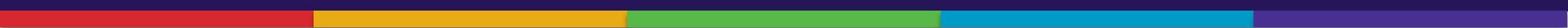


# *Instructions for how to use template:*

- 1. Make a copy of this PowerPoint template and customize to reflect your needs*
  - Fill in the presenter/organization information on slide 3*
  - Fill in local resources on slide 40*
  - Fill in contact information on slide 41*
- 2. Adapt the presentation for in-person or virtual presentations:*
  - Delete slide 6 for virtual presentations*
  - Delete slide 7 for in-person presentations*
- 3. Delete slide 1 to remove instructions*

# Preventing Elder Abuse: **LGBTQ+ Elder Justice**



[ PRESENTER INFORMATION ]

# *Introduction: Presenter / Organization*

*PRESENTER BIO;  
ORGANIZATION MISSION OR GOAL(S);  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS, ETC.*

# Compiled by SAGE & NCEA

**SAGE** is the country's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ+) older adults.

The **National Center on Elder Abuse** is an information clearinghouse designed to improve the national response to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. Dedicated to engaging and empowering older adults so that they feel capable of advocating for themselves and their communities.



# Working for Elder Justice

It is up to all of us to prevent and address elder abuse especially as our older adult and LGBTQ+ populations grows



# Elder Abuse: What are you seeing?

- How often are you hearing people allege elder abuse?
- What scenarios are you hearing about most frequently?

# Elder Abuse – Share 1 Thing

Utilize the chat box to share

1 Thing you **know** about Elder Abuse

Or

1 Thing you **want to learn** about Elder Abuse

# What is Elder Abuse?

**Elder abuse, the mistreatment or harming of an older person, is an injustice that we all need to prevent and address.**

Elder Abuse occurs in both community and institutional settings and takes many forms, including:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional/Psychological abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Financial abuse and/or exploitation

***Elder Abuse is believed to be widely under-detected and under-reported.***

# What Causes Elder Abuse?

Elder Abuse can occur when strong social supports are not in place to keep us connected as we age.

While anyone is potentially at risk of abuse, some factors can increase one's risk of experiencing abuse:

- social isolation
- lack of access to support services and community resources
- physical, mental, or emotional needs in carrying out daily activities

**Elder Abuse can be prevented if we work together to create a stronger society that values and supports all of us as we age.**

# Types of Elder Abuse



**PHYSICAL**



**PSYCHOLOGICAL**



**FINANCIAL**



**SEXUAL**

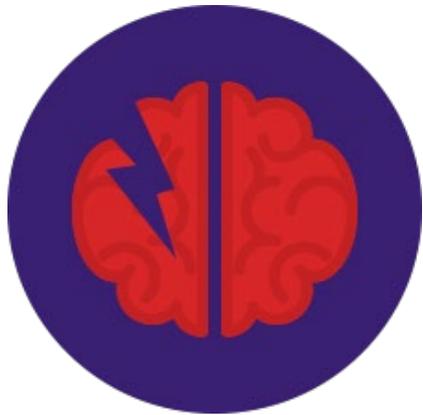


**NEGLECT**

**Multiple forms of abuse can occur at the same or different times.**

# Signs of Elder Abuse

## Emotional/ Behavioral Signs:



Unusual changes  
in behavior  
or sleep



Increased  
fear or  
anxiety



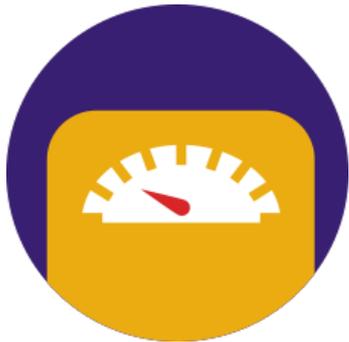
Isolation  
from friends  
or family



Withdrawal  
from normal  
activities

# Signs of Elder Abuse

## Physical Signs:



Dehydration  
or unusual  
weight loss



Missing  
daily living  
aids



Unexplained  
injuries,  
bruises, cuts,  
or sores



Unsanitary  
living  
conditions and  
poor hygiene



Unattended  
medical  
needs

# Signs of Elder Abuse

## Financial Signs:



Fraudulent  
signatures on  
financial documents



Unpaid bills



Unusual or sudden  
changes in spending  
patterns, will, or other  
financial documents

