

Mending the Rainbow: Working with the Native LGBT/Two Spirit Community



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LGBT/Two Spirit Definitions

- **Lesbian** is a woman whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional and/or spiritual attraction is to other women.
- **Gay** is a man whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional and/or spiritual attraction is to other men
- **Bisexual** is an individual who is physically, romantically, emotionally and/or spiritually attracted to men and women.
- **Transgender** is a term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth.
- **Two Spirit** is a contemporary term used to identify Native American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and some Transgender individuals with **traditional and cultural** understandings of **gender roles and identity**.

Two Spirit – Native GLBT

- Two Spirit term refers to Native American/Alaskan Native Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) individuals
- A contemporary term used to identify Native American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender individuals with **traditional and cultural** understandings of **gender roles and identity**.
- Encompassing term used is "Two Spirit" adopted in 1990 at the 3rd International Native Gay & Lesbian Gathering in Winnipeg, Canada.
- Term is from the *Anishinabe* language meaning to have both female and male spirits within one person.
- Has a different meaning in different communities.
- The term is used in rural and urban communities to describe the re-claiming of their traditional identity and roles.
- The term refer to culturally prescribed spiritual and social roles; however, the term is not applicable to all tribes

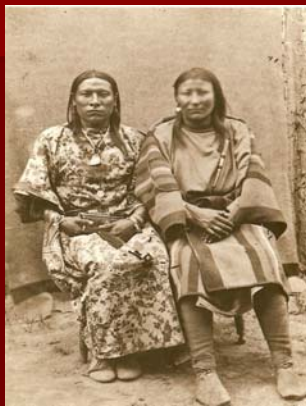
Two Spirit – Native LGBT

- Historically, NA/AN had alternative gender roles & responsibilities.
Community vs. Individual
Gender vs. Sexuality
- Lakota view the *Wintke* as sacred people whose androgynous nature is an inborn character trait or the result of a vision.
Example: Lakota Naming Ceremony
- For many tribes, oral traditions revealed that Two-Spirit people were considered to exist by deities and/or were among the sacred beings.
Example: Navajo Creation Story The Separation of Sexes.
- After European contact, homophobia & acculturated worldviews of gender/sexuality were adopted.
- Some tribal languages still use traditional names for Two Spirit/LGBT among their communities.

Tribal Language & Two Spirit Terminology

Tribe	Term	Gender
Crow	boté	male
Navajo	nádleehí	male and female
Lakota	winkte	male
Zuni	lhamana	male
Tongva	Wehee'ahiiken Kuuyat	male and female transgender (MTF)

Osh-Tisch (Crow)
1854 - 1929



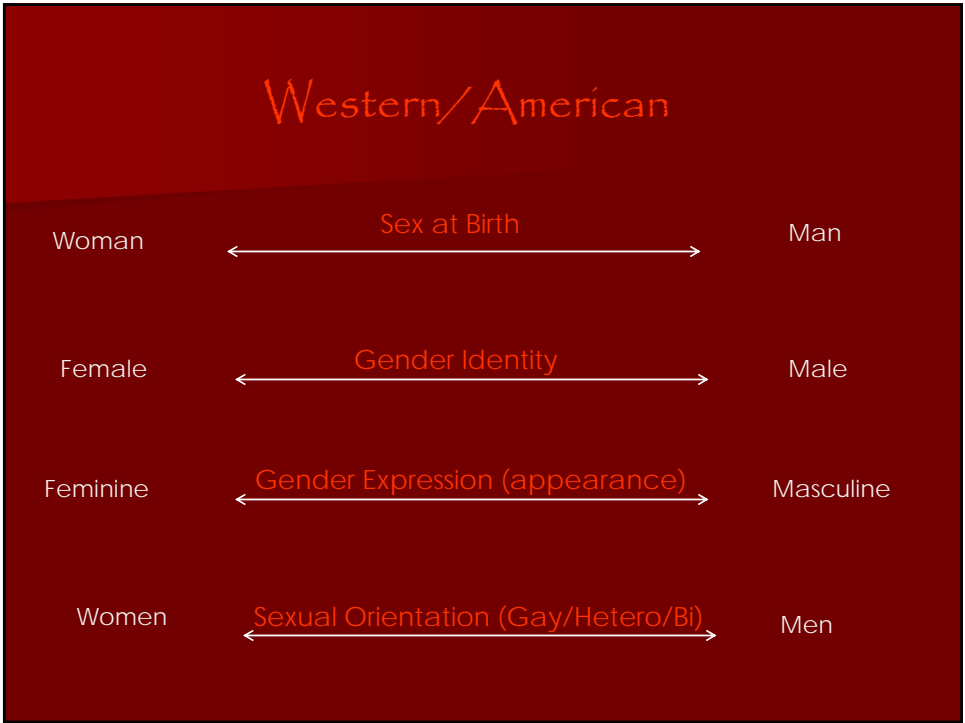
"Finds Them and Kills Them"

