



**LOS
ANGELES
LGBT
CENTER**

Serving & Supporting LGBTQI+ Survivors

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Introductions

Name



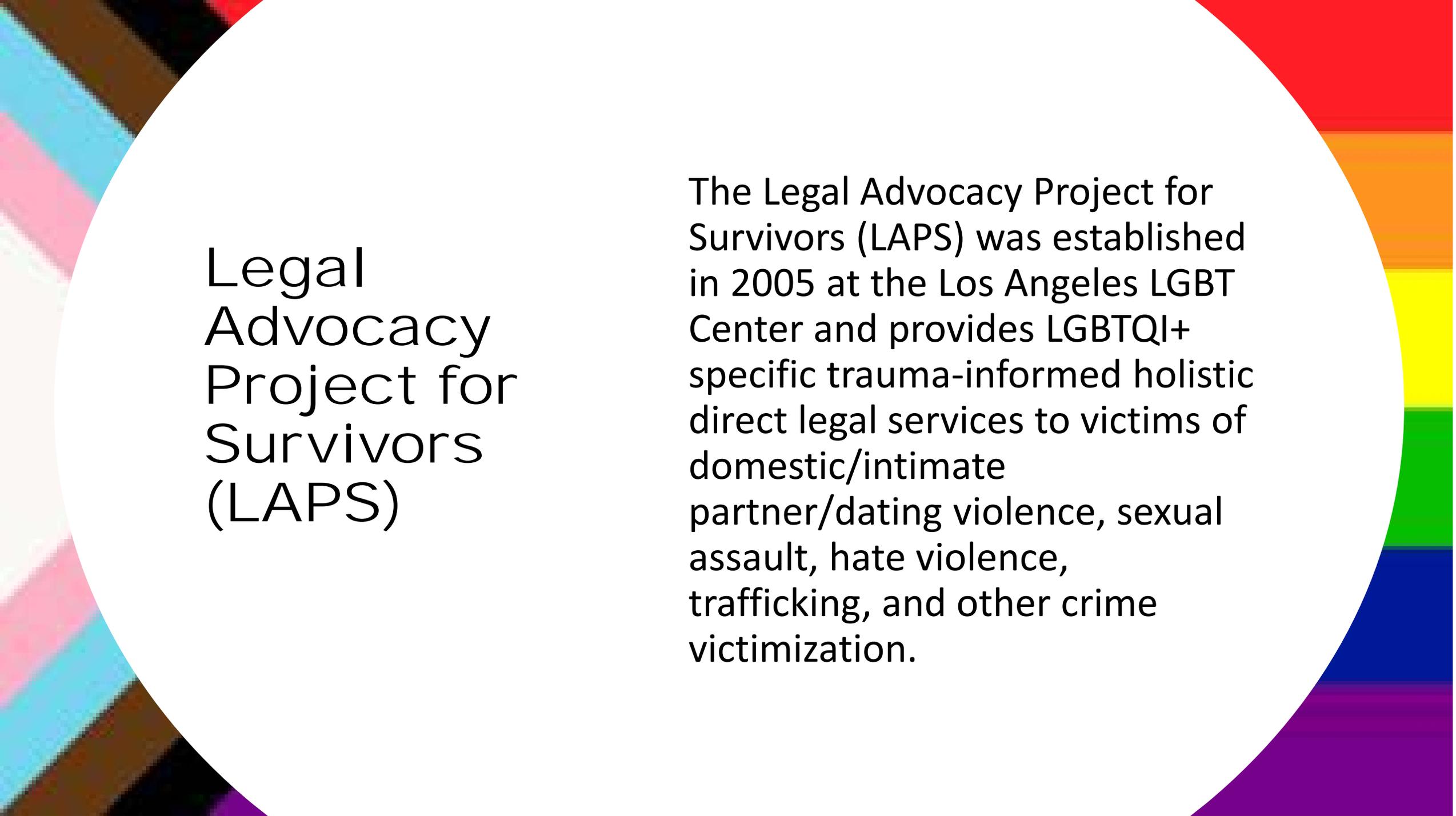
Pronouns



Organization/ Agency



Goals



Legal Advocacy Project for Survivors (LAPS)

The Legal Advocacy Project for Survivors (LAPS) was established in 2005 at the Los Angeles LGBT Center and provides LGBTQI+ specific trauma-informed holistic direct legal services to victims of domestic/intimate partner/dating violence, sexual assault, hate violence, trafficking, and other crime victimization.