# Importance of LGBTQ+ Voices & Elder Justice

## Caring and Aging with Pride Study of 2,560 LGBT Older Adults age 50-94 found:

- 68% of had experienced verbal harassment
- 43% were threatened with violence

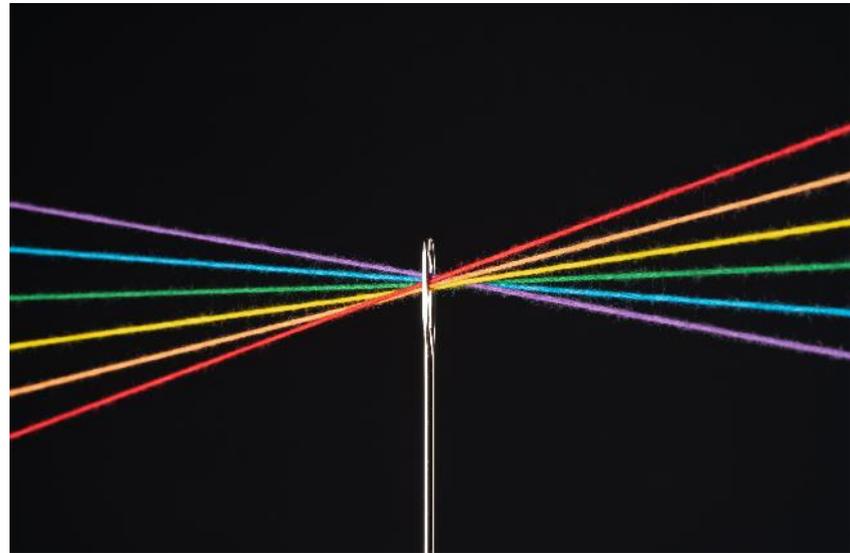
Fredriksen-Goldsen, K. I., Kim, H.-J., Emlert, C. A., Muraco, A., Erosheva, E. A., Hoy-Ellis, C. P., Goldsen, J., Petry, H. (2011). The Aging and Health Report: Disparities and Resilience among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Older Adults - Key Findings Fact Sheet. Seattle: Institute for Multigenerational Health.

# Risk Factors for Elder Abuse

- Social Isolation
- Lack of LGBTQ+ welcoming aging services
- Increased risk of mental health concerns
- Increased risk of substance abuse
- Self-reliance (as protective strength/may also decrease help seeking)
- Past history of victimization, discrimination and stigma

# LGBTQ+ Elder Justice, Equity & Intersectionality

- Ability
- Age
- Class
- Ethnicity
- Gender/gender identity
- Race
- Sexual orientation



