

Community United Against Violence Hate Violence in 2006 Summary

Overview

In 2006, Community United Against Violence (CUAV) documented violence, vandalism, and harassment against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning communities (LGBTQQ) in San Francisco and the larger Bay Area. CUAV reported 285 incidents of hate violence in 2006. This was an 11% decrease from 322 incidents reported to us in 2005. However, the following categories saw notably dramatic increases: the self-identified sexual orientation category, incidents involving transgender bias, AIDS/HIV related bias, heterosexist bias, reports of police indifference, victims who received hospitalization/in-patient care, the number of incidents resulting in death, and the murder rate.

Victims, Survivors, and Offenders

In terms of the number of bias victims, we recorded a slight decrease of 8%, 364 in 2005 as compared to 336 in 2006. There was an analogous 8 % decrease in the number of offenders from 581 to 537. Despite this decrease, the number of offenders who were friends or acquaintances to their victims went up 60%.

Although there were not many significant changes in offender demographics from 2005 to 2006 there were a few notable shifts. Incidents committed by members of a hate group went down 75% from 4 incidents in 2005 to 1 incident in 2006. In addition offenders under the age of 18 went down 46% from 59 to 32 and the number of victims under the age of 18 also went down 55%. Incidents involving ten or more offenders also went down 62% from 13 incidents to 5 in 2006.

In regards to victim demographics, there was a significant decrease in the number of female and FTM victims while the number of male victims remained relatively the same. In general incidents involving transgender related bias went up 94% from 33 incidents in 2005 to 64 incidents in 2006. The number of victims who identified as intersex increased from 0 to 3 which indicate a 300% increase. Under the category of sexual orientation the self-identified category (i.e. queer, etc.) increased from 3 to 22 or 633%. There was a 140% increase of victims who received hospitalization/in-patient care. The number of incidents resulting in death increased in 2006 by 150%, from two to five. There was a dramatic increase in the number of incidents involving AIDS/HIV related and heterosexist bias. These numbers increased from 1 to 15 or 1,400%.

Rape and Sexual Assault

In 2006 the number of rape and sexual assault incidents reported to CUAV doubled from 2 to 4. There was also an increase in gay men reporting sexual assaults to the San Francisco Police Department. These incidents were reported from the Castro area. The Castro neighborhood community mobilized around sexual assault prevention and self-defense. On October 26th 2006, Castro Community on Patrol (CCOP), a group consisting of patrolling volunteers, was formed to increase safety measures at night in the Castro area. In general there were 56% fewer incidents in the Castro area in 2006 as compared to 2005. There were also fewer incidents in the Castro for this year's Halloween festivities. CUAV believes that the fewer number of incidents, as noted in lower numbers for the month of October are not only the result of the existence of CCOP

but also the result of Supervisor Bevan Dufty and the city of San Francisco's efforts in discouraging attendance to the event, shortening its hours, and increasing its security.

Murder Rate

Most startling, the murder rate doubled from 2005 to 2006 from 2 to 4 cases in addition to one case of suspicious death. In 2006, 3 of the 5 deaths documented this year were victims who identified as people of color within the transgender/gender variant spectrum. Two of these victims identified as Latina while the third identified as person of mixed heritage; Latina-African America. These incidents follow a national NCAVP trend which states that transgender women of color homicide and death cases have occurred at a higher rate from 2005 to 2006. CUAV believes that in 2006 we began to notice a trend in anti-LGBT bias behavior resulting in increasing incidences of pick-up violence marked in the murder and death cases.

One such case is the death of Ms. Daxi Arredondo. Ms. Arredondo was found dead on November 11th 2006 at a hotel in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco. CUAV continues to be involved in the case of Ms. Arredondo through both advocacy and supporting her mother, Ms. Martha Arredondo and her extended support network. CUAV continues to support Martha's efforts to re-open her daughter's case. More on this case and the cases of Alfred/Ariana Dibble and Thalia Sandoval can be read in the Death and Murder narrative portion of this report.

Police Attitude

Although, according to our statistics, the police were courteous and less physically/verbally abusive to the LGBTQQ community, there was a 120% increase in reports of police indifference to our clients and callers. It is unclear as to what may have caused this dramatic increase.