Hastiin Klah (Diné)
1867 - 1937

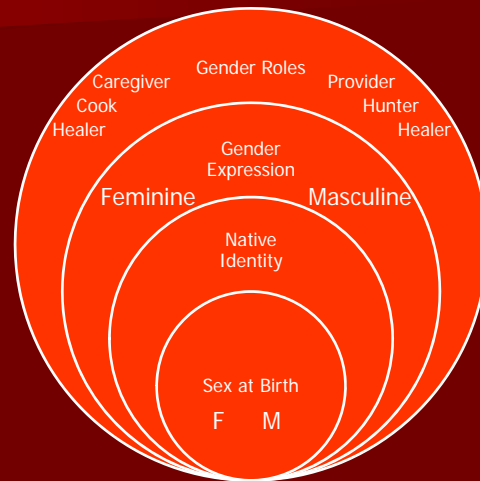


Celebrated weaver,
sand painter, and
Traditional Healer

<p>Lozen (Apache) 1840 – 1890</p>	<p>We'wha (Zuni) circa 1849-1896</p>
	
<p>Skilled Warrior and fought beside Geronimo</p>	<p>Spiritual leader and performed sacred roles in ceremonial dances</p>

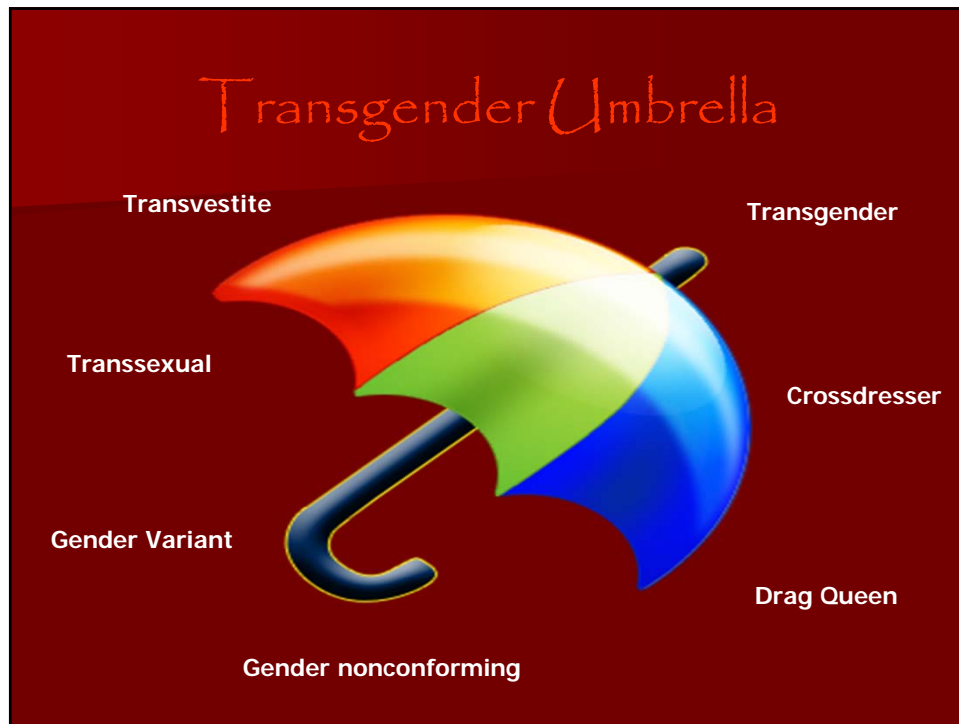


Native Community



Transgender

- A term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth.
- The word transgender is an adjective and never ends with the "ed".
- Transgender should be used as an adjective, not as a noun, therefore no "s" is used at the end.



