Safety Resources for LGBTQ+ Students

The lives of LGBTQ+ people--particularly those of us whose identities are multiplicatively targeted--are at risk during COVID-19. Many LGBTQ+ people are employed in sectors that are heavily impacted by the pandemic, such as food service or the gig economy. LGBTQ+ people also face significant economic disparities compared to their non-LGBTQ+ peers--including being poorer, on average, and being less likely to have health insurance coverage--which means they will more often lack the resources they need to stay afloat during times of crisis. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs also recently reported that they are already seeing how the pandemic is seriously impacting survivors of violence and making many vulnerable to increased violence and discrimination in their own homes. Many of their clients are sheltering in place with the very person who is causing them harm, whether it is an intimate partner, a roommate, or a family member.

As such, the Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University have compiled a list of national, regional, and local safety and harm reduction resources; including information on reporting violence, seeking shelter, navigating the healthcare system, alternatives to carceral-legal interactions (e.g. restorative/transformative justice), and immigration/DACA updates.

- **Richmond Local LGBTQ+ Direct Support Services**
  - Health Brigade
  - Richmond Mutual Aid
  - Side by Side
    - Provides youth support groups
  - Virginia’s 24/7 LGBTQ+ Hotline
    - Call 866-356-6998
    - Text 804-793-9999
    - Web Chat
  - Virginia Anti-Violence Project

- **National LGBTQ+ Direct Support Services**
  - Crisis Text Line
  - HRC Direct, Online and Phone Support Services for LGBTQ+ Youth
  - The Trevor Project
    - Talk – 1-866-488-7386
    - Text – Text START to 678678
  - Trans Lifeline: 877-565-8860

- **National Toolkits and Resource Lists**
  - Coronavirus Resource Toolkit
    - includes DMV area specific information
  - COVID-19 Collective Care Toolkit
  - Database of Localized Resources During COVID 19 Outbreak
  - Direct Funds for LGBTQ+ people
    - scroll to “Grassroots Funds and Campaigns Providing Direct Relief”
  - Online Resources for LGBTQ+ People

- **Richmond Local Toolkits and Resource Lists**
  - Equality Virginia COVID-19 Resource Hub
- **National Organizations and Nonprofits**
  - **Move to End Violence**
    - scroll to “Resources for Survivors, Advocates, and Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Programs”
  - National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
    - Tips for When Staying At Home Isn’t Safe
    - Get Support
  - **National Center for Transgender Equality**
    - Resources and Contact Information
  - **Human Rights Campaign Resources**
    - Webinars
  - **GLAD Legal Advocates and Defenders**
    - Includes legal rights and resources, health resources, and community connection resources
  - **American Immigration Lawyers Association**
  - Protecting Immigrant Families: **Immigrant Eligibility for Public Programs During COVID-19**
  - Informed Immigrant: **DACA Updates**
  - **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** COVID Resource Guide

- **Regional and Local Organizations and Nonprofits**
  - **Campaign for Southern Equality Front Porch Series**
    - “Virtual programming will include community support groups, skill-sharing and skill-building workshops, and presentations from practitioners in their fields.”
  - **Southerners on New Ground**
    - scroll for English Resource Lists and Support Services
  - **OutRVA Resource List**