25 Ways to Support LGBTQ Survivors

1. Believe them
2. Know that coming out may affect every option
3. Know the custody laws affecting LGBTQ families
4. Ask survivors what language they use to identify themselves
5. Don’t make assumptions about gender identity
6. Know that homophobia or transphobia are abusers’ tools
7. Believe that men can be victimized
8. Believe that women can be violent and dangerous abusers
9. Listen to the realities of LGBTQ survivors’ lives
10. Understand the LGBTQ community’s history with the police
11. Know about LGBTQ specific resources (i.e legal, faith, counseling)
12. Understand LGBTQ families are real families
13. Read, read, read
14. Assume that it will take even more time to build trust
15. Know your county, city or town’s protections against discrimination
16. Recognize unique LGBTQ relationship dynamics
17. Don’t make assumptions about anything
18. Know the trust required for an LGBTQ survivor to come out to you
19. Make LGBTQ people visible with posters, flyers and other materials
20. Have clear anti-discrimination policies in staff and survivor materials
21. Reach out to the LGBTQ community - ODVN can help!
22. Get trained on best practices for working with LGBTQ survivors
23. Become more familiar with LGBTQ terminology and identities
24. Be an active ally against stereotypes and myths
25. Create a safe environment for LGBTQ survivors to be who they are

For more information, contact the Ohio Domestic Violence Network at 614-781-9651 and at www.odvn.org. Published as part of the 25 for 25 years of ODVN celebration!