarz, President of Stonewall Democrats of New York City, the largest LGBT Democratic club in New York.

In 1999, she ran a campaign for a Democratic Party post as an out transsexual and became the first trans person elected to office on New York. Melissa has been selected to to the New York delegation for the Democratic National Convention in 2004, 2008, and 2012. This year, she has been selected to be on the New York City Council Central Staff Transition Committee. Melissa is a former peer counselor for The Gender Identity Project and has helped groups from Hetric Martin Institute for trans youth to SAGE for trans seniors.

* Same Sex Marriage is now legal in CA, CT, DC, DE, HI, IA, IL, MA, MD, ME, MN, NH, NM, NJ, NY, RI, VT, WA

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