

PRIDE

AND

PAIN

A SNAPSHOT OF ANTI-LGBTQ HATE AND VIOLENCE DURING PRIDE SEASON 2019

THE STONEWALL REBELLION OF JUNE 1969 was a collective uprising against the police raids and pervasive discrimination, criminalization, and police brutality experienced by members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community in New York City in the 1960s. The first-ever Pride march took place a year later in New York City, ushering in the modern movement for LGBTQ liberation and rights. This year, many Pride celebrations around the country marked June as the 50th anniversary of Stonewall and New York City hosted the international community for a combined Stonewall 50th Anniversary and World Pride celebration.

**FROM MAY 15 –
JULY 15, 2019
THERE WERE:**

14

**HOMICIDES,
7 OF THE VICTIMS
WERE BLACK
TRANS WOMEN**

2

**FATALITIES
IN DETENTION,
BOTH VICTIMS WERE
TRANS WOMEN
OF COLOR**

6

**DATING, HOOKUP, AND
INTIMATE PARTNER
VIOLENCE INCIDENTS**

22

**ANTI-LGBTQ
PROTESTS**

In addition to the increased attention and visibility this year, Pride season was also marked by repeated reports of violence in the LGBTQ community. This report outlines some of the incidents and trends of violence documented nationally in the two-month period from May 15 to July 15, 2019. These incidents include a spike in anti-LGBTQ homicides, the deaths of two trans women who died while in custody of the state, targeted threats and attacks, and other incidents of violence aimed at and impacting LGBTQ community members and institutions. As in our report *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Hate and Intimate Partner Violence in 2017* released earlier this year, NCAVP includes all of these incidents as a way to better understand the full scope of violence experienced by LGBTQ people. We present different types of violence alongside each other because they must be examined together in order to more fully understand how violence impacts our communities.

These incidents must be contextualized within a culture of hate that is encouraged by our current federal administration and president. From an increase in the number of legislative attacks on the rights and protections of LGBTQ communities, to an increase in the severity of hate violence against LGBTQ people, our collective struggle continues. While major political and cultural gains have been made by LGBTQ people over the last half century, LGBTQ people are still regular targets of hate violence and LGBTQ people of color, especially Black trans women, are especially impacted. The rapid succession of reports of violence in May and early June contributed to a sense of fear and anger as the height of Pride season approached. For many, the Pride celebrations were displaced and tone deaf to the realities of violence our community continues to experience.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) recognizes that this snapshot provides an incomplete narrative of the varied experiences of LGBTQ people during this two month period. Yet, it is our hope that these stories will be used to continue a national conversation on the epidemic of violence against all LGBTQ people.

50 years later, it is clear the work started by the Stonewall rebellion is far from over.

HOMICIDES

NCAVP recorded the homicides of 14 LGBTQ people from May 15 – July 15, 2019, an average of nearly 2 (1.75) homicides each week and more than three times the hate violence homicides recorded between January 1 and May 14, 2019. Eleven of the homicides were hate violence-related. Ten of these victims (91%) were Black and seven (64%) were Black trans women. Of the three intimate partner violence homicides, one victim was a white, gay man, one was a Black woman and one was a white woman who identifies as asexual. The youngest victim was 17 years old, with the majority (86%) of all homicide victims being under the age of 35.

DETENTION-RELATED FATALITIES

In addition to the string of homicides, in June the LGBTQ community lost two trans women of color whose deaths were connected to their incarceration or detention. Johana Medina was an asylum seeker from El Salvador who was HIV-positive. While

These deaths are examples of the inherent violence in U.S. immigration and the criminal legal systems, the systemic criminalization of trans women of color as well as the disproportionate abuses they often experience in these systems.

in ICE detention in Texas, her health deteriorated but after multiple requests for medical attention, she was transferred to a medical facility and then released from ICE's custody. Tragically, she never left the hospital but died there four days later. Layleen Cubilette-Polanco was found dead in her cell while being held at Rikers Island in New York. The medical examiner's office autopsy results determined that she died from a seizure due to epilepsy. Her family and community continue to sound the alarm about the injustices that contributed to her incarceration and the end of her life. These deaths are examples of the inherent violence in U.S. immigration and the criminal legal systems, the systemic criminalization of trans women of color as well as the disproportionate abuses they often experience in these systems.

THREATS AND ATTACKS BY WHITE SUPREMACISTS AND OTHER HATE GROUPS

This Pride season, a number of coordinated actions against the LGBTQ community were organized and carried out by known white supremacist and anti-LGBTQ hate groups. Many of these were direct attacks, threats or other actions aimed at intimidating the community specifically during Pride season. This report summarizes 22 protests at Pride activities, an anti-LGBTQ conference, and an incident in which members of a white supremacist group targeted and assaulted a gay man.

