May 19, 2015

NCAVP mourns the death of London Chanel, a transgender woman of color killed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the eighth homicide of a transgender or gender non-conforming person of color that NCAVP has responded to in 2015

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) has learned of the homicide of London Chanel, a black transgender woman stabbed to death in Philadelphia on Monday, May 8th, 2015. According to media reports - which originally misgendered London Chanel, but were quickly corrected - she was stabbed by a man in an abandoned home in North Philadelphia following an argument. Press reports that there was a witness present at the time of the homicide who participated in moving her body, attempting CPR, and flagging down a School District of Philadelphia officer who called the police. Both the alleged offender and the witness are currently in police custody. There will be a candlelight vigil on Friday, May 22nd at the scene of her homicide.

This is the eighth* homicide of a transgender woman of color that NCAVP has responded to in 2015, including:

- **Papi Edwards**, a black transgender woman, was shot to death at the Fern Valley Motel on January 9th, 2015. An alleged suspect, Henry Richard Gleaves, has been arrested and charged with her murder.
- **Lamia Beard**, a black transgender woman, was found shot to death on January 17th in Norfolk, Virginia.
- **Ty Underwood**, a black transgender woman, was found shot to death early Monday morning on January 26th, after a woman called 911 to say a car had hit a telephone pole and that her children had heard gunshots. Her loved ones are speaking out, saying that they believe this was a hate crime.
- **Yazmin Vash Payne**, a black transgender woman, was discovered fatally stabbed to death on Saturday, January 31st at the scene of a house fire in the Van Nuys district of Los Angeles. Payne’s boyfriend, Ezekiel Dear, has been arrested and booked for suspicion of murder in connection with her death.
- **Taja Gabrielle de Jesus**, a latin@ transgender woman, was discovered stabbed to death on a stairwell in San Francisco’s Bayview District on Sunday, February 1st.
- **Penny Proud**, a black transgender woman, was found fatally shot on February 10th at the cross section of Ursulines Avenue and North Claiborne Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- **Kristina Gomez Reinwald**, a latin@ transgender woman, was found unresponsive in her home on February 15, 2015 and her death is being investigated as a homicide.

*There is potentially a ninth homicide that NCAVP is tracking, an individual with the last name Golec. At this time NCAVP does not have enough information with which to conclude how this individual identified, however we are continuing to track this homicide and will update when we have relevant information.

NCAVP has responded to 17 LGBTQ homicides so far in 2015.
“At least eight transgender and gender non-conforming people of color have lost their lives to violence already in 2015, and this tragedy is compounded by police and media consistently misgendering and misnaming victims,” said Osman Ahmed, NCAVP Research and Education Coordinator at the New York City Anti Violence Project. “We all must take immediate action to end this epidemic by supporting the leadership of transgender women, public awareness and respect campaigns, speaking out against this violence, and protecting transgender people from harassment and discrimination.”

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs’ (NCAVP) most recent report, Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2013, documented 18 anti-LGBTQ homicides in 2013. Of those homicide victims, almost 90% were people of color. Almost three-quarters (72%) of homicide victims were transgender women, and more than two-thirds (67%) were transgender women of color.

NCAVP has been working with the Mazzoni Center in Philadelphia to support the local communities affected by this violence.

“Our hearts and thoughts are with the family and friends of London Chanel. And while nothing can replace the life of a 21-year-old woman, we hope the police will do everything in their power to bring those responsible to justice,” said Mazzoni Center CEO Nurit Shein. “This is yet another example of the real dangers that trans women of color continue to face, in Philadelphia and around the country, and the need for all of us to stand up for their safety, value, and basic human rights.”

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:
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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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