Legal Services

- LGBTQ Inclusive Referrals
- Legal Services for Victims/Survivors of ANY crime/form of violence
- Legal Services Clinics
- Name and/or Gender Change Petitions
- Training and Technical Assistance



Warm Up Questions?

1. In thinking about increasing access to services among LGBTQI+ victim/survivors, what are you most excited about?
2. What do you think will be the most challenging?



Group Reflection

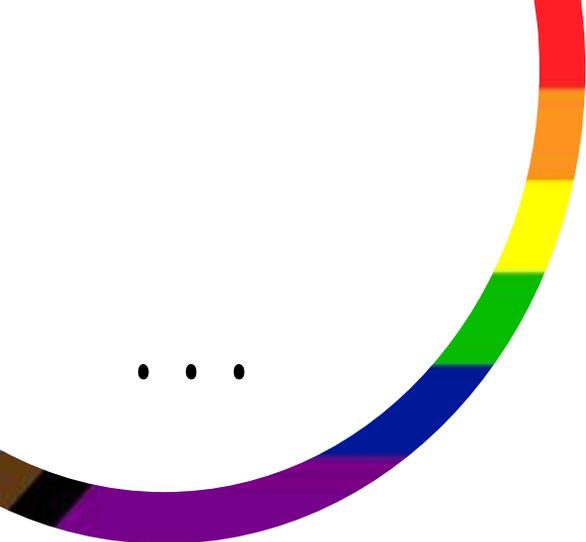
Throughout this training we encourage you to think about:

- What are some of the components of your identity that make you who you are?

Different Factors that make up an individuals identity...

- Race
- Ethnicity/National Origin
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity
- Religion/Spiritual Beliefs
- Age
- Class
- Languages/forms of communication
- Indigenous/Native American/Indian
- Ability/Disability Status
- Immigration Status
- Education
- Geographic Location (space)
- Rural, urban
- Time

Within the historical context of
oppression and privilege



...

- Culture shapes an individual's experience of trauma.
- Culture shapes access to other services that might be crucial to the individual.
- The culture of the systems (judicial or social services), and the professional (therapeutic or medical), as well as the individual will impact outcomes.

Some terms defined...

- **Cisgender:** A term used for those who identify with the gender and/or sex they were assigned at birth.
- **Transgender:** A term used to describe people whose identity differs from the gender and/or sex they were assigned at birth.
- **Non-binary:** An identity that does not fit the binary of man and woman, but rather a third category of gender.
- **Gender non-conforming (GNC):** Refers to people who do not follow other peoples' ideas or stereotypes about how they should look or act based on the sex they were assigned at birth.
- **Intersex:** A term used for people who are born with sex characteristics that do not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies.
- **Queer:** A term used by some people to self-identify their sexual orientation and/or gender identity as outside of societal norms and view the term as more fluid. Some LGBT people find this term offensive because of its history as a derogatory term.

JAMIE

Jamie is a person living with HIV attempting to access your services.

While filling out your intake forms:

- Jamie identifies as queer.
- Jamie identifies as GNC/non-binary.
- Jamie identifies as Trans.