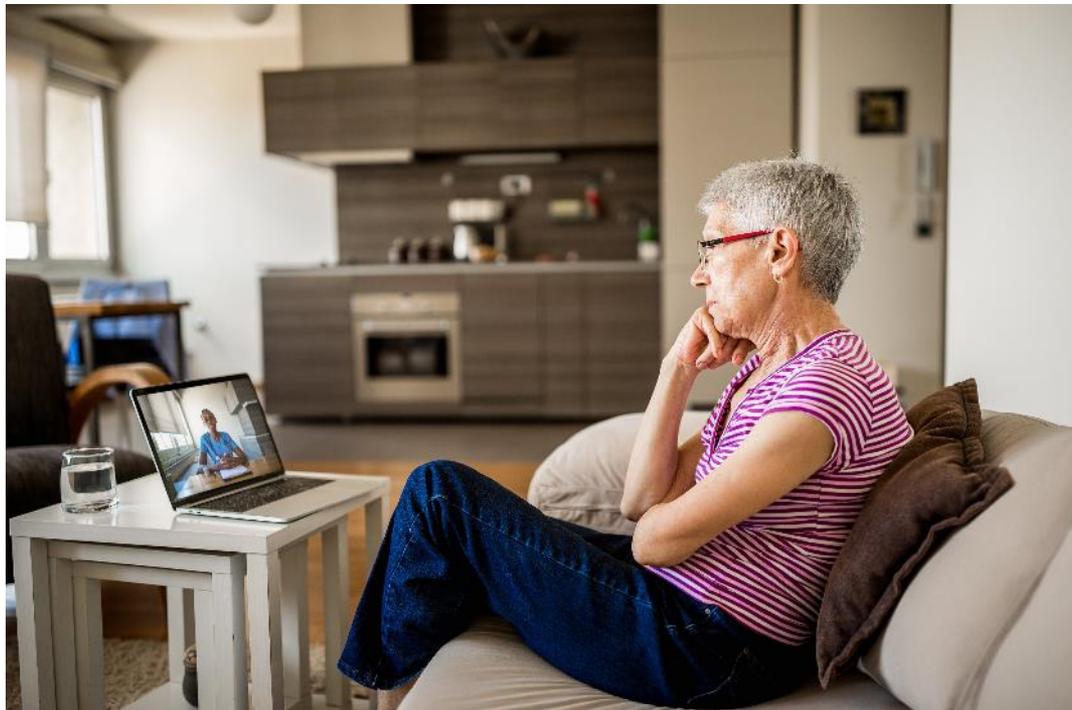
# LGBTQ+ Elder Justice & Equity

“African-Americans reported the highest levels of lifetime LGBT-related discrimination, and both African-Americans and Hispanics reported lower levels of household income, education, affirmation of their identities and social support compared to non-Hispanic white LGBTQ older adults.” *Dr. Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen*

Nearly 1 in 3 LGBTQ and Two-Spirit American Indian/Alaskan Natives (29.4%) reported experiencing hate violence—a higher rate than any other LGBTQ community.

# Seeking Help

Loss of support from the abusive individual, fear of isolation, and other factors might prevent an older adult from seeking help



# Issues Affecting LGBTQ+ Older Adults from Seeking Help

- Threat of being "outed" as LGBTQ+
- Convinced Authorities won't believe them
- Loss of financial support from the abusive person
- Older LGBTQ+ person fears "living their life alone"
- Older LGBTQ+ person has history of self-reliance and fears authorities
- History of victimization and violence towards LGBTQ+ community leaves many to believe Abuse and Neglect is to be expected with nowhere to turn for help

# Reporting Abuse

Report suspected abuse or neglect in the community setting:



**Adult Protective Services**

<https://www.napsa-now.org/>

Report suspected abuse or neglect in a long-term care facility:



**Long-Term Care Ombudsman**

<https://ltcombudsman.org/about>

To connect to a local or state reporting number, contact the [Eldercare Locator](https://eldercare.acl.gov) at [eldercare.acl.gov](https://eldercare.acl.gov) or at 1-800-677-1116 M-F 9AM – 8PM ET. For emergencies, call 9-1-1.

# 5 Things EVERYONE Can Do to Prevent Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is **preventable** – and everyone has a role to play.



