March 12, 2015

NCAVP mourns the death of Randy J. Bent, victim of an apparent hook-up homicide in Watertown, New York

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) has learned of the disturbing hook-up related homicide of Randy J. Bent in Watertown, New York. According to local media reports, Bent was found stabbed and set on fire in an apparent hook-up violence homicide on March 8, 2015. Kyle A. Box, 18, has been arrested in connection with this homicide after allegedly confession to the crime, and charged with second-degree murder, but Watertown police have not yet confirmed publically how Mr. Bent met, or knew, Mr. Box. Local media have reported that friends of Mr. Bent suggested that Mr. Bent met men online and that the newspaper found an online ad placed by a person named Kyle, but at this time there is no evidence of how the two met.

“Stigma often prevents us from talking about hook-up related violence, which is why NCAVP works to raise awareness about this critical issue in our communities,” said Osman Ahmed, NCAVP Research and Education Coordinator at the New York City Anti-Violence Project. “Far too often we see LGBTQ people targeted for violence and even homicide via online dating and hook-up platforms. It is imperative that more resources and programs are made available that seek to prevent such violence and promote safety online.”

Hook-up related violence is violence that occurs within the context of a “hook-up” for casual sex. Hook-up related violence can occur through hook-up websites, apps, cruising, sex parties, bars, and clubs, and can be connected to overlapping forms of violence, including hate violence, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) has responded to 14 LGBTQ homicides in 2015. Based on the most current information NCAVP has, seven of the incidents have been intimate partner, family or stalking violence-related and six have been hate or police violence-related. Randy J. Bent’s homicide appears to be either hook-up violence or intimate partner violence but the facts of the case are not entirely clear.

NCAVP has reached out to local organizations in New York State to raise awareness of this homicide and to offer support to the local communities affected by this violence.

NCAVP is a resource for anyone who experiences violence. For more information, or to locate an anti-violence program in your area, please contact us at info@ncavp.org or visit us online. Join NCAVP in our efforts to prevent and respond to LGBTQ and HIV-affected violence. To learn more about our national advocacy and receive technical assistance or support, contact us at info@ncavp.org.

If you are a member of the media, please contact:
Sue Yacka, New York City Anti-Violence Project: syacka@avp.org or 212-714-1184

NCAVP works to prevent, respond to, and end all forms of violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) and HIV-affected communities. NCAVP is a national coalition of local member programs and affiliate organizations who create systemic and social change. NCAVP is a program of the New York City Anti-Violence Project.

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