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Violence Against Women Act Becomes Trans-Inclusive

Today history was made by succeeding in protecting transgender and gender non-conforming (as well as lesbian, gay, and bisexual) victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking from discrimination by services funded by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

The LGBT non-discrimination amendment to the VAWA reauthorization, passed today by the U.S. House of Representatives and sent to the President for his expected signature, was achieved by a unified group of coalitions and advocates. The effort was led by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs' policy committee, in which FORGE is an active member.

This non-discrimination provision will greatly enhance the work FORGE is doing on the national level to ensure that VAWA-funded service providers are able and willing to provide culturally-competent, respectful care to transgender and gender non-conforming survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Through a training and technical assistance grant from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), FORGE provides individualized technical assistance and training to VAWA-funded service providers on how to better serve transgender survivors. Part of this effort includes producing free, monthly training webinars, all of which are archived and available to the public on demand at <http://forge-forward.org/trainings-events/recorded-webinars/>.

We thank Congress and the President for recognizing the needs of transgender and gender non-conforming survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking, and look forward to helping them implement this important policy advance.

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