Eighteen of the protests were part of an ongoing campaign to shut down Drag Queen Story Hours (DQSH) across the country, a program that brings drag queens into libraries and other venues to read stories of inclusion to children. Many of the protests were organized by MassResistance, a well known anti-LGBTQ hate group which has put out a call for actions against DQSHs nationally. One person wrote on a popular white supremacist forum, "Put on black clothes grab a Nazi flag, put on some iron cross patches and protest a drag queen story hour in your town or state." In some cases, the protests became violent, and in addition to calling for protests, organizers have urged followers to publish online the identifying information of the drag queens, and in some instances even parents bringing their children to DQSHs, to encourage harassment.

Collectively, all of these incidents demonstrate the growing hostility, backlash, and sinister nature of many of the far right's efforts against the LGBTQ community. Pastor Tommy McMurtry of Liberty Baptist Church in Illinois, said of LGBTQ people in a short video he posted before attending the "Make America Straight Again" conference in Orlando, FL, "There was a time when society, when our country saw them for what they were, and they put them in their place: six feet under. And unfortunately, we have forgotten that in our country."

ADDITIONAL VIOLENT INCIDENTS

NCAVP recorded ten additional incidents of violence during Pride season, including three incidents of vandalism, three incidents of physical assault and one incident of verbal assault.

ANTI-LGBTQ HATE AND VIOLENCE FROM MAY 15–JULY 15, 2019

KEY: **HATE VIOLENCE FATALITY**
INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK
DETENTION-RELATED FATALITY

HATE VIOLENCE INCIDENT
◆ FATALITY

MAY 15

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 **LOUISVILLE, KY**

Louisville's first-ever Drag Queen Story Hour drew protesters, including members of the American Family Association of Kentucky, a known anti-LGBTQ hate group.

MAY 18 ◆

HATE VIOLENCE FATALITY

📍 **DALLAS, TX**

Mulaysia Booker, a 23-year-old Black trans woman, was killed just a month after a video of her being beaten went viral. The beating and the murder do not appear to have been committed by the same person.

MAY 19 ◆

HATE VIOLENCE FATALITY

📍 **PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Michelle Washington, a 40-year-old Black trans woman, was shot and killed in North Philadelphia.

MAY 31

HATE VIOLENCE INCIDENT

📍 **NEW YORK, NY**

Alibi Lounge, New York City's only Black-owned gay lounge, experienced two incidents of hate violence when the LGBTQ rainbow flag was set on fire. The same person is suspected to be responsible for both incidents.

MAY 27 ◆

FATALITY

📍 **PORTLAND, OR**

Titi Gulley, a 31-year-old Black genderqueer person, was found dead in Rocky Butte Park.*

MAY 25 ◆

HATE VIOLENCE FATALITY

📍 **DETROIT, MI**

Alunte Davis, a 21-year-old Black gay man, Paris Cameron, a 20-year-old Black trans woman, and Timothy Blancher, a 20-year-old Black gay man, were all targeted for their perceived sexuality and killed, while at home.

JUNE 1 ◆

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE FATALITY

📍 **MERRICK, NY**

Evan Grabelsky, a 32-year-old white gay man, was found dead in his home after sustaining more than 100 stab wounds at the hands of his boyfriend.

JUNE 1 ◆

DETENTION-RELATED FATALITY

📍 **EL PASO, TX**

Johana 'Joa' Medina, a 25-year-old Salvadoran trans woman who was being detained at the border by ICE, died shortly after being released from custody. She had several health conditions, including HIV, that were untreated during her detention.

JUNE 2 ◆

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE FATALITY

📍 **MILWAUKEE, WI**

Cassandra Steward, a 54-year-old Black woman, was murdered in her apartment by her ex-girlfriend.

JUNE 5

HATE VIOLENCE INCIDENT

📍 **COMPTON, CA**

Luna Lovebad, a 28-year-old trans latina woman, was assaulted after meeting up with someone from the popular hookup app Grindr. Lovebad detailed in her report that she was set up for her assault by someone whom she thought was a potential date, highlighting the increasing incidences of homophobic and transphobic individuals using hookup and dating apps as a way to find potential victims of assault.

JUNE 5 ◆

HATE VIOLENCE FATALITY

📍 **LUMBERTON, NC**

Chanel Scurlock, a 23-year-old Black transgender woman, was robbed and killed by a man she met via an online dating site.

JUNE 4 ◆

HATE VIOLENCE FATALITY

📍 **DALLAS, TX**

Chynal Lindsey, a 26-year-old Black trans woman, was killed and found in White Rock Lake. Chynal's death occurred only a few days after the funeral was held for Mulaysia Booker.

