

# LESBIAN

Gay, Bi-sexual,  
Transgender, Takatāpuhi,  
Intersex, Queer

*Partner Abuse*



Everyone has the right to seek a healthy, safe and loving relationship.


He tapu te tinana o te wahine.  
Nga tamariki ko ratou hoki to  
Rangatiratanga o te rangi.”



**WOMEN'S REFUGE**





» Domestic violence can happen in any relationship across the Lesbian and GBTIQ community.

## ARE YOU, (OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW)?

 Fearful any mistake you make will have consequences? Being put down verbally, told you are useless and being criticised and blamed? Unable to use money on what you want? Being isolated from friends and family? Threatened with weapons? Hit, shoved, strangled, choked, slapped, shaken, bitten, beaten? In a constant state of fear for what might happen next? Forced to have sex, watch pornography or coerced into sexual behaviours you do not want to do?

Intimate partner violence includes these things and more. Domestic violence can be physical, emotional, psychological, sexual and financial abuse.

For Lesbians there are additional issues:

-  Fear of 'outing' to friends, family, former partners or employers
-  Fear of rejection and/or perpetuating a negative view of the Lesbian community
-  Fear of homophobic responses from Police, courts, support agencies and media
-  Fear of anti-Lesbian attitudes affecting access to children

Women's Refuge workers are trained to be open and sympathetic to any person experiencing domestic violence who contacts us for support. If we cannot provide assistance, we may be able to direct you to an organisation that can provide appropriate advice and support.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of the threats listed above, contact our 24/7 Crisis Line **0800 REFUGE (733 843)** or visit us at **[www.womensrefuge.org.nz](http://www.womensrefuge.org.nz)**