San Francisco Neighborhood	2006 Incidents
Bayview/Hunters Point	0
Castro	30
Downtown	9
Haight	10
Hayes Valley/Western Addition	6
Marina/Pacific Heights	1
Mission	27
Noe Valley	0
North Beach/Chinatown	7
OMI	1
Polk	2
Portola/Bernal Heights	8
Potrero Hill	1
Presidio	0
Richmond	3
SOMA	11
Sunset	8
Tenderloin	33
Twin Peaks	1
Unknown within San Francisco	47
Total San Francisco	205
Northern California Counties	2006 Incidents
Alameda	20
Calaveras	0
Contra Costa	4
Lake	1
Monterey	1
Nevada	1
San Francisco	205
San Joaquin	1
San Mateo	7
Santa Clara	3
Santa Cruz	5
Siskiyou	1
Sonoma	3
Yolo	1
Unknown/Other	32
Total Northern California	285
Total Reported Incidents	285

Hate Violence Narratives 2006

1. Jess, a mixed race Japanese lesbian, has experienced years of sexual and racist harassment by a male acquaintance and former client of hers. For four years she has been continually receiving threats including offensive anti-lesbian and anti-Asian emails from the acquaintance. He has threatened her through email and in person. He also vandalized her place of business and her home. The perpetrator has not yet revealed his legal identity to Jess. CUAV continues to advocate on her behalf with the criminal legal system.

2. Lisa, a bilingual Spanish speaking Latina lesbian, experienced hate violence and sexual harassment at her job. The suspect, a fellow employee, has vandalized her car twice and harassed her in person. One instance of automobile vandalism was the result of an attempted arson. She received Spanish speaking counseling and advocacy in person and over the phone from CUAV. Lisa's supervisor was able to relocate her with a promotion.

3. Paul, a white gay man, and his partner Jayme, a Pilipino gay man, have experienced anti-gay harassment from neighbors for almost six years. CUAV has provided peer counseling in person and over the phone, as well as advocacy with local law enforcement. Paul is weary of working with local law enforcement as a survivor of police abuse. He had previously experienced police abuse in the form of an attempted sexual assault by a local Sherriff. Currently, Paul and his partner have considered relocating.

4. Justin, a 26 year old white FTM transsexual man. The BART police reprimanded and arrested for him for attempting to take his bicycle on the BART during morning commuter hours. The handcuffs that were used injured Justin's arm so he screamed for a witness. This witness contacted CUAV directly. Both Justin and his parents received emotional support as well as criminal legal advocacy from CUAV. Justin wished to pursue this police-abuse case. He believed that as a transgender person he experienced transphobia and unnecessary and excessive violence at the hands of police officials. Unrelated to these events, Justin passed away two weeks after he initially contacted CUAV in regards to this case.

5. Jen, a thirty-something South Asian androgynous butch lesbian, was robbed and assaulted outside of a local café. Just after leaving the café Jen was struck on the head and then robbed by an anonymous white male. Jen then ran back into the café looking for help from the café's mostly white patrons. The robber followed Jen back into the café exclaiming, presumably to the other café patrons, "He robbed me!" CUAV believes that the suspect's response shows that he was attempting to paint Jen as a violent man of color. Shortly after this the police arrived and the suspect was arrested. Assumed to be male, Jen experienced both racism and sexism resulting in out-patient medical care in addition to the loss of the stolen items. CUAV has provided Jen with resources and referrals, counseling via email, and court support.

Murder Narratives 2006

In San Francisco, CA January 2006 an unidentified 50 year old white male was murdered in his apartment on Post Street. There are currently no known suspects in this murder.

Chad Ferriera was a 27 year old gay Latino man living in San Francisco. At approximately 2 a.m. on January 3, 2006 in front of the Rolo Store on Castro St , Mr. Ferriera was attacked by two men to the point of unconsciousness. He was rushed to San Francisco General and was kept on life support for several days before being pronounced dead on Saturday, February 4, 2006 by the Medical Examiner's office. Currently Kyle Brandon Adams, 26, is being charged with manslaughter and assault in connection to the death of Ferriera. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges and claims that his actions were in self-defense. In addition to repeatedly stomping on Ferriera's head, it was reported to the SFPD that Adams used an excessive level of violence during this interaction resulting in two head fractures. CUAV believes that excessive and unnecessary violence and aggression, as it was illustrated in this particular case, is over-kill. Opening statements for this case began on April 30th 2007. The trial is expected to last no longer than three weeks.

