

REPORT

A Path Forward

Ending Gender-Based Violence in New Mexico

INTRODUCTION

Often when we think of “gender-based violence,” we think of domestic violence against women. However, gender-based violence encompasses much more. Whenever physical, psychological, or emotional violence occurs based on gender oppression, gender-based violence is at work. Therefore, this form of oppression hinders the health, lives, and success of girls, women, transgender, and gender nonconforming people. For our efforts to end

gender-based violence in New Mexico to be effective, we must understand the ways these efforts intersect with other systems and institutions that interact with our New Mexico communities, such as law enforcement, clinics, and funding for nonprofits. In this report, we will outline how to assure that approaches to ending gender-based violence in New Mexico are inclusive of the broad ways that gender-based oppression impacts our communities.

A New Approach to Ending Gender-Based Violence

Ending gender-based violence requires multiple strategies and approaches. Led by Strong Families New Mexico, a program of Forward Together, this report draws on the challenges that 19 organizations have faced in trying to implement efforts to end gender-based violence in New Mexico. The participating organizations in this Ending Gender-Based Violence Cohort lead anti-violence efforts among New Mexico’s most impacted communities, including communities of color, youth, LGBTQ and gender nonconforming people,

rural families, immigrants, and Indigenous families. Members of the Cohort have many approaches to taking on gender-based violence. Some prioritize advocacy and organizing around local and state policies. Other organizations specialize in free, bilingual, or holistic healing to reach underserved people. Some of the organizations in this Cohort have been doing this work throughout New Mexico for decades. For all organizations involved, cultural competency and community participation are at the core of the anti-violence work.



TEWA WOMEN UNITED'S program for young Native women ages 11-16. The program's purpose is to support the growth into their power and voice.

Who's impacted by gender-based violence?

We know some people are at much higher risk of gender-based violence. Violence toward teenagers disproportionately affects youth of color. According to the Center for Disease Control's Youth Risk Behavior Screening Survey, Black and Hispanic youth are more likely to report experiencing physical violence in dating relationships compared to White youth.¹ While Black and Hispanic communities are greatly impacted, so are Asian communities across the nation. For Asian women, studies have revealed that anywhere from 41 to 61 percent of Asian women report experiencing intimate partner violence during their lifetime.^{2,3} Additionally, LGBTQ people of color are at a much higher risk. In 2015, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs received nearly 2,000 reports of

LGBTQ and HIV-affected intimate partner violence. From these reports, 64 percent of the survivors were between the ages of 19 and 39 years old and 54 percent were people of color.⁴ The tragic reality is that LGBTQ people of color are more likely to be attacked because of their identity, and these attacks are often sexual in nature. Youth, people of color, and LGBTQ communities are not the only people with higher rates of gender-based violence. People with disabilities have also reported higher rates. In 2015, 32 percent of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program patients had a physical or mental disability.⁵ Many communities are impacted, and there are solutions that exist within these communities.

ENLACE COMUNITARIO

works primarily with immigrants to eliminate domestic violence. Members say Enlace Comunitario feels like a family to them. People speak Spanish and work is done by survivors of violence. The staff at Enlace engages directly with community to

get more people involved. One example of this type of community listening and engagement occurred after an Enlace Comunitario billboard was put up in the community. One day a man called to protest what he thought was a negative message on the billboard — a message that he felt equated

all men with violence. He wanted to let Enlace know he was not a violent man. Enlace Comunitario listened and worked with him. Together, they created a men's group to work against violence in our community and for years this has been a successful anti-violence program.

TEWA WOMEN UNITED (TWU) developed culturally and linguistically appropriate services for their constituent communities and started being trauma informed throughout their work. They realized that 100 percent of the folks in their circles had experienced some sort of violence. TWU implements a peer support

model, including engaging adult survivors in caring for preschoolers. They integrate traditional healing models within their work with survivors of violence, such as learning about herbal medicines and doing pottery while discussing historical trauma. TWU is different because the organization is by and for

Indigenous women, and at the same time TWU supports communities outside of and within Indigenous women circles. TWU approaches masculinity with a cultural lens in doing men's work, and they use an anti-oppression lens to create solutions within immigrant, disabled, and LGBTQ communities

COMPLEXITIES OF ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

“We start with the systems in place that address violence. We need to work on improving the institutions that are meant to address violence and remove barriers. For example, domestic violence and sexual assault are often underreported in communities of color because of the history of police violence against these communities. Many people do not want to get police involved out of fear. Although we are getting more statistics and information from providers, not all of the most impacted communities can access services.”