Issues to Consider

- Fluidity - Being Transgender doesn't mean you are assigned/labeled under a category.
- There are different variations and degrees of Transgender-ism -- the Pendulum Effect.
- However, not all trans people identify as being part of the LGBT Community
- Trans people identify as queer, straight, bi, gay, lesbian, asexual, pansexual, etc., just as non-trans people do!

Transphobia

- Transphobia describes the irrational fear and hatred of all those individuals who transgress, violate, or blur the dominant gender categories in a given society, which may be experienced by transgender individuals in different ways from microaggressions to violence.
- Heterosexism, on the other hand, describes the assumption that everyone is heterosexual or should be. While many transgender individuals identify as heterosexual, they may still experience heterosexism because embedded within heterosexism is a narrow binary gender system that transgender individuals may be seen as outside of or they are questioned about their status of being a “real” man or woman.
- Therefore, ze/she/he may be heterosexual, yet experience heterosexism through microaggressions, discrimination, harassment, violence, etc. because of being incorrectly viewed as gay/lesbian.

HATE VIOLENCE AGAINST LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER AND HIV-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES 2010

NCAVP’s 2010 report demonstrates that anti-LGBTQH violence remains widespread and severe in the United States. This data reflects the 2009 report which showed that violence disproportionately impacted transgender people and people of color. These findings highlight the immediate need to create initiatives that increase safety and power for LGBTQH survivors.

Reports of anti-LGBTQH hate violence increased by 13% from 2009 to 2010.

Hate Violence Murders

- Anti-LGBTQH murders increased 23% from 2009 (22 murders) to 2010 (27 murders), the second highest amount in a decade.
- LGBTQH people of color were disproportionately impacted by murder. LGBTQH people of color comprised 70% of all LGBTQH murder victims in 2010 but only represented 55% of total reports.
- Transgender women were disproportionately impacted by murder. 44% of LGBTQH murder victims were transgender women, yet only 11% of total reports came from transgender women.

Impacted Identities

- People who identified as either transgender or people of color were 2 times as likely to experience assault or discrimination as non-transgender white individuals.
- Transgender people represented a higher proportion of hate violence survivors with injuries: Transgender survivors experienced higher rates of serious injuries (11.8%) as compared to non-transgender men (6.2%) or non-transgender women (1.3%).

Most Impacted Identities

- Transgender people and people of color were the least likely to receive medical attention. 75% of transgender men and 20% of transgender women did not receive needed medical attention for their injuries.
- This is compared to 15% of overall LGBTQH survivors who needed medical attention for their injuries but did not receive it.

Hate Violence Survivor and Victim Demographics

- Gay non-transgender men made up 48.4% of hate violence survivors, the largest proportion. People who identified as gay, predominantly non-transgender men, made up nearly half of 2010's reports to NCAVP (48.4%), followed by people who identified as lesbian (26%), heterosexual (10.4%) and bisexual (8.9%). The following categories each made up less than five percent of reported sexual orientations: questioning/unsure (2.5%), queer (1.6%), and self-identified (2.1%).

Police Response

- 50.1% of survivors did not report to the police. Transgender women were the least likely to report to police. 25.4% of transgender women did not make a report, compared to 19.1% of non-transgender women and 20.9% of non-transgender men.
- Police were less likely to classify hate violence against LGBTQH people of color as hate crimes.
- Transgender people of color reported higher rates of indifferent police attitudes; Police were more likely to arrest offenders when survivors were gay non-transgender men.

Characteristics of Hate Violence Sites and Offenders

- 3% of hate violence occurs in a private residence or on the street.
- Non-transgender men were majority of offenders.
- White people were the highest proportion of hate violence offenders.

NCAVP 2011 Report

- 19 IPV homicides, Increase from 2010 of 6 IVP homicides
- LGBTQH under 30, 2 times likely to experience physical violence; POC 4 times
- LGBTQH Survivors denied access to shelter - 2010 44%, 2011 61%
- Gay Men disproportionately victims of homicide in 2011; women in 2010

LGBT Youth and Violence

- **School** — Bullying, Taunting, Teasing, Threatening, Pushing, Shoving, Hitting, Homophobic slurs, Transphobic slurs, Isolation, Fear, Anxiety
- **Friends** - Coming Out, Gossiping, Ignored, Left out, Pushed away, Shunned, Attacks
- **Family** — Shame, Guilt, Closeted, Left Out, Lies, Physical, Verbal, & Mental Abuse, Aversion Therapy
- **Public** - Access/Denial to venues, Homophobia, Transphobia, Threatening, Physical Attacks, Verbal Attacks

How Common is Bullying?

