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**Project Title**: Community Needs Assessment: Improving Services to LGBTQ-identified Survivors of Domestic Violence

**Investigators:** Dr. Stacy Sechrist, Director of the Program to End Gender-based Violence at UNCG & Dr. Paige Smith, Professor of Public Health Education at UNCG

The Community Needs Assessment we are conducting is part of a larger project, the *North Carolina LGBTQ Domestic Violence Response Initiative*, with the purpose of improving community service agencies’ capacity to provide safe, effective, and culturally competent services to LGBTQ-identified survivors of domestic violence. The *NC LGBTQ Domestic Violence Response Initiative* is active in five communities across NC, including yours. The needs assessment will allow us to hear from LGBTQ-identified community members and LGBTQ-identified survivors of partner violence about what they want and need from agencies in their community to help prevent partner violence and to provide safe, affirming support to survivors. Your participation in the screening survey is voluntary. You may choose not to start the survey, not answer certain questions, or you may withdraw your consent and stop answering questions in the screening survey, for any reason, at any time. The screening questions will ask about your sexual orientation, gender, racial/ethnic identities, and experiences, if any, in dating, marital, or intimate relationships. The purpose of asking these questions is to obtain a diverse group of participants to participate in an interview which will be scheduled for a later date. If you choose not to complete the screening survey or leave the survey before it is done, unfortunately you will be unable to participate in an interview. Details about the interview are discussed below. It is important that you understand this information so that you can make an informed choice about participating in the screening survey. If you have any questions about this study at any time, you should contact the researchers. Their contact information is included in this document and on the screening survey.

**What is the study about?**

You will be asked to provide responses to a screening survey to see if you are eligible to participate in an interview for the community needs assessment. Your participation in the screening survey and the later interview, if you are selected to do so, is voluntary. The screening survey will be used to select a diverse sample of participants to invite to participate in the interview portion of the study. The purpose of the interview is to hear from LGBTQ-identified community members and LGBTQ-identified survivors of partner violence about what they want and need from agencies in their community to help prevent partner violence and to support survivors of partner violence. Information provided in the interviews will inform strategies that will be used by communities and domestic violence service provider agencies to improve services provided to LGBTQ-identified individuals in a safe, affirming, and supportive way that most appropriately meets their needs.

**Why are you asking me?**

This project is seeking LGBTQ+ individuals to participate in a 60-90 minute interview to discuss experiences, perceptions, and needs related to violence that occurs within LGBTQ dating, marital, and/or intimate relationships. As an LGBTQ-identified person residing in a community served by the NC LGBTQ Domestic Violence Response Initiative, you are invited to participate in a screening survey (https://go.uncg.edu/lgbtq\_screening\_form) to select participants for a later interview. You must be 18 or older to participate in this study.

**What will you ask me to do if I agree to be in the study?**

This is a two-part process.

1. You are invited to participate in a brief, online survey that will ask you how you self-identify in terms of sexual orientation, gender identity, and racial/ethnic identities, and your experiences, if any, within current or past dating, intimate, or marital relationships. This survey will take no more than ten (10) minutes to complete. At the end of this survey, you will be invited to provide your email address if you are interested in participating in an interview. Submitting your email address does not guarantee an invitation to the interview as we are seeking a diverse sample to participate in interviews.

2. Participants will be notified about whether they have been selected for a full interview via an email with subject line, "Invitation to Participate for a $40 Amazon Gift Card" from the NC LGBTQ Domestic Violence Response Initiative email account. At that point, if selected for an interview, you will be provided with more information about scheduling an interview. No more than 10 interviews will be conducted within each geographic community participating in the NC LGBTQ Domestic Violence Response Initiative. As this is a qualitative study seeking diversity in its participant pool, it will not be possible to interview all who are interested. If you receive an invitation, you will be asked to participate in 60-90 minute interview. We are seeking your consent for the first part of this study (the online survey) only. By clicking the "Next" button at the bottom of the first page of the online screening survey, you are providing your consent to participate in the online screening survey. Please do not hesitate to contact the Principal Investigator, Stacy Sechrist via email at smsechri@uncg.edu if you require further clarification.

