

Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

<https://www.csvanw.org/native-lgbtq2s-youth-to-strategize-and-advocate-for-support-from-tribal-communities/>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

[CSVANW - Coalition to STOP Violence Against Women](#)

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. September 17, 2019 The [Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women](#) (CSVANW) will host the Southwest Butterflies Retreat from September 20th to 21st, 2019 at TEENM Power Albuquerque, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for Native Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Two-Spirit, plus (LGBTQ2S+) Youth. The purpose of the event is to strategize and advocate for support from Tribal communities to join the movement to end violence against Native LGBTQ2S+ community through positive value-based and community-led education.

Native youth who identified as LGBTQ are at a heightened risk of experiencing violence, in some instances because families, peers, or communities may not understand or accept their identity. According to the [Health and Well-Being of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth in New Mexico](#) report, 50 percent of New Mexico Native LGBTQ students reported experiencing physical violence at school, 18 percent were three times likely to be forced to have sex or experienced physical dating violence, and one in three reported missing class at least once a month because of bullying.

It is our hope we create a friendly space for our LGBTQ2S+ youth to be themselves and to have fun, Peter says.

During the [Southwest Butterflies Retreat], I learned that there are not enough people shedding light on the violence against Native LGBTQ2S+ youth. I also learned that more and more individuals are brave enough to tackle social issues in our community and it is empowering, says a previous participant of the 2018 Southwest Butterflies Retreat.

The Southwest Butterflies Retreat is made possible through generous foundations, community partnerships and sponsorship through the Department of Justice (DOJ), Native American in Philanthropy, and individual donations.

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For a safe, confidential way to talk with someone right now, please call:

Rape Abuse Incest National Network: 1-800-656-4673 (HOPE) www.rainn.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE) www.ndvh.org

Strong Hearts Native Helpline: 1-844-762-8483 www.strongheartshelpline.org

We focus our work on communities and systems. We are not a direct service provider.

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