NCAVP mourns the intimate partner violence homicide of Kristina Gomez Reinwald of Miami, Florida; the sixth homicide of a transgender woman of color NCAVP has responded to in 2015

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) has learned of the homicide of Kristina Gomez Reinwald, a transgender woman of color who lived in Miami, Florida. According to local media, Reinwald was found unresponsive in her home on February 15, 2015 and her death is being investigated as a homicide. Local advocacy organizations and community members believe this was an intimate partner violence homicide.

This is the sixth* homicide of a transgender woman of color that NCAVP has responded to in 2015. The other five homicides of transgender women of color are:

- **Lamia Beard** was found shot to death on January 17th in Norfolk, Virginia.
- **Ty Underwood** 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** 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** was discovered stabbed to death on a stairwell in San Francisco’s Bayview District on Sunday, February 1st.
- **Penny Proud** was found fatally shot on February 10th at the cross section of Ursulines Avenue and North Claiborne Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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

This is also the 12th anti-LGBT homicide that NCAVP has responded to in 2015. In addition to the six people above, we have responded to four anti-LGBQ homicides and to the Edwards and Golec homicides. To the best of our knowledge, six of the incidents have been intimate partner, family or stalking violence-related and six have been hate violence-related. However, as with all incidents, as we get more information we may find that the homicides has different motivations than originally reported.

“In 2015 we are seeing an alarming epidemic of deadly violence against LGBTQ communities, and particularly against transgender women of color,” said Chai Jindasurat, Co-Director of Community Organizing and Public Advocacy at the New York City Anti Violence Project. “We need more public awareness and respect campaigns, more people speaking out against this violence, and more protections, particularly for transgender people, from harassment and discrimination. This is an outrage, and we all have to commit as a nation to ending this violence.”
In NCAVP’s 2013 National Hate Violence Report, the coalition 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. In NCAVP’s 2013 National Intimate Partner Violence Report, NCAVP found that 76% of homicides were gay men (in 2015, the majority have been transgender or queer women) and that transgender survivors were more likely to experience physical violence, discrimination, and intimate partner violence in public spaces.

NCAVP is working with local member organization, Victim Response Inc./The Lodge (The Lodge), to support the local communities affected by this violence.

“We are saddened by the tragic news of the murder of 46 year old Kristina Gomez Reinwald, also known as Kristina Grant Infiniti, who was allegedly killed by her intimate partner this past weekend,” said Angela Diaz-Vidaillet, CEO, The Lodge. “It is because of acts of violence such as this that we must remain strong in our resolve to end intimate partner violence. The Lodge stands with LGBTQ communities as we mourn for her loss.”

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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