

## How can I provide bisexual and pansexual informed advocacy?

- Educate yourself on issues related to their identities.
- Stand up for bisexual and pansexual survivors when others are saying disrespectful things towards them.
- Do not assume that they are non-monogamous or engage in sex with more than one partner. These identities are separate from polyamory (the tendency to engage in multiple consensual relationships) or having sex with multiple people.
- Do not assume that their orientation is based on current or past relationship history. A person doesn't have to have been with someone of every gender to identify as bi or pan.
- Treat their identity as valid. If a person identifies as bi or pan, accept it and do not question it.
- If a bi or pan client needs LGBTQIA related resources, make sure the resources you're offering are genuinely inclusive of bi and pan people.
- Do not disclose with others that a person is bi or pan unless you have the person's consent to disclose it.

For more resources,  
check out these websites:

### The Bisexual Resource Center

<http://www.biresource.net/>

### BiNet USA

<http://www.binetusa.org/>

### Bisexual.org

<http://bisexual.org/>

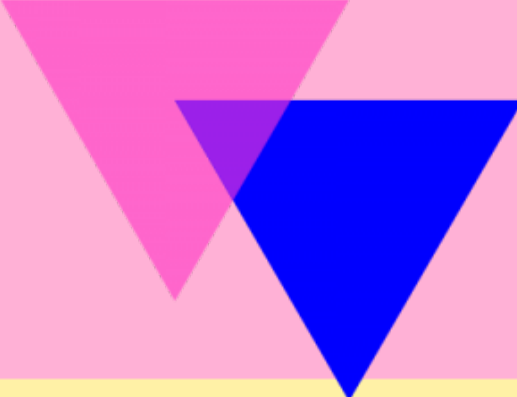
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# Advocating For Bisexual and Pansexual Survivors of Sexual Violence

## What is a bisexual person?

A bisexual ( or “bi” ) person is someone who experiences sexual attraction to more than one gender. They may define it as being attracted to men and women, being attracted to men, women, and non-binary people, attraction regardless of gender identity, or another variation of the definitions above. According to a 2011 study from the Williams Institute, bisexual people comprise 52% of the LGB community.

## What is a pansexual person?

A pansexual ( or “pan” ) person is someone who experiences sexual attraction to people regardless of their gender identity. The prefix “pan” comes from the Greek word meaning “all.” While it’s hard to pin the exact moment when its use began, it is likely tied to the growing awareness of non-binary people.

## What is the difference between bisexuality and pansexuality?

Ultimately, self-identification. Both identities are defined by experiencing attraction to multiple genders. People have reasons for why they identify with one over the other. Regardless of their reasoning, it’s important to respect someone’s chosen label for their identity and the way they define it for themselves.

## Bisexual and pansexual people...

- Experience high rates of sexual violence. While pansexual people are rarely studied as a separate group, the CDC found that nearly half of bisexual men have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. 61% of bisexual women have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner. They also face higher rates of poverty, with 25% of bisexual men and 30% of bisexual women living in poverty.
- Often do not have resources allocated to them within the queer community, or even acceptance within the community. Many people have a lot of ignorant preconceptions about bisexual and pansexual people that prevents them from connecting with the community. When resources are constructed for the queer community, they’re often targeted more towards the gay and lesbian members and less toward bisexual members. This results in the specific needs of bisexual and pansexual people going unaddressed.
- Do not necessarily identify as equally being attracted to all genders (or the group of genders they feel attracted to). Many people of these identities have attractions to a certain gender over others.
- Are not “going through a phase.” While sexuality can be fluid, it’s a permanent identity for many bi and pan people.

## Bisexual and pansexual survivors...

- May not feel comfortable sharing their relationship history with hospital staff, police, or other professionals due to discrimination.
- May have trouble accessing adequate medical care due to lack of provider knowledge about their sexual orientations. Providers may go as far as telling them they can only be gay or straight, or insinuate they are confused.
- May receive inadequate care or service because relevant information was not asked for, based on the assumption that the client only engaged in relationships with one gender. (i.e.: a pansexual woman receives counseling on safe sex with women, but never receives any information on safe sex with men and non-binary people because she is presumed to be a lesbian.)
- May feel uncomfortable accessing resources targeted towards the LGBTQPIA community due to past exclusion they faced in LGBTQPIA spaces.