**Listen** to older people and caregivers to understand their challenges and provide support



**Educate** one another about the signs of abuse



**Report** suspected abuse or neglect as soon as possible



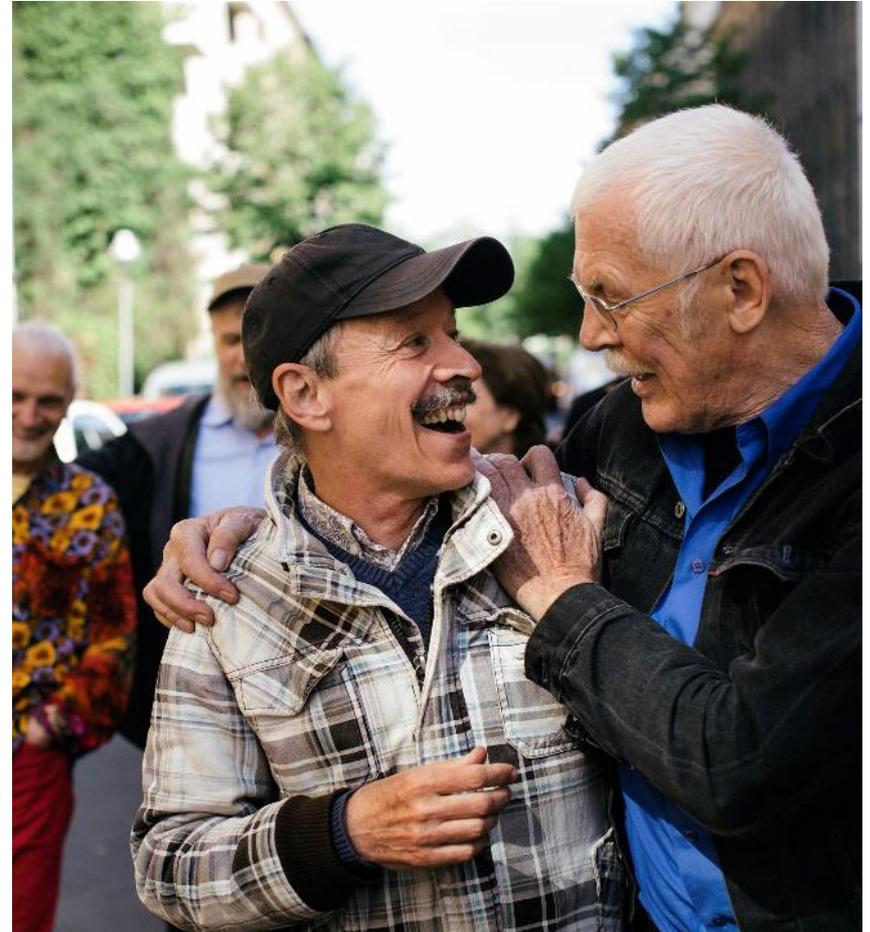
**Build** a community that fosters social connections and supports



**Reach out** to professional services for support where available

# Responding to LGBTQ+ Concerns

- Increase your sensitivity to interpersonal dynamics
- Relationships may be more complex than they first appear
- Broaden the concept of “family”
- Recognize your own biases
- Listen more, assume less, consider personal circumstances



# Including LGBTQ+ Older Adults in Broader Elder Justice Work



Encourage organizations you work with to:

- Implement policies inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity
- Have inclusive messaging – written and visual
- Provide LGBTQ+ cultural competency training for staff and volunteers
- Work with LGBTQ+ organizations for education and outreach

# Case Studies

Identify the signs of elder abuse in the following scenarios



# Sweetheart scam: Financial Abuse & Neglect

A 78-year-old man was found by police wandering in the street

- Mr. Wilson is a retired accountant who had been in a 25-year relationship with his partner but never came out or identified as gay.
- His partner passed away 2 years ago.
- Shortly after a "new friend" Sam came into his life, moved into his home.
- Mr. Wilson was diagnosed with dementia.
- Sam denies that Mr. Wilson needs care and insists that he can make his own decisions.
- Police investigation reveals that that Sam is now Mr. Wilson's legal domestic partner and has gotten Mr. Wilson to sign multiple documents gifting him funds from his accounts.