**Because the police have ruled Gulley's death a suicide, we have not included this incident in the homicide statistics, however, we list her death here because Gulley's family and community suspect that Gulley was murdered. We will update the data if new information becomes available about her death.*

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◆ FATALITY

JUNE 5

HATE VIOLENCE INCIDENT

📍 DALLAS, TX

Blair Jirousek, a 23-year-old trans woman from New York, was denied service at popular gay bar JR's and was later forcibly removed from the premises by the general manager, with no explanation. The bar manager was fired following the incident.

JUNE 6 ◆

HATE VIOLENCE FATALITY

📍 ATLANTA, GA

Roland Peters, a 28-year-old white gay man, was killed by a gunshot on his way to work by a group of men who yelled an anti-gay slur before opening fire on Peters. Peters' partner stated that just a week prior, Peters was involved in an incident where two men used the same slur against him.

JUNE 6

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 BROOKLYN, NY

A group protests a Drag Queen Story Hour.

JUNE 8

HATE VIOLENCE INCIDENT

📍 WASHINGTON, DC

A man with a BB gun sent panic through the crowd gathered for the Capital Pride Parade when he threatened to shoot two parade protesters who had allegedly assaulted his wife. Spectators quickly dispersed, thinking that there was an active shooter. Several people were injured and hospitalized.

JUNE 7 ◆

DETENTION-RELATED FATALITY

📍 RIKERS ISLAND, NY

Layleen Cubilette-Polanco, a 27-year-old Afro-Latinx trans woman being held at Rikers Island in solitary confinement, was found dead in her cell. Polanco was being held at Rikers since mid-April based on her inability to pay a \$500 bail linked to misdemeanor sex work and low level drug possession charges.

JUNE 7

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 VALLEJO, CA

A small group of four gather to protest a Drag Queen Story Hour event.

JUNE 9

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 DETROIT, MI

Nazis gathered at Detroit's annual Pride parade, making chimpanzee noises and openly carrying guns, with the intent of inciting violence.

JUNE 14 ◆

HATE VIOLENCE FATALITY

📍 FAIRMONT HEIGHTS, MD

Zoe Spears, a 23-year-old Black trans woman, was murdered just outside of Washington, DC. She was killed just blocks from where Ashanti Carmon, also a Black trans woman, was murdered in March 2019.

JUNE 14 - 16

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 ORLANDO, FL

Just days after the third anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting, homophobic pastors and people involved in the Christian right gathered in Orlando for the Make America Straight Again Conference. Pastor Patrick Boyle of Revival Baptist Church who organized the conference stated, "It's gay pride month in Orlando and they're out there advocating their cause. We have every right to advocate ours."

JUNE 16

HATE VIOLENCE INCIDENT

📍 WASHINGTON, DC

Gay white couple Karl Craven and Braden Brecht were verbally and physically attacked on U Street by a mob of at least 15 men who began the assault by yelling anti-gay slurs. Both men were injured and hospitalized.

JUNE 15

HATE VIOLENCE INCIDENT

📍 WASHINGTON, DC

Two trans women of color who were seeking services at Casa Ruby, a 30-year-old organization that provides social services to trans people, were physically threatened and sexually harassed by an armed man parked across the street from the center.

JUNE 15

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

- 📍 HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP, PA
- 📍 ALBUQUERQUE, NM
- 📍 LEANDER, TX
- 📍 SEATTLE, WA
- 📍 SPOKANE, WA

Conservatives protest Drag Queen Story Hours in the locations above.

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◆ FATALITY

JUNE 16

HATE VIOLENCE INCIDENT

📍 WASHINGTON, DC

Three gay men were stabbed inside a bar at Dupont Circle when a verbal altercation with other people in the bar turned violent. The men sought medical care for non-life threatening injuries.

JUNE 17

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 DES MOINES, WA

Members of Washington State MassResistance protest a Drag Queen Story Hour.

JUNE 20

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 ROCKFORD, IL

More than 100 protesters show up at a local Drag Queen Story Hour.

JUNE 21

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 ATKINS, AR

Three members of the Shield Wall Network (SWN), an Arkansas-based white nationalist group, lured an unnamed gay man to their home where they beat him, then called law enforcement claiming he was a child predator. The police arrested the three SWN members.

JUNE 20

HATE VIOLENCE INCIDENT

📍 WASHINGTON, DC

Emmelia Talarico, a 30-year-old trans woman of color, was verbally assaulted at a store by a group of men. The store owner drove Talarico home to ensure her safety, but one of the men followed her home and brandished what appeared to be a gun. Talarico and her housemates, also trans women of color, all took shelter in the basement while waiting for police to arrive.

