



## National Ambulance LGBT Network

### Transgender Day of Remembrance

Prepared by Steph Meech, Trans Experience Development Lead

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Each year on 20 November it is Transgender Day of Remembrance, and most people do not know that there is a such a day or why this is important. In this factsheet I will try and answer some questions surrounding this.

#### Where did it start?

Trans Day of Remembrance was started in 1999 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith in the USA. She wanted to arrange a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester a trans woman who was killed in 1998.

#### Why is this important?

This date is to highlight the continuing acts of violence against the trans community all around the world.

In the last year 350 trans and gender diverse people were murdered around the world. That is a rise of six percent from the previous year. The average age of the victims was 31 with the youngest being just 15 years old. It appear that the trans community are at a greater risk of violent attacks as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown measures.

Galop.org released its UK Transphobic hate crime report this month which presents their findings which highlights the issues surrounding the Trans community and I would urge you all to take a few minutes to read.



### So what can you do?

One of the biggest issues is workplace banter. To many people it is intended to be a bit of fun and not meant with any harm. But, speaking from my own experience, being subject to this is nothing short of devastating. The feeling of despair that you get you isolate and withdraw. You get labeled as being too sensitive and to lighten up but the impact this has affects you for many days.

I urge each and every one of you to take a moment before you engage in banter to reflect on how it might be received. Will your words negatively impact on someone else's life.

### 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.

### Find Out More

You can find information and presentations for ambulance staff on the National Ambulance LGBT network website, at [www.ambulanceLGBT.org](http://www.ambulanceLGBT.org).