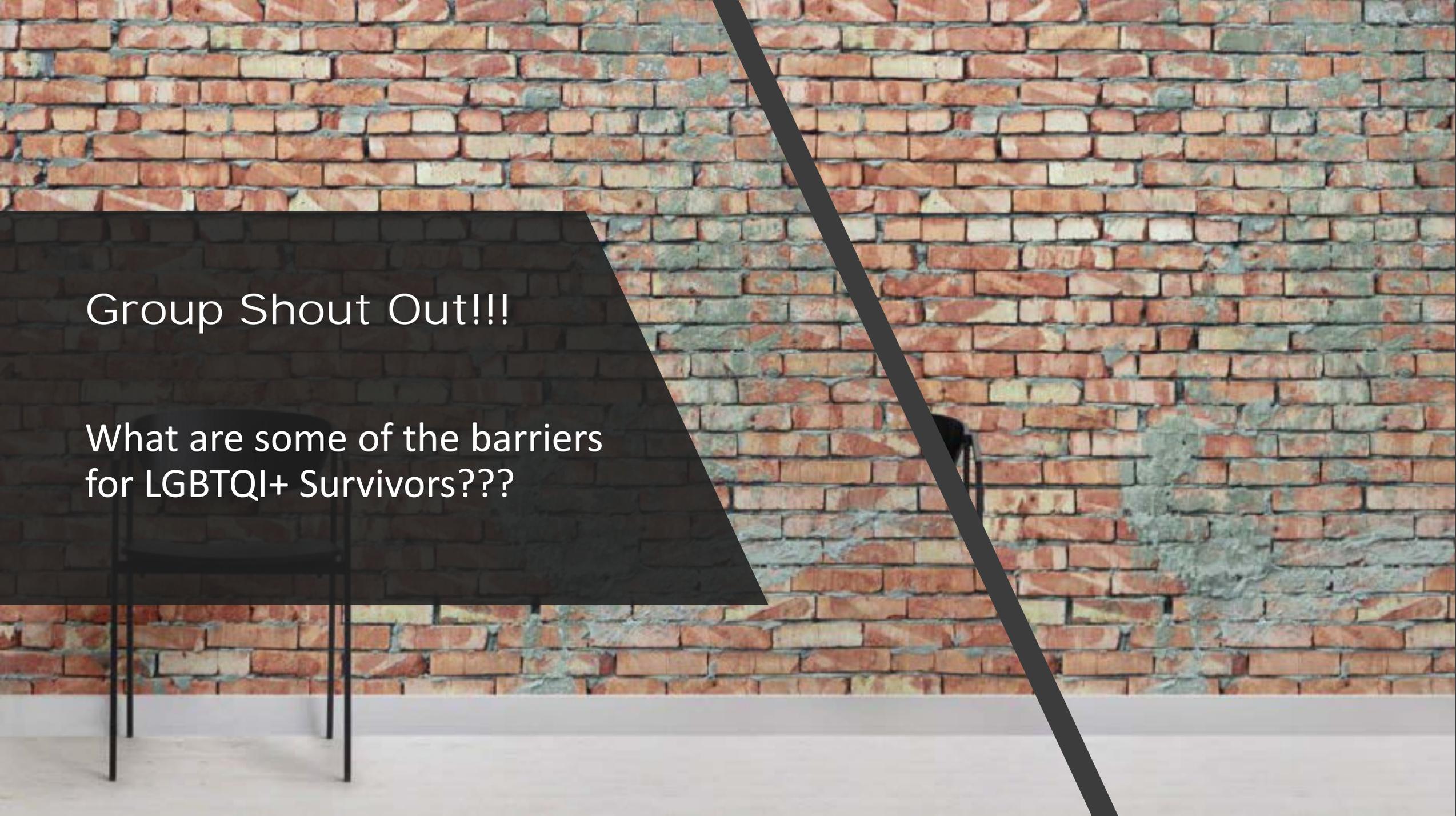
So what does that tell you about Jamie's sexual orientation, gender expression, and more?



Remember...

1. Terms are always changing.
2. It is important to allow individuals to self-identify.
3. Words and language are powerful.

Example: A non-binary person may also be gender-fluid, and may feel their identity shift along the gender spectrum on different days.



Group Shout Out!!!

What are some of the barriers
for LGBTQI+ Survivors???