Alfred/Ariana Dibble was a Latino/a forty-something year old biological male who had both a male and a female identity. On June 22, 2006 Alfred/Ariana Dibble was discovered beaten, unconscious, and hidden in the bushes of a quiet Stockton Neighborhood. Mr./Ms. Dibble was taken to a nearby hospital, but never regained consciousness. The Stockton Police have not classified the murder as a hate crime due to the lack of sufficient evidence.

On November 19, 2006 Thalia Sandoval, a 27 year old transgender Latina woman, was stabbed to death in her home in Antioch, CA. Her body was found at approximately three a.m. Prior to the time of death, Ms. Sandoval met with the suspect at a bar. Later at Ms. Sandoval's place of residence the two allegedly had sexual contact. She was stabbed numerous times in her bedroom by the suspect who fled the scene naked. Ms. Sandoval then dragged herself from her room to her housemates' room to inform her of what had happened. She lost consciousness while her housemates called the police; she passed away soon after this. CUAV believes that this murder was the result of a pick-up crime. The suspect is being charged with first degree murder with special circumstances.

Suspicious//Death

On November 11, 2006 Daxi Arredondo was found dead by the SFPD at a hotel in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco. Ms. Arredondo was a 35 year old transsexual-identified bi-racial Mexican-African American woman. CUAV suspects that Ms. Arredondo's death is the result of a pick-up-crime. On November 10, 2006, Ms. Arredondo checked into her hotel room with an anonymous male. The anonymous male was seen leaving the hotel grounds at approximately 5 a.m. on November 11th. Later that day Ms. Arredondo was found half naked on the bed by hotel staff. The anonymous male has not been questioned to date. The Medical Examiner's report states that the necropsy and toxicology data reveal the cause of death was determined to be "Acute Polysubstance Toxicity." The report also states that there was evidence of injury.

In regards to this case, CUAV has conducted law enforcement and media advocacy as well as continual peer support for Daxi's mother, Ms. Martha Arredondo, and her extended support network. As a result of our support, Ms. Martha Arredondo continues to speak publicly about the death of her daughter and the importance of bringing justice to her case. In support of this case CUAV has conducted meetings with the Medical Examiner's office, San Francisco Police Department's Chief of Police, and other community organizations. There have been no arrests in conjunction with her death. This case is currently classified as a death case by both the San Francisco Police Department and the San Francisco Medical Examiner's Office.

Summary of Local Recommendations

Local Recommendations

Mainstream and Local Media

CUAV advocates that all forms of media effectively and appropriately exhibit and speak on the LGBTQQ experience of violence in all its forms. In order to achieve this end, CUAV recommends that main stream, local, and LGBTQQ media utilize the tools and training opportunities provided by media focused non-profits. These organizations provide information, terminology, and training for the public at large and the media. The work of these nonprofits focuses on promoting and creating non-biased social justice oriented journalism. CUAV believes that partnerships between media and such organizations would create a new standard of information and improve the way it is disseminated and delivered to the general public.

Law Enforcement

CUAV believes that all law enforcement and representatives of the criminal legal system should be trained to implement practices which reflect respect and care for the diverse LGBTQQ communities. CUAV recommends that law enforcement focus on ongoing LGBTQQ sensitivity trainings in order to properly address the violence which is inflicted upon and occurs within the community. CUAV also believes that District Attorneys and Public Defenders need to expand their knowledge of the ways in which LGBTQQ violence occurs and how these occurrences are culturally, economically, locationally socially, and historically different.

Both law enforcement and the criminal legal system must inform the public of the ways in which their internal systems of accountability are implemented and carried out. CUAV believes that this level of transparency will in turn increase the community's trust in both the law enforcement and the criminal legal system.

Community Outreach

CUAV asks the community at large to think about the ways in which they can be empowered to reach out to underserved and marginalized LGBTQQ communities in the Bay Area. Many queer communities are faced with homelessness, poverty, lack of child care, adequate food, lack of health care, and limited access to stable housing or education. Many of these LGBTQQ individuals are undocumented, struggle with addictions, may have been arrested, and are not able to receive many of the day to day services they need.

