

SAFETY MESSAGES

PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS FOR LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY MEMBERS

ACON is aware of escalating anti-LGBTQ+ abuse, harassment and violence across NSW. Violence against LGBTQ+ people is never acceptable, and is an attack on our rights, opportunities and freedom to be ourselves.

This guide shares some tips that LGBTQ+ community members can use to keep safe when attending events and social gatherings.

These suggestions may not always 'prevent' violence, but they can be useful strategies to consider. Violence is always and only ever the fault of the person using it.

1 **Be aware of your surroundings.**

Being alert and trusting your instincts is a good defence against violence or abuse. Homophobic or transphobic signals like comments and stares can be followed by an attack.

2 Plan ahead on how to get to and from venues. Consider travelling with a friend or by taxi or rideshare.

3 If you are confronted with verbal abuse, try to remain calm and do not escalate the situation. It's safer to ignore verbal abuse as answering back can make things worse.

4 Try to get away as fast as possible. Find a place where there are people. Notify staff/security if at a venue.

5 Use a whistle or personal alarm or scream to attract people and to scare off attackers. Make as much noise as you can.

6 If you see violence taking place, and feel safe to do so, use video or a notes app to record what you have witnessed.

7 Support others if they've been victims of violence. If you see someone being harassed or attacked, call the police on Triple Zero (000)

SUPPORT

ACON can provide counselling support, information and referrals to LGBTQ+ people in NSW who have experienced abuse and/or violence. Call ACON on **(02) 9206 2000**.

MAKE A REPORT

If you feel safe to do so, you can report all incidents of abuse and/or violence to the NSW Police Force (NSWPF). Call the Police Assistance Line **131 444**.

If you have experienced a hate incident and have reported this to your local Command/District but have received a poor response (for example, you have requested a report be made but this has not occurred), you can email safety@acon.org.au for assistance escalating within the NSWPF.

Please note that the ACON Safety team can only assist when you have first attempted to report or manage the issue directly with your local Command/District.