— ROSIE GARABALDI, NM FORUM FOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY

Survivors of gender-based violence may not report violent or sexual attacks due to previous negative or violent interactions with law enforcement and institutional bias in the justice system. According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, of the survivors in their report who interacted with law enforcement, 12 percent reported that the police were hostile and 13 percent reported that the police were indifferent in their interactions. Even more, 31 percent of survivors who offered additional information reported that they experienced misarrest,

meaning that they were arrested rather than the abusive partner.⁶ Additionally, a New Mexico state audit of more than 5,410 unprocessed sexual assault exam kits found that over half of the documented reasons for not testing a kit were based on the credibility of or “cooperation” of the victim of violence.⁷ Twenty percent of these unprocessed kits were for children. These reports reveal that much change is needed within various criminal justice systems in order to properly address and end gender-based violence.

“Ensuring a healthy New Mexico requires us to remove the barriers to services to ensure people feel welcome and understood. There is a deep need for services that meet the needs of all of our communities. For example, requiring clients to give a social security number on a form the moment they come in to access services can be a big deterrent for undocumented people who are concerned with being criminalized.”

— MARIBEL GARZA, ENLACE COMUNITARIO

THE BIG PICTURE SOLUTIONS

A Seat at the Table

The communities most impacted by gender-based violence have the best insight in solving the issue and must be involved in decision making at all levels. The organizations in the Ending Gender-Based Violence Alliance are experts in this work because they have had to serve their own communities with

very limited resources. These organizations can lend their expertise on how to better serve their own communities in the areas of policy, service provision programming, and funding. They should have a seat at all the tables where decisions are made in these four areas.

Funding the Work in New Mexico

Funding is at the root of the ability for organizations to reduce gender-based violence in their communities. Federal and state money deeply impacts how we are able to provide services. Organizations that serve Indigenous communities and communities of color, LGBTQ people, youth, and rural and immigrant families are the least resourced. At the same time these very communities are among the communities that experience the highest rates of gender-based violence.

There are compounding issues that have kept smaller organizations siloed and without access to funding. For example, the 1994 federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was a great effort to fund local

work on gender-based violence and made strides by updating the act in 2005 to increase focus on services for communities of color, particularly tribal, Native, and immigrant women. However, in implementation, the larger mainstream organizations are often gatekeepers between the federal funds and local efforts. These larger advocacy organizations are often unfamiliar with the work of smaller groups. In order to get funding to the communities most impacted, the larger anti-violence coalitions and mainstream organizations must take an intersectional approach to the work. This intersectional approach will build understanding as to how race, gender, class, sexuality, and documentation status impact who can access services and what policies truly make people safer.



NEW MEXICO ASIAN FAMILY CENTER on a walking trail tour with families in the Albuquerque International District.

TRANSGENDER RESOURCE CENTER OF NEW MEXICO (TGRCNM)

is the only agency in our state that exists solely to work for and with transgender people, our families, and our loved ones. TGRCNM provides a distinct mix of advocacy and direct services. TGRCNM provides cultural competency training about transgender people, coordinates community events, and offers education

for trans people. At TGRCNM's drop-in center in Albuquerque, they create a home and family environment for some of the most affected transgender women in our community. Those most impacted within the trans community are overwhelmingly people of color who are not housed, are unemployed, and are surviving only because of their incredible resourcefulness and resiliency. TGRCNM facilitates folks connecting with

each other in community and provides resources such as food, bus passes, computer access, direct medical care, legal assistance, and more. TGRCNM also brings trans leaders to visit the center, such as Miss Major Griffith-Gracy, a trans woman activist and community leader who focuses on women of color. Visits like these have inspired the NM trans community to become more politically active.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY MAKERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

Policy

- Ensure that schools are providing all young people equal access to comprehensive sexuality education that includes healthy relationships, body sovereignty, and challenging gender stereotypes.
- Ensure schools are safe and supportive for all students, including supportive policies and practices for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and gender nonconforming students, comprehensive bullying prevention programs, and training to identify and respond to child sexual abuse.
- Involve survivors of gender-based violence when creating policy so that the policy recommendations reflect the safety needs of those dealing with domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Remove all barriers to accessing services and support for our communities, including forms of identification such as social security numbers, which discriminates against immigrant and transgender communities.
- Create and implement police training on mental health, de-escalation, cultural awareness, and anti-oppression and policies that protect transgender and undocumented people.
- Shift focus away from criminalization and instead fund alternatives to incarceration.
- Use Strong Families New Mexico or the individual organizations in our Cohort as resources to build better policies that include all New Mexicans.