JUNE 20

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 KNOXVILLE, TN

White supremacists gathered at Knoxville Pride and chanted “6 million more,” as a reference to the number of Jews murdered during the Holocaust. Three men who plotted an attack on Knoxville Pride were arrested prior to the event.

JUNE 22

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 RENTON, WA

Protesters were escorted out of the Renton Library’s Teen Pride that included performances by drag queens. Two women protesters were escorted out of the event for recording performances and attending without children.

JUNE 23

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 LEXINGTON PARK, MD

A homophobic Christian pastor was arrested after attempting to interrupt a Drag Queen Story Hour event and being booed by parents and children.

JUNE 24

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 WARREN COUNTY, NJ

A local library cancels a Drag Queen Story Hour after two days of non-stop threats.

JUNE 27

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 RENTON, WA

A local Drag Queen Story Hour attracts hundreds of supporters and dozens of protesters, including members of the paramilitary militia, the Three Percenters, many of whom were open carrying pistols.

JUNE 27

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 BROOKLYN, NY

A small group protested a Drag Queen Story Hour at a local library.

JUNE 26 ◆

HATE VIOLENCE FATALITY

📍 KANSAS CITY, MO

Brooklyn Lindsey was a 32-year-old Black trans woman who was found dead outside of her front porch in Kansas City, MO. In 2015, tragically Jasmine Collins, also a 32-year-old, Black trans woman, was killed just a block from where Lindsey was found.

KEY: **HATE VIOLENCE FATALITY**
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DETENTION-RELATED FATALITY

HATE VIOLENCE INCIDENT
◆ FATALITY

JUNE 28

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

📍 SEATTLE, WA

After learning that the white supremacist group the Proud Boys would be targeting the Trans Pride Parade, organizers and community members put out a call to protect attendees. The turnout for the march was the largest ever and the presence of the alt-right was minimal.

JUNE 29

HATE VIOLENCE INCIDENT

📍 JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY

Translatina community organizers Bianey Garcia and Norma Ureiro were verbally harassed and assaulted with pepper spray by a straight couple using homophobic and transphobic slurs.

JUNE 29

HATE GROUP THREAT/PROTEST/ATTACK

- 📍 ERIE, PA
- 📍 SEVERNA PARK, MD
- 📍 RALEIGH, NC
- 📍 PITTSBURGH, PA

Drag Queen Story Hour protests are held in Erie, PA; Severna Park, MD and Raleigh, NC. Libraries opted to cancel two Drag Queen Story Hour events in Pittsburgh, PA after receiving online threats from homophobic Christian right protesters.

JULY 8

HATE VIOLENCE INCIDENT

📍 NEW YORK, NY

Following the United States National Women's Soccer Team's victory at the World Cup, posters in subway stations featuring out lesbian player Megan Rapinoe were vandalized with homophobic slurs.

JULY 8

HATE VIOLENCE INCIDENT

📍 NEW YORK, NY

Alibi Lounge, New York City's only Black-owned gay lounge, experienced two incidents of hate violence when the LGBTQ rainbow flag was set on fire. The same person is suspected to be responsible for both incidents.

JULY 6 ◆

HATE VIOLENCE FATALITY

📍 DETROIT, MI

Brian Anderson, a 31-year-old Black gay man, was shot and killed after being targeted on gay hook-up app Grindr. Malcolm Drake, 26, was also shot non-fatally in the incident.

JULY 14 ◆

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE FATALITY

📍 UTICA, NY

Bianca Devins, a 17-year-old white biromantic and asexual girl, was murdered by a man she was dating, who also posted gruesome images of the crime to social media.

This Pride season, the LGBTQ community showed its determination to honor the memory of Stonewall by continuing to stand up in the face of discrimination, and for the dignity and safety for all.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE – MOBILIZING IN THE SPIRIT OF STONEWALL

In response to the nearly daily onslaught of violence, over and over, the LGBTQ community along with our allies rallied together to speak out against attacks, defend our spaces, and demand justice for survivors and victims of violence. In May, the homicide of Muhaysia Booker in Dallas led to national attention and outrage as her death came just five weeks after she survived and spoke out against a very public hate violence attack. The tragic death of Layleen Polanco who died while incarcerated in Rikers Island, NY also gained national attention with hundreds rallying on her behalf and a national dialogue beginning about the unjust conditions that led to her incarceration and death.

Supporters repeatedly defended Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) in their communities. Most often, supporters far outnumbered protesters as in Albuquerque, NM where 250 supporters were mobilized compared to about six protesters. In Leander, TX, the community came together to save DQSH. After the library cancelled the event, a local church stepped in to host it, booking a conference room in the same library for the event, and drawing a crowd of over 100 supporters.

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The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) collects annual data and has, for more than twenty years, produced annual reports about intimate partner and hate violence experienced by LGBTQ and HIV-affected people.