**What are the risks to me?**

The Institutional Review Board at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro has determined that participation in this study poses minimal risk to participants.

Please see the list of resources at the end of this document if you would like further information and/or support regarding partner violence.

If you have any concerns about your rights, how you are being treated, concerns or complaints about this project or benefits or risks associated with being in this study please contact the Office of Research Integrity at UNCG (855)-251-2351.

**Are there any benefits to society as a result of me taking part in this research?**

The findings and recommendations of the larger community needs assessment will be used to improve partner violence prevention and support services in your community. This may lead to a safer, healthier, more productive experiences for LGBTQ+-identified individuals.

**Are there any benefits to me for taking part in this research study?**

There are no direct benefits to participants.

**Will I get paid for being in the study? Will it cost me anything?**

You will not be paid for participating in the online screening survey. Selected interview participants will receive a $40 gift card for Amazon.com upon completing the interview. Interview participants will not receive the gift card if they decide to withdraw from the interview prior to its completion.

**How will you keep my information confidential?**

The information that you provide in the online screening survey will only be accessible by researchers in this study and once participants have been identified for the interview portion of the study, all identifying information (your email address if you decide to provide it) will be deleted from the data file and from the Qualtrics system. The de-identified data will only be accessible by the researchers. It may be kept indefinitely and may be used to inform future research about LGBTQ+ individuals. Absolute confidentiality of data provided through the Internet cannot be guaranteed due to the limited protections of Internet access. Please be sure to close your browser when finished so no one will be able to see what you have been doing.

**What if I want to leave the study?**

You have the right to refuse to participate or to withdraw at any time, without penalty. If you do withdraw, it will not affect you in any way other than your information cannot be used for screening purposes and therefore you will be unable to participate in the interview portion of this study. If you choose to withdraw, you may request that any of your data which has been collected be destroyed unless it is in a de-identifiable state.

**Voluntary Consent by Participant:** By clicking the "Next" button at the bottom of the first page of the screening survey (used for an IRB-approved waiver of signature) you are agreeing that you read and you fully understand the contents of this document and openly and willing consent to take part in this survey. All of your questions concerning this study have been answered. By clicking "Next", you are agreeing that you are 18 years of age or older and are agreeing to participate.

**Resources for Survivors**

*\*Please note this list is not comprehensive for each city, and that there may be costs associated with accessing some of these services.*

*Greensboro & UNCG*

* UNCG Counseling Center-107 Gray Dr, Greensboro, NC 27412 (336-334-5340)
* Campus Violence Response Center -107 Gray Dr. Greensboro, NC 27412 (336-334-9839)
* Family Service of the Piedmont –902 Bonner Drive, Jamestown, NC (336-387-6161)
* Mental Health Association in Greensboro-700 Walter Reed Dr., Greensboro NC 27403 (336-373-1402)

*Asheville*

* Helpmate – 35 Woodfin St., Asheville, NC, 28801 (Hotline: 828-254-0516)
* Our Voice – 35 Woodfin St., Asheville, NC, 28801 (Hotline: 828-255-7576)
* Tranzmission – [info@tranzmission.org](mailto:info@tranzmission.org)

*Durham*

* Radical Healing Collective – 2009 Chapel Hill Rd., Durham, NC, 27707; Contact through http://www.radicalhealing.us/
* LGBTQ Center of Durham – 114 Hunt St., Durham, NC 27701 (919-827-1436); https://www.lgbtqcenterofdurham.org/
* Durham Crisis Response Center – 206 N Dillard St., Durham, NC, 27701 (919-403-6562)

*Outer Banks*

* Outer Banks Hotline - <https://www.obhotline.org/> (Crisis Line: 252-473-3366)
* Integrated Family Services Mobile Crisis – (866-437-1821)

*National*

* The Network La Red (Crisis Line: 617-742-4911, TTY: 617-227-4911)
* National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (LGBTQ Victim Hotline: 212-714-1141)
* FORGE – Transgender Anti-Violence Organization (414-559-2123); https://forge-forward.org/