Impact of Oppression

- **Externalized and/or Institutionalized:** Interpersonal and institutional Heterosexism and anti-LGBTQI+ bias.
 - **GROUP SHOUT OUT** Within our society, what institutions can you think of in which these forms of oppression are engrained?
- **Internalized:** Oppression, ie., inaccurate stereotypes and shame felt, expressed, and/or lived out by LGBTQI+ individuals.

Jamie

- Jamie was afraid to *come out* to their parents.
- While still in high school, someone *outed* Jamie. Jamie's parents were furious and threatened to kick them out to live on the streets unless Jaime agreed to attend conversion "therapy."
- In order not to lose their home and family, Jamie attended conversion "therapy" which exacerbated Jaime's shame.
- Over the next few years Jamie de-transitioned and became severely depressed and suicidal.
- Jaime entered into an abusive relationship with a cisgender partner and had two children.
- Due to pressure from their partner, Jamie *came out* to their parents only to be disowned by them.

Intersections Within LGBTQI+ Violence

- **Sexual Assault in DV/IPV:** Forcing sex or certain acts, forcing sex with others, assaulting parts of your body, withholding and/or pressuring for sex, criticizing sexual performance, refusing safer sex.
- **Hate Violence in Sexual Assault:** Sexual violence perpetrated against an individual who is targeted for their real or perceived identities.
- ***Sexual violence, domestic violence and hate violence toward LGBTQI+ people is often intersectional.***

Facts and Reality

- In a 2010 study, the CDC found the following lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence, including physical assault, rape or stalking: bisexual women (61%), lesbians (43.8%), bisexual men (37%), heterosexual women (35%), heterosexual men (29%), and gay men (26%).
- According to the US Transgender Survey, there is a 54% lifetime prevalence of domestic violence for transgender people.
- One of the biggest differences is that there are fewer resources for individuals experiencing LGBTQI2SH+ IPV/SA/HV.

Key Findings of Anti-LGBTQ Homicides in 2017

- In 2017, NCAVP recorded reports of 52 hate violence related homicides of LGBTQ people, the highest number ever recorded by NCAVP. This number represents an 86% increase in single incident reports from 2016.
- **In 2017, there was the equivalent of one homicide of an LGBTQ person in the U.S. each week.**

CARD EXERCISE

Jamie's Experience

TRIGGER/CONTENT
WARNING

Volunteers Please

Trans BIAS and Challenges

Trans people are highly impacted by bias:

- Victims are often made more vulnerable to violence via societal and familial bias.
- Victim services professionals run the risk of re-victimizing their client through both unintentional and at times intentional bias.
- The criminal justice system at times reflects the cultural sanctioning of heterosexism and transphobia.
- Perpetrators, victims, and others sometimes “blame” the attack on the person’s gender identity.
- Fear of police. (46% uncomfortable seeking police help)
- Many survivor resources are only available to cisgender women.
- 28% of trans people have postponed needed medical care due to fear of discrimination.

Barriers for Trans SA Survivors Seeking Help

Revictimization

- Client having to educate service providers about transgender identities/bodies /relationships
- Lack of empathy for transgender individuals
- The vulnerability of disrobing in order to seek care
- Body charts not being trans and non-binary inclusive
- Emphasis on vaginal rape excludes many other forms of sexual violence
- Sex work profiling/criminalization can lead to victim blaming/violence.

Fear of Transphobia

- Absence of visual cues at agencies that support transgender individuals
- Fear of reporting to the police due to historical experiences of violence
- Double Bind of Coming Out





CA LGBTQ Inclusive Legislation

- California's Gender Recognition Act (SB 179), was signed into law on October 15, 2017. It makes it significantly easier for all transgender people who are living in or were born in California able to obtain identity documents that reflect their genders, and makes California the second state in the country to offer a standard path to obtaining a nonbinary gender marker on state documents. All parts of the law will be implemented by Jan. 1, 2019.
- Note: it does not affect documents issued by other states or the federal government (including Social Security cards, passports, and documents issued by US Citizenship and Immigration Services)

Jamie

- During an argument, Jamie's partner began raging, calling them anti-trans slurs and threatened to "out" them at work if they told anyone about the rape and violence.
- Their partner began throwing things against the wall and then grabbed Jamie in an attempt to keep them from leaving.
- Jamie pushed their partner off of them, causing their partner to fall to the ground.
- Their partner screamed that they were going to call the police and have Jamie arrested for Domestic Violence.
- Jamie fled and with nowhere else to go, has come to you for support.