# Case Study

## What signs of elder abuse did you notice?

- Emotional/Behavioral Signs?
  - Isolation from friends/family
- Physical Signs?
  - Unattended medical needs
- Financial Signs?
  - Unusual or sudden changes in spending



## What other signs of elder abuse did you notice?



# Emotional Abuse & Neglect:

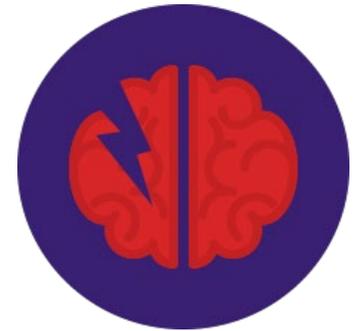
88-year-old woman admitted to hospital with malnutrition and dehydration

- Marta and Lois lived together as a couple for most of their adult lives.
- Lois suffered a stroke and died suddenly leaving Marta alone.
- Marta's nephew Peter came to help although he had never been supportive of the relationship between Marta and Lois.
- Marta struggled with her loss, talked about her grief often.
- Peter humiliated, insulted and threatened Marta with placement in a care home if she didn't stop whining about Lois.
- Within a few months, Marta had become weak, stopped eating and was not getting out of bed.
- Peter was overheard in the ED berating and humiliating Marta.

# Case Study

## What signs of elder abuse did you notice?

- Emotional/Behavioral Signs?
  - Unusual changes in sleep or behavior
  - Increased fear or anxiety
- Physical Signs?
  - Dehydration or unusual weight loss

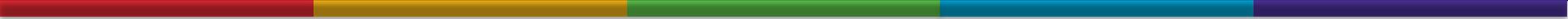


## What other signs of elder abuse did you notice?

- Emergence of family member who was not previously invested



# Volunteer Opportunities



# Elder Justice Volunteer Opportunities

## Volunteer:

- [Commit to Connect](#): Connecting people with resources to combat social isolation
- [AARP Digital Fraud Fighter](#)
- [AmeriCorps Seniors](#)

## Elder Justice:

- [Elder Justice Coalitions](#)
- [Elder Justice Network Locator Map](#)
- [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau \(CFPB\) Elder Fraud Prevention Networks](#)

## Legal Counseling/Support

- [Legal Services Corporation](#): Ask about ways to support legal assistance for older adults



# Elder Justice Volunteer Opportunities



## **Long-Term Care:**

- [National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care](#): Become a Long-term care ombudsman. Learn how you can help fight abuse in congregate settings.

## **LGBTQ+ Older Adults:**

- [SAGECollab Partners](#): Partner with non-profit groups and organizations that serve or advocate with older LGBTQ+ people
- [SAGE Serves](#)

## **Faith Communities:**

- [Safe Havens Staying Safe with Faith Volunteer Program](#): Learn more about how your faith community for older adults

# Elder Justice Volunteer Opportunities

## Services and Programs Supporting Older Adults:

- [Eldercare Locator](#): locate agencies in your area that assist older adults, such as your local Area Agency on Aging, Aging and Disability Resource Center, or Adult Day Center, and see how you can get involved. Visit their [website](#) or call 1-800-677-1116.
- [Meals on Wheels](#)
- [Alzheimer's Association](#)
- [National Council on Aging](#): Contact senior centers in your city and see how you can get involved.
- [Department of Justice Elder Justice Neighborhood Map](#)

## Friendly Visitor/Outreach Programs:

- [Disability Information & Access Line \(DIAL\)](#)
- Visit an assisted living facility or nursing home in your community to socialize with residents

# Elder Justice Volunteer Opportunities



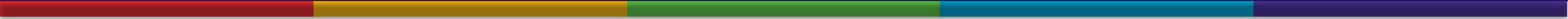
## **Fighting Scams and Fraud:**

- [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\) Pass It On](#)
- [Senior Medicare Patrol](#)
- [American Society on Aging](#)
- [AARP Fraud Watch Network](#)

## **Intergenerational Programs:**

- [Grandfamilies and Kinship Support Network](#)
- [ACL National Strategy on Caregiving](#)
- [Generations United](#)
- [Intergenerational Program Database](#)
- [EngAGED Intergenerational Activities Resource Library](#)

