



National Ambulance LGBT Network

TRANS AWARENESS WEEK

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Trans Awareness Week runs from 13 to 19 November this year and culminates with International Transgender Day of Remembrance on 20 November. This is an annual event marked all around the world, raising awareness of the issues faced by trans people and highlighting the disproportionate number of trans people who are murdered.

Campaigning organisation TransRespect reports that, so far this year, 375 trans and gender diverse people have been murdered worldwide. This is an increase of 7% from 2020. Of these 96% of the victims were trans women and the majority of those killed were people of colour. The average age of the murdered is 30 years old with the youngest being just 13. Since the data gathering began in 2008 a total of 4,042 trans and gender diverse people have been murdered.

Focus on Healthcare

In this factsheet I particularly wanted to share with you all some disturbing statistics in relation to the trans people and healthcare.

- 48% of Trans people have experienced inappropriate curiosity from health care professionals.
- 7% of LGBT patients have been outed without their consent by healthcare staff in front of other staff and patients.
- 36% of trans people have left a job because the environment was unwelcoming.

Source: LGBT Foundation Hidden Figures report, 2020

Banter

We know that 'banter' is prevalent in the ambulance service, but many people don't realise just how harmful this can be. A playful and friendly exchange of teasing remarks can actually be a cover for personal bullying. We all know that this is wrong but yet this continues in many corridors and the crew rooms. Stop for a minute and think about how it would feel if continued 'banter' was directed at you. How would you feel?

For me banter personally affects my mental wellbeing and ultimately the ability to do my job. It doesn't stop at the remark, the online comments or the picture. It plays on your mind and can keep you awake at night. There are times when you no longer want to come to work. You withdraw as you are tired of these comments and get labelled as moody. If you challenge these you get told to lighten up it's a joke but let me tell you it doesn't feel that way.

I want to share with you some of the remarks and comments (passed off as 'banter') that has been directed at me.

- **'Looks like you are on the pink bus today.'**
- **'They let anyone join the ambulance service now days.'**
- **'If that turned up to treat me, I wouldn't let it through the door.'**
- **'I feel sorry for the kids having that as a parent.'**
- **'You only got the role as you are Trans'.**
- **'I cannot believe that they are allowed a locker in the ladies' room.'**

There is plenty of other examples I could recount. These comments don't have to be spoken and workplaces would be far more respectful if they weren't. Let's stamp out harmful banter and make workplaces better for everyone.

Find Out More

The National Ambulance LGBT Network has produced a toolkit to help ambulance staff work with trans patients and make them more aware of issues facing staff. It is free to access and you can gain useful CPD credits for your portfolio. You can find this and lots more information on the National Ambulance LGBT Network website, at www.ambulanceLGBT.org.