Service Provision

- Provide more language access, especially when it comes to counseling. This language access should include not only Spanish, but also American Sign Language and the many diverse languages of New Mexico.
- Take into account differing literacy rates and cultural translations among communities to make sure people can understand and receive important information.
- Ensure all programs have up-to-date resources, trainings, and referral information to best serve LGBTQ communities.
- Build services that recognize the impacts of all forms of trauma, including historical trauma.
- Address needs specific to rural communities, such as lack of access to counseling and technology. Provide mobile shelters and childcare, and increase transportation options to obtain services.
- Allow for access to shelters for a range of family formations while also ensuring safety. For example, some shelters have restrictions on the number of children an adult family member can have with them.

RECOMMENDATIONS *(continued)*

Programming

- Implement prevention strategies that engage and do not divide our community based on age, class, race, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, and other factors, but instead recognize and value meaningful collaboration.
- Recognize Indigenous communities by building partnerships with tribal governments and tribal organizations.
- Go beyond clinical and professionalized models of healing, such as counseling, and build healing services into programs that reflect the culture and practices that are meaningful to community members.
- Create public awareness of prevention programs through various forms of media and technology.
- Start community-based projects to talk candidly with youth about gender-based violence and how to stop it. Acknowledge that men and boys of color are also affected and traumatized by gender-based violence.
- Provide know your rights education to communities on how to engage with law enforcement.
- Use digital media (such as videos, text messaging, and social sites) to communicate and connect with youth and immigrants.
- Contact Strong Families New Mexico or the individual organizations in our Cohort to build bridges to work together.
- Statewide Coalitions:
 - Provide technical assistance to smaller organizations so that they can apply for federal funding directly.
 - Include the Cohort organizations serving the communities most impacted in creating policy agendas and setting legislative priorities.
 - Work with the Cohort organizations to create a strategy for accessing increased funding for services, prevention,

and specific funding for organizations serving communities who are most impacted by gender-based violence.

Funding

- Increase appropriations to domestic violence service programs and sexual assault service programs.
- Provide more funding, especially in rural areas, for prevention services, startup programs, and resources, including access to broadband, with an emphasis on providing support to families with young children (such as home visitation programs and healthcare services).
- Incentivize programs that shift focus from criminalization to prevention and restorative justice.
- Fund access to health services for students, including more funding for school-based health centers so they can provide quality primary healthcare and behavioral health services.
- Statewide Coalitions:
 - Ensure equitable funding across communities without cutting funding to existing services or the infrastructure that has been built over decades to serve survivors.
 - Fund Cohort organizations to consult with the statewide coalitions and service providers to increase cultural competency.
 - Fund Cohort organizations to provide training to service providers on the reasons for shifting from criminalization to prevention, including the impact of increased criminal penalties on communities of color, Indigenous communities, and LGBTQ communities.

STRONG FAMILIES NEW MEXICO and leaders at the Roundhouse advocating for policies that support families.



BACKGROUND ON THIS REPORT

This report was produced by the Ending-Gender Based Violence Alliance. We envision a New Mexico where all individuals, families, and communities in our state have safe and culturally appropriate resources and the support they need to prevent, survive, heal, and fully recover from gender-based violence. We recognize that gender-based violence happens at all ages and at all levels — in our intimate relationships, families, community, and at the hands of the state. Our vision for change is comprehensive and requires that we can live free from violence in all aspects of our lives. This process will require a commitment to innovation, addressing institutional power and privilege and focusing on decriminalizing low-income communities, immigrants, Indigenous communities, and LGBTQ communities of color.

We value all of the members of our communities and recognize that our diverse communities are strong and resilient even as we experience and work to end gender-based violence. However, we also know that many of our community members and families are often underrepresented and underserved by the current structure of programs, systems, and funding, and we are committed to changing that reality.