LGBTQI+ Informed Practices

- ✓ Introduce yourself with your name and pronouns.
- ✓ Don't assume gender or sexual orientation based on appearance.
- ✓ Ask, "What is your name and what are your pronouns?"
- ✓ "What name do you go by?" and "What is your legal name if different?"
- ✓ Use gender neutral language (partner and they/them) unless other pronouns and information are given.
- ✓ If you make a mistake apologize sincerely but don't make the client feel like they need to take care of you.



LGBTQI+ Informed Practices

- ✓ Ask about sexual orientation and gender identity (including Non-Binary) on intake forms.
- ✓ **Never assume someone is “out.”**
- ✓ Respect anxieties about disclosure of identities that a client might have and their choices of whom they want to share that with.
- ✓ At the same time, respect a client’s choice if they **DO** want to be out. Don’t discourage a client from coming out – it’s their choice.



LGBTQI+ Informed Practices

- ✓ **Provide Gender Neutral restrooms. It is the law (AB 1732).**
- ✓ Receive training specifically on how to provide Gender-Integrated sexual assault support groups.
- ✓ Display LGBTQI+ specific informational materials and images in your offices and waiting rooms.
- ✓ Help decrease the invisibility of LGBTQI+ people by including stories, facts about LGBTQI+ individuals in your brochures, reports and website.
- ✓ Do not send material home with the client/patient if safety could be at risk.

Interactive Intake Exercise

Partner
up

Find a partner to role play with.

Review

Let's review the exercise instructions as a group.