CUAV asks the community at large to take action towards ending homophobia, transphobia, and heterosexism within their lives and our culture. There are many ways in which we can all participate in ending violence and bringing about social change not only for LGBTQQ folks, but for everyone. The following are areas in which CUAV sees the most need: providing affordable housing, education, health care, and jobs that are safe, stable, and accessible. CUAV encourages the community at large to take it upon themselves to get involved. The following are examples of these types of opportunities: job recruitment and training, being a mentor for LGBTQQ youth and elders, volunteering

at social justice and anti-violence agencies and events, and donating even small amounts of your monthly or annual income to local/grass-roots non-profit organizations.

CUAV recommends that communities throughout California and nationally continue to document incidents of hate. CUAV's 24-hour crisis line (415) 333-HELP (4357) is one of many resources to which any person can report hate violence. CUAV urges the community to be aware, prepared and document anti-gay bias, epithets, harassment and physical violence against an individual, group or institution. Please contact CUAV if you are a survivor/ victim, family member, friend, or member of an institution experiencing bias, or if you witness such incidents.

California Legislation

CUAV recommends that members of the LGBT community and its allies monitor the progress and status of the following bills in support of LGBT rights and equality. CUAV also urges the community to actively participate in community organizing, letter writing and activism in support of these bills.

***(The following information was drawn from the Equality California website, www.eqca.org.)**

AB 394- Safe Place to Learn Act, Lead Author: Assembly member Lloyd Levine

The Safe Place to Learn Act provides clarification and guidance to school districts and the California Department of Education regarding what steps should be taken to ensure compliance with the 537 (Kuehl). This clarification will help to ensure that current school safety standards regarding harassment and discrimination are fully and properly implemented. This legislation will clarify the minimum steps school districts and the Department of Education must take in order to fulfill their existing obligations to ensure the safety of all students.

SB 518 - Juvenile Justice Safety and Protection Act

Senate Bill 518, the Juvenile Justice Safety and Protection Act, authored by Senator Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), would address the crisis of abuse and discrimination against LGBT youth by instituting some basic safeguards that would benefit all young people residing in state and county juvenile justice facilities, including a Youth Bill of Rights, statutory anti-bias rules, and mandatory training regarding youth rights for correctional officers and other facility staff.

AB 14 - Civil Rights Act of 2007

Assembly Bill 14, the Civil Rights Act of 2007, authored by Assembly member John Laird (D-Santa Cruz), would amend existing nondiscrimination provisions to be consistent with the nondiscrimination protections in the Unruh Civil Rights Act and Government Code Section 11135, which prohibits discrimination in state funded programs and activities. AB 14 is the fourth in a series of successful nondiscrimination bills authored by Assembly member Laird and sponsored by EQCA to strengthen major areas of California law and clarify that people are protected from discrimination regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

SB 1019 (Romero)

Senate Bill 1019 (Romero) would overturn the State Supreme Court decision in *Copley Press v. Superior Court*, which has had the effect of closing down public access to information about police complaints in jurisdictions throughout the state. This legislation would provide greater public access to basic information about sustained cases involving police discipline, including the name and badge number of the officer, a summary of the facts, charges brought, and disciplinary action taken. (www.aclunc.org)

CUAV recommends that members of the LGBT community and its allies monitor the progress and status of the following bills attempting to limit the LGBT community's access to freedom and basic human rights. CUAV also urges the community to actively participate in community organizing, letter writing and activism against these bills. For 2007 Equality California is officially opposed to the following bills because of the negative impact they will have on the LGBT community and our families.

AB 1249 (lead author Assembly member Silva, R-Huntington Beach) would discourage schools from offering diversity and tolerance programs that discuss sexual orientation issues by requiring prior written consent of a student's parent or guardian.

AB 1498 (lead author Assembly member DeVore, R-Irvine) would weaken nondiscrimination protections that apply to state-funded and operated programs and services.

AB 1346 (lead author Assembly member Silva, R-Huntington Beach) would add religion as a protected characteristic to a number of education-related nondiscrimination laws. EQCA is opposed to this bill unless it is amended to cover all groups, including LGBT people, currently protected by the state's general policy against discrimination in all public school programs and activities.

AB 1676 (lead author Assembly member DeVore, R-Irvine) would require that instructional materials accurately portray the role and contributions of religious people and religious groups in historical events. EQCA is opposed to this bill unless it is amended to include the role and contributions of other important groups that have contributed to California and our nation's history, including LGBT people.

Refer to www.eqca.org for more information on these bills.