

For immediate release



### **UK Trans Survey on Domestic Violence**

Domestic Violence continues to be on the national agenda as the rate of victimisation is so devastating. The levels of abuse to heterosexual women are 1 in 4 - the same figure experienced by LGBT people.

"Domestic violence is still invisible in our communities," says Rita Hirani, CEO of Broken Rainbow, funded by the Home Office to run the national LGBT domestic violence helpline.

"Limited research in terms of domestic violence and abuse amongst transgendered people suggests the figure may even be higher," adds Denise Anderson from Spectrum London, a peer support forum for all trans people and those questioning their gender.

In previous research carried out by Brighton's Spectrum LGBT Forums Count Me In Too project, along with Press For Change's research in their Endangered Penalties report, it was shown that an alarming figure of 64% of Trans people had experienced Domestic Violence at some time.

"This is a large percentage of transgendered people, one that when presented to various organisations brings looks of surprise and alarm, because many have not encountered transgendered people contacting them for assistance," says Denise.

With this in mind Spectrum London along with Broken Rainbow feel it is time to revisit this subject, consulting Transgendered people, investigating if these levels are more indicative of a wider audience nationally. The survey hopes to confirm previous research, and raise awareness to agencies and service providers of the issues surrounding domestic violence in the transgendered communities.

"With increased awareness of these issues to support organisations, we hope transgendered people will feel more comfortable to be able to report issues of a domestic violence nature, knowing support is available," says Denise.

The Online survey can be found here:

<http://www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=1012451>

The survey will be open from 1st June 2009 until the 1st September 2009. We will then collate the information and will be presenting the findings from early October.

Please can you share this survey with as many organisations as possible within the LGBT community and beyond so that the message can be spread far and wide to transgendered people in the UK.

**END**

Editor's Notes:

Spectrum London is a peer support forum for all trans people and those questioning their gender.

<http://www.spectrumlondon.org.uk/>

Broken Rainbow is a registered charity in the UK, number: 1103624

<http://www.broken-rainbow.org.uk>

Broken Rainbow run the national LGBT helpline on 0300 999 LGBT (5428) on Monday 2-8pm, Wed 10-1pm, and Thursday 2-8pm.

Research:

Women's Aid: <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-violence-articles.asp?section=00010001002200410001&itemid=1280&itemTitle=Statistics%3A+how+common+is+domestic+violence>

Spectrum LGBT Forum Brighton's Count Me In Too: <http://www.spectrum-lgbt.org/cmiToo/downloads/>

Press for Change Report: <http://www.pfc.org.uk/files/EngenderedPenalties.pdf>