- 6 out of 10 teens witness bullying at least once a day (Families & Work Institute)
- ¼ of Students reported that they had been harassed or bullied on school property; race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. (CA Student Survey, 2001-2002)
- GLBT students hear anti-gay slurs about 26 times a day, or every 14 minutes. (National Mental Health Assoc. 2002)
- Homophobic bullying is frequently aimed at youth who don't conform to traditional gender roles or presentation (*The GLBT Youth Support Project*)

2009 Survey - online, LGBTQ youth organizations

- 7000 surveys mid-high school; ages 13-21
- 8 of 10 verbally harassed at school
- 4 of 10 physically harassed at school
- 6 of 10 felt unsafe at school
- 1 of 5 had been the victim of a physical assault at school

GLBT health, youth - CDC

Fred Martínez, Jr.



Fred Martínez Jr.

- She was a 16-year-old Navajo Transgender who was murdered in Cortez, CO in 2001.
- Attacked and beaten to death by 18-year-old, Shawn Murphy- who crushed Martínez skull with a rock, sliced open her abdomen, and left her to die by the side of the road.
- Her friends adored her.
- *"Had he been born a woman," one teacher said, "he'd have been the most popular girl in town."*

Fred Martinez, Jr.

- Murphy was charged with 2nd Degree Murder & not Hate Crime – at time CO did not legally recognize Hate Crime based on gender identity or gender expression.
- Pauline Mitchell, mother, was not notified of autopsy by DA office but rather the local newspaper.
- Documentary "Two Spirit" produced by Lydia Nibley accounts of Fred Martinez Jr.'s death and Two Spirit history & culture.



What to think about, hmmm

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| ■ Person | ■ Inclusion |
| ■ Identity | ■ Transgender Umbrella |
| ■ Expression | ■ Hormones/Silicone MTF |
| ■ Comfort | ■ Testosterone FTM |
| ■ Names | ■ SRS/Gender Confirmation |
| ■ Labels | ■ Policies/Procedures |
| ■ Stereotypes | ■ Laws |
| ■ Assumptions | ■ ?'s |
| ■ Sexual Orientation | ■ Data |
| ■ Paperwork/Documents | ■ Safety |

More issues

- Native LGBT/2S youth/adults in Detention centers
- Native LGBT/2S youth in Foster Care
- Native LGBT/2S youth/adults who are homeless
- Native LGBT/2S youth/adults on Reservations
- Native LGBT/2S youth/adults in ...

How can we “Mend the Rainbow”

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Create supportive systems | ■ Identify appropriate Resources |
| ■ Build Trust | ■ Reassess Protective Protocols, i.e. shelters, jails, hospitals, services |
| ■ Honor Traditions and Culture | ■ Become knowledgeable in LGBT State and Federal Laws |
| ■ Eliminate Homophobia/Transphobia | ■ Creating Tribal ordinances and/or policies to protect Native LGBT/Two Spirit |
| ■ Educate Services and Law Enforcement of Special Issues, i.e. same partner domestic violence, | |

Tribal Equity Toolkit: Tribal Resolutions and Codes to Support Two Spirit LGBT Justice in Indian Country

- Family
 - Marriage
 - Domestic Partnerships and Civil Unions
- Employment
- Housing, Real Property Transactions, Public Accommodations, and Public Services

Tribal Equity Toolkit: Tribal Resolutions and Codes to Support Two Spirit LGBT Justice in Indian Country

- Education
- Health Care; End of Life
- Bias-Motivated (Hate) Crimes
 - Criminal Offenses with Bias Motive
 - Prohibiting Specific Actions
 - Enhanced Penalties
 - Bias-Motivated Crime Reporting and Training


https://graduate.lclark.edu/programs/indigenous_ways_of_knowing/tribal_equity_toolkit

Online Resources for Providers
Responding to Native LGBT/ Two Spirit Community Crime Victims
www.ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum

Victims' Voices: Hate Crime Against Two-Spirit Community
http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/news/pdf/OVC_NPU_june_2012.pdf
www.avp.org/ncavp
www.lambda.org
www.thetaskforce.org
www.thesafespace.org
www.americanprogress.org
www.genderadvocates.org
<http://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth.htm>
http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/ntds_executive_summary

May the Creator Always Guide and Protect
You as You Walk In Beauty . . .

Ahe'hee (Thank you)



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