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National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline  
**0800 999 5428**

London LGBT+ Advice Line  
**0207 704 2040**

## Galop response to the New Draft Domestic Abuse Bill 21.01.19

Nik Noone CEO of Galop stated:

*“Galop welcomes the draft Domestic abuse bill published today and the explicit regard given to LGBT+ victims and survivors. Over many years we have supported thousands of people who have experienced domestic abuse and have witnessed its impact on individuals and our communities. It is key that against the backdrop of a history of inequality at law that LGBT+ victims and survivors are visible in future legislation and their needs recognised in non-legislative provisions.”*

Galop actively engaged with the consultation process and brought people together to ensure the voices and needs of LGBT+ survivors were heard. We will continue to work hard to ensure that our communities needs are recognised and that LGBT+ victims and survivors have access to appropriate services that are responsive to their all too often overlapping experiences of abuse and discrimination.

We welcome the criminal justice reform set out in the bill, however we know relatively low numbers of LGBT+ cases are recorded with the CJS and that many LGBT+ survivors do not come into contact with the police or courts. That’s why we continue to support initiatives that make a real difference to survivors and campaign for the bill to improve the responses cohesively, across all sectors, including housing, health and social care, children’s services, the family courts and others.

We warmly welcome the explicit regard given to LGBT+ victims and survivors. Domestic abuse in the LGBT+ communities is a serious issue. LGBT+ survivors share similar forms of domestic abuse as their heterosexual/cisgender peers. We also know those who access services present higher levels of additional risks and are more likely to disclose additional issues such as mental health and problematic substance misuse. However, LGBT+ survivors remain disproportionately underrepresented across service provision, while the absence of commissioning of LGBT+ specialist domestic abuse services across England and Wales has resulted in few LGBT+ specialist interventions.

It is therefore crucial that the New Domestic Abuse Bill makes the needs of LGBT+ survivors visible, ensures those needs are recognised and appropriately met and sets out concrete measures supporting the expansion, and sustainability of, specialist programs and services ‘led by and for’ the communities they aim to serve.



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**Contact information:**

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Read the full draft bill here: <https://tinyurl.com/DVA-draft>