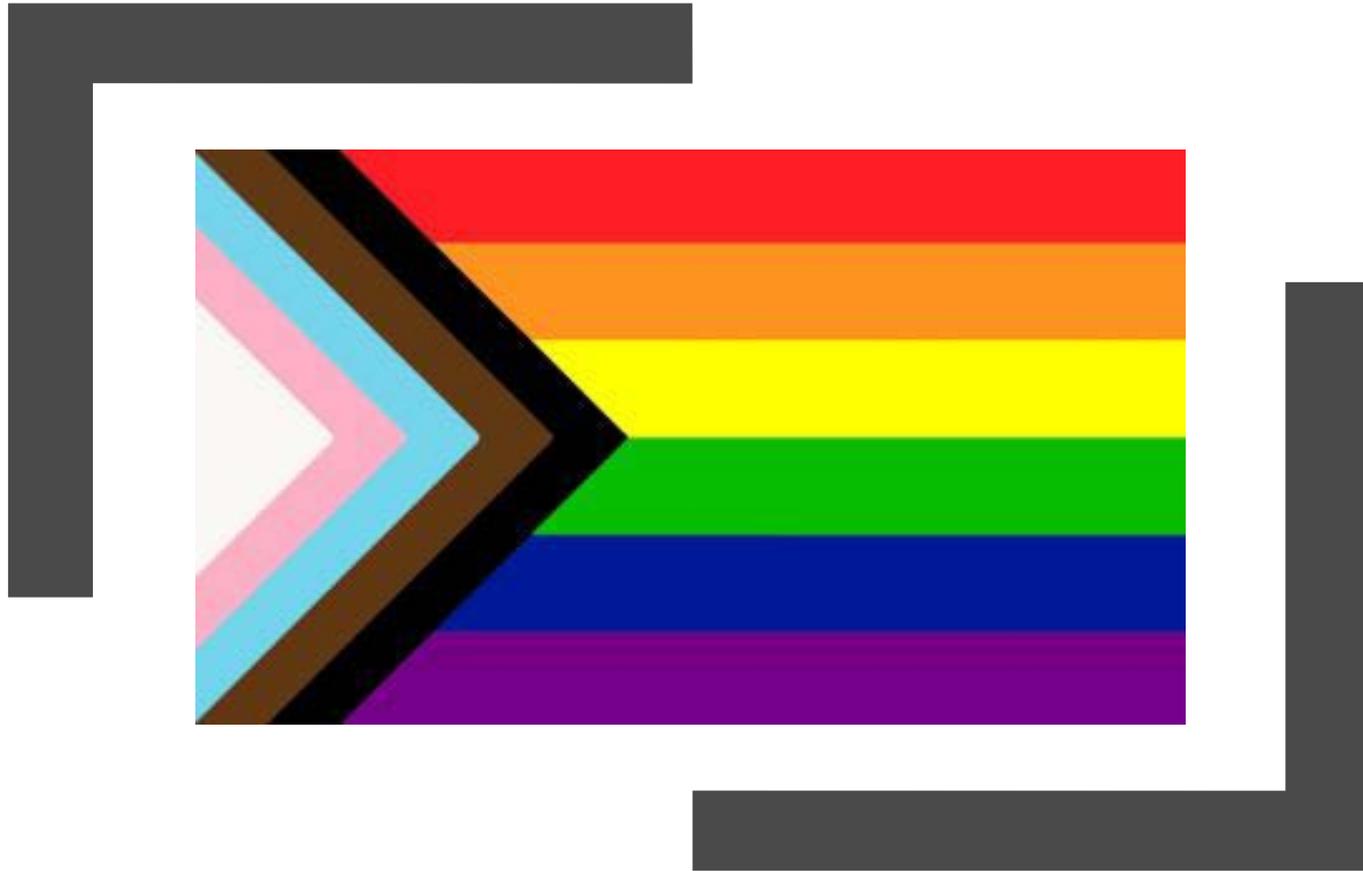
Practice

Begin the exercise in pairs and makes sure that each participant plays each role twice.

Debrief

Debrief on the experience with the group.

Complete the Vocabulary Quiz



Are there any terms that you are still unsure of after completing the training?

Why are LGBTQI+ Specific Trainings and Services Important?

- LGBTQI+ Specific Safety Planning is unique.
- Outing is unique and can be pose numerous significant risk factors.
- Clients are both intentionally and unintentionally revictimized by mainstream services.

Assessing a Potential Referral Agency

- Take care to identify resources that are safe for the survivor, including whether homo/bi/transphobia on the part of the provider may re-victimize the client
- Determine if a referral source is welcoming to LGBTQ clients without violating the confidentiality of a prospective client

Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) 2010 data on intimate partner and sexual violence among LGB people www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs
- FORGE-FORWARD Self-Assessment Tool: “Is Your Agency Ready to Serve Transgender and Non-Binary Clients?” <http://forge-forward.org/wp-content/docs/self-assessment-tool-rev-04-01-2019.pdf>
- SHADES OF CHANGE: A Guide For Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Service Providers Working With Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People of Color <http://www.ccasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Shades-of-Change-LGBT-Best-Practices-Guide.pdf>
- Department of Justice: Ensuring Access for LGBT Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/blog/ensuring-access-lgbt-victims-domestic-violence-sexual-assault-dating-violence-and-stalking>

Resources for Additional Training

- <http://www.avp.org/resources/training-center>
- <http://forge-forward.org/publications-resources/>
- <https://forge-forward.org/event/rliance-gender-integrated-sa-support-groups-webinar/>
- <http://forge-forward.org/trainings-events/recorded-webinars/>
- <http://nwnetwork.org/news-and-events/>

Questions?



Concluding Thoughts...



- Small changes can make a Big difference
 - Mistakes will happen
 - Services are desperately needed
- and
- **Jamie and LGBTQI+ communities are grateful for your commitment!**

For more information
please contact:

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Legal Advocacy Project for Survivors

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