



Keystone Child, Youth & Family Services

1793 3rd Ave. W., Owen Sound, ON

519-371-4773

www.keystonebrucegrey.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 2022

Statement on the Targeted Violence on the 2SLGBTQQIAP+/- Community at Club Q in Colorado

Owen Sound, Ontario- November 21st, 2022- Keystone Child, Youth and Family Services along with our partners Bruce Grey Child and Family Services, Canadian Mental Health Association, Pflag, M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre and Make it Wright strongly condemn the most recent mass shooting targeting a gay bar in the city of Colorado Springs, Colorado. This horrific incident is but one of many deadly acts against the Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Pansexual +/- community. All forms of violence towards 2SLGBTQQIAP+/- are increasing in frequency and severity. Recently, the United Nations and other human rights organizations have documented a dramatic increase in the number of physical and psychological acts of violence focused on 2SLGBTQQIAP+/- people that includes murder, physical and sexual assault, kidnapping and torture.

Around the world there are 76 countries that continue to preserve laws that criminalize consensual same-sex relationships between adults. Those countries regularly use arbitrary arrests, imprisonment and false prosecutions to intimidate, discriminate and terrorize 2SLGBTQQIAP+/- people. Five countries continue to have the death penalty for anyone convicted of being bisexual or gay.

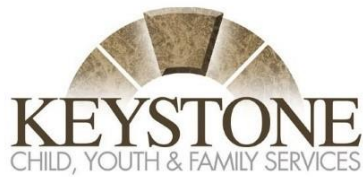
As a network of caring organizations our collective focus is to combat the abuse, violence, ill treatment and discrimination experienced by so many people. We know that 2SLGBTQQIAP+/- adolescents are almost five times more likely to have experienced suicidal ideation than their counterparts who identify as straight with an attempted suicide rate 2 times higher. Transgender women are at particular risk of violence who are experiencing a murder rate that is 2.5 times greater than non-trans people. This statistic being particularly poignant as observed Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20th, 2022, a day that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.

When we witness acts of violence such as the shooting at Club Q in Colorado Springs, it reminds us that our friends and family who are 2SLGBTQQIAP+/- are simply not safe, often in the very places created to be safe spaces. As partners, we will continue our work in building welcoming, supportive and safe spaces for 2SLGBTQQIAP+/- youth, adolescents and adults. We will further our efforts to educate and inform, to build networks and services, to expand

Building Futures Together

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training on diversity and inclusion while opening up our services as spaces to anyone who feels they are not safe as a result of their sexuality or gender identification. Collectively, as not-for-profit, community serving organizations, we stand together and commit to actions that support inclusion and safety for our 2SLGBTQQIAP+/- community in Grey and Bruce Counties.

In partnership,

David Willis- Executive Director, Keystone Child, Youth & Family Services
Clark MacFarlane- Chief Executive Office, Canadian Mental Health Association Grey Bruce
Julie Lipsett- Executive Director, Bruce Grey Child & Family Services
Karen Houle- Program Coordinator, M'WIKwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre- Building Gender Diverse Communities Program
Joan Beecroft- Chapter Lead Pflag Canada Owen Sound
Spencer Wright- Founder, Make It Wright

To anyone who has experienced or witnessed hate or violence as a result of sexual orientation or identity, we are here for you and encourage you to reach out to one of the organizations included below.



Keystone Child, Youth & Family Services
 519-371-4773
 Toll Free: 1-800 567-2384
<https://www.keystonebrucegrey.org/>



Canadian Mental Health Association Grey Bruce
 519-371-3642
 Toll Free: 1-888-451-CMHA
<https://greybruce.cmha.ca/>



Bruce Grey Child & Family Services
 519-371-4453
 Toll Free: 1-855-322-4453
<https://www.bgcfcs.ca/>



Pflag
 Toll Free: 1-888-530-6777 ext. 570
www.pflagcanada.ca
<https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGCanadaOwenSound/>



M'WIKwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre
 Building Gender Diverse Communities Program
 519-371-1147
<https://mwikwedong.com/>



Grey Bruce Pride
<https://www.facebook.com/GreyBrucePride/>



Make It Wright
<https://www.makeitwright.ca/>



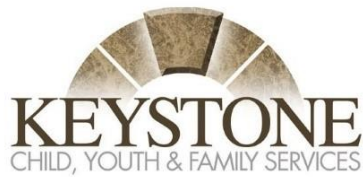
LGBT Youth Line
 1-800-268-9688
<https://www.youthline.ca/>



Kids Help Phone
 1-800-668-6868
<https://kidshelpphone.ca/>

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About Keystone Child, Youth & Family Services

Keystone Child, Youth and Family Services is a not-for-profit organization, the designated Children's Mental Health Lead Agency for Grey and Bruce Counties.

Contact

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