We believe that our communities must be core partners in identifying and implementing the solutions that will work best for our communities. These community partnerships will help to create accountability in the role that funders play in driving the agenda and the approach to this work. Advocates, educators, policy makers, and service providers must work side by side in accountable relationships with community-based leaders,

community organizations, tribal governments, and tribal organizations to ensure effective community-based solutions. In particular, we recognize an intergenerational approach that both makes use of knowledge that has been developed in communities and in the field, and that recognizes young people as leaders who we should partner with for community-based change.

Strong Families New Mexico

Strong Families New Mexico, a program of Forward Together, works to shift culture and create new policies that recognize the many kinds of families in our state. We are a network of over 20 partner organizations and thousands of individuals working in alignment to build a better life for all of our families and generations to come. Our model at Strong Families New Mexico is to center the leadership of women of color and increase the effectiveness of collaborations to ensure gender and racial inclusion at decision-making tables. This was our model with the Ending Gender-Based Violence Cohort. With this Cohort we identified the need to shift power in order to include the most impacted and marginalized organizations and communities in ending violence. Strong Families New Mexico's role was to convene the organizations to discuss and come up with the recommendations in this report. The work to end gender-based violence is important to us and is integrated into all of the work that we do to ensure New Mexico families have the rights, recognition, and resources we need to thrive

CONCLUSION

Our vision is a world without gender-based violence where all of our communities are healthy. We cannot achieve this vision until all of us, especially policy makers and well-resourced organizations, commit to taking the steps that will make our communities safer. New Mexico is a state uniquely positioning

ourselves as leaders for the country. Together we can ensure that immigrant families regardless of status, communities of color, Indigenous communities, youth, and LGBTQ families have the rights, resources, and recognition they need to thrive.

ENDNOTES

1. "Appendix A: Selected Healthy People 2020 Objectives Related to Child and Adolescent Unintentional Injury, Violence, and Suicide Prevention," Centers for Disease Control, (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2011).
2. (low end of the range) A. Raj and J. Silverman, "Intimate Partner Violence Against South-Asian Women in Greater Boston," Journal of the American Medical Women's Association 57 (2002): 111–114; see <http://www.api-gbv.org/resources/violence-against-api-women.php>
3. National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Intimate Partner Violence, (New York, NY: Emily Waters, 2016), 9, accessed at http://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2015_ncavp_lgbtqipvreport.pdf
4. Betty Caponera, Sex Crimes in New Mexico XIV: An Analysis of 2015 Data from the New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Repository, (Albuquerque, NM: New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Repository, 2016), 17, accessed at http://nmcsap.org/wp-content/uploads/betty_caponera_Sex_Crimes_2015_Report_Dec16web-1.pdf
5. National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 27.
6. New Mexico Office of the State Auditor, Special Audit of Un-tested Sexual Assault Evidence Kits in New Mexico, (Author, 2016), 1–2, accessed at https://www.saonm.org/media/uploads/SAEK_Audit_12-5-16.pdf
7. *Ibid.*, 36.



Ending Gender Based Violence Cohort was led by Strong Families New Mexico, a program of Forward Together. Forward Together works to ensure that all families have the rights, recognition and resources they need to thrive.

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IN COLLABORATION WITH STRONG FAMILIES NETWORK PARTNERS



CORE COHORT PARTNERS

Enlace Comunitario
enlacenm.org

NM Asian Family Center
nmafc.org

NM Forum for Youth and Community

Santa Fe Mountain Center
santafemc.org

Tewa Women United
tewawomenunited.org

Transgender Resource Center of NM
tgrcnm.org

OTHER COHORT PARTNERS

ABQ Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) Collaborative
abqsane.org

Equality New Mexico
eqnm.org

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)
glsen.org/chapters/albuquerque

Impact Personal Safety
impactpersonalsafety.org

NM Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs
nmcsap.org

NM Dreamers In Action
nmdia.org

NM Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
nmrcrc.org

One Billion Rising Santa Fe
onebillionrising.org

Santa Fe Transgender Community

Solace Crisis Treatment Center
findsolace.org

Together for Brothers

University of NM LGBTQ Resource Center
lgbtqrc.unm.edu

Valencia Shelter Services
valenciashelterservices.org



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