



National Ambulance LGBT Network

Transgender Day of Remembrance

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Each year on 20 November it is Transgender Day of Remembrance, and we have put together this factsheet to explain what this is all about and why it is important.

Quite simply, all around the world people of the transgender community are killed for being who they are. The figures for last year alone paint a sombre picture with 325 transgender people being murdered (www.TGEU.org). Even in the year 2018 being transgender carries the death penalty in a number of countries. In the United Kingdom, this year has been one of the most challenging in recent history, with a massive upsurge in transphobia in mainstream and social media as the government consulted on reforming the Gender Recognition Act.

Trans Day of Remembrance is an annual event which was started back in 1999 as a vigil to honour the murdered trans woman Rita Hester in the United States of America. It spread from a web based movement to an international day of reflection to remember the many trans people who had lost their lives due to transphobic violence. Now in its nineteenth year, it has become a calendar event.

Did You Know?

- **1%** of the UK population identify as 'trans'. That is about 600,000 people.
- **50%** of trans people hide or disguise their Transgender status at work.
- **40%** of trans people have experienced hate crime in the last twelve months.
- **84%** of trans people have experienced suicidal thoughts.
- **86%** of trans ambulance staff report experiencing 'negative behaviours' from colleagues and patients.

The Trans Star of Life



In 2018 the National Ambulance LGBT Network launched the trans star of life to raise awareness of, and show support for, the trans community. The trans star of life is a fusion of the trans flag and the internationally recognised symbol of emergency pre-hospital care.

What Can You Do?

- On the 20 November, take a moment to remember those who have lost their lives due to hatred, discrimination and prejudice.
- You can support staff networks and help to challenge transphobia in the workplace. Some Ambulance Services have 'allies' programmes for staff who do not identify as LGBT. A list of staff networks can be found at www.ambulanceLGBT.org/networks.
- Wear the rainbow or trans star of life badges with pride, so that colleagues, patients and their loved ones know that you are a safe person to talk to. It's much more than just a badge!
- Increase your trans awareness and understanding. There's a new handy pocket sized resource that was developed by the National Ambulance LGBT Network. You can print it off and carry in your pocket*.
- Hold an awareness event for other people. Your staff network may be able to put you in touch with speakers from your local trans community, and there are presentations and guidance notes available online*.

* Find these resources at www.ambulanceLGBT.org/resources/supporting-trans-people.

Find Out More

Some other useful information can be found at:

- United Kingdom based organisations like GIRES (www.gires.org.uk) and TransBareAll (www.transbareall.co.uk) have some excellent information leaflets.
- You can find a lot of information about trans equality on the Stonewall website (www.stonewall.org.uk) including the Trans Report from 2017.
- You can find information and presentations for ambulance staff on the National Ambulance LGBT network website, at www.ambulanceLGBT.org.