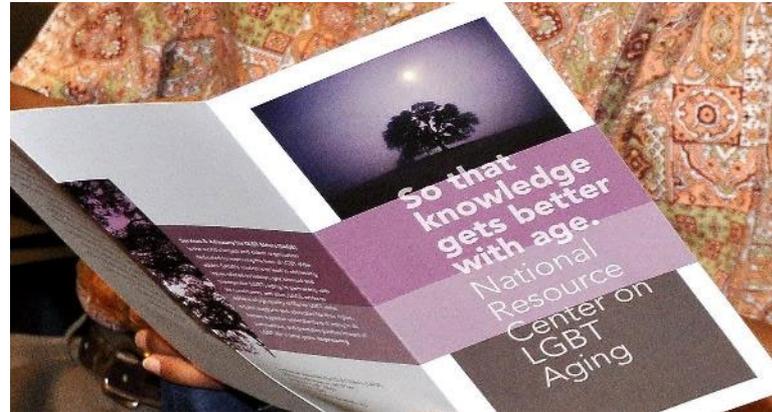
# Resources



# National Resources

SAGE: [www.sageusa.org](http://www.sageusa.org)

NCEA: <https://ncea.acl.gov/>



SAGECare: [www.sageusa.care](http://www.sageusa.care) (Training & Credentialing Program)

National Resource Center on LGBTQ+ Aging: [www.lgbtagingcenter.org](http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org)

FORGE- Empowering. Healing. Connecting: <http://forge-forward.org/anti-violence>

National Coalition of Anti-violence programs: <https://avp.org/ncavp/>

# NCEA Resources on Elder Mistreatment & Diverse Communities

Explore fact sheets: <https://ncea.acl.gov/elder-mistreatment-diverse-communities#gsc.tab=0>

- Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities
- Faith Communities
- Indigenous Elders
- Tips and Tools
- LGBTQ+ Elders
  - [LGBT Older People Built the LGBT Community](#)
  - [LGBT Older People: Our Right to a Peaceful Life](#)
  - [LGBTQ+ Inclusive Intake + Engagement for Elder Justice Professionals](#)
  - [Looking for Love](#)
  - [Paying it Back: Promoting Justice for LGBT Communities of All Ages](#)
  - [A Spotlight on Two Spirit Elders and Elder Justice Facts](#)

# Free Resource: Mistreatment of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Elders

- Access the full research brief here: <https://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/resource.cfm?r=603>

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ Many LGBT older adults are at high risk for elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- ▶ A pressing need for LGBT elders is dealing with social isolation as isolation is a risk factor for elder abuse.
- ▶ Fear of homophobia or transphobia keep LGBT elders from seeking help and services.
- ▶ Internalized homophobia or transphobia may affect an LGBT elder's willingness to seek help and put them at risk of self-neglect.
- ▶ Some LGBT elders choose to hide their LGBT identity and disclosure of that identity against their wishes can cause problems.
- ▶ Elder gay men and lesbians place high value on self-sufficiency and may be reluctant to accept help.
- ▶ Be sensitive to an LGBT elder's lack of legal protections, desires, relationships, and potential need to be connected to the LGBT community.

# SAGE Collaboration with HearMe

In partnership with SAGE, **HearMe** is an on-demand mental wellness app that offers exclusive, round-the-clock access to culturally competent, empathetic LGBTQ+ and allied listeners who are trained in LGBTQ+ and aging issues.

Sign up online at <https://www.sageusa.org/hearme/> and wait for HearMe to email you instructions.



# National Center on Elder Abuse

For Technical Assistance,  
Information and  
Referral, connect to the  
NCEA

1-855-500-3537 (ELDR)

[ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov)

NCEA, ACL Website

<https://ncea.acl.gov>

Training Resources on Elder Abuse (TREA): [www.trea.usc.edu](http://www.trea.usc.edu)



[@NCEAatUSC](https://twitter.com/NCEAatUSC)



[@NationalCenteronElderAbuse](https://www.facebook.com/NationalCenteronElderAbuse)

# Local Resources

*[local organizations, websites, contact information, etc.]*

# Thank You! Q&A

## Connect With Us

*[organization name; phone number; address;  
Hours of operation; social media handle(s); website]*