

Lesbian & Gay Bereavement Project : losing a partner in a same-gender relationship is every bit as devastating as losing a husband or a wife ...

Contributors

Lesbian & Gay Bereavement Project

Publication/Creation

1998.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/pxc2fhtd>

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*Lesbian & Gay
Bereavement
Project*

*Losing a partner in a same-gender
relationship is every bit as
devastating as losing a husband or a
wife: you may experience all the
same feelings as the surviving
partner of a marriage or other
heterosexual partnership ... but can
you count on the same support if you
are lesbian or gay?*

Counselling

The LGBP Face to Face counselling service provides the opportunity to share your experiences, find support, acceptance and understanding. We offer 12 individual counselling sessions with a trained counsellor where you can safely explore your feelings and concerns about the death of someone close to you.

All our counsellors work to the British Association for Counselling (BAC) code of ethics. Please phone Monday to Thursday for more information or to make an appointment.


Wills

Probably the single most important step you and your partner can take is to make a will. If there is no will, a same-gender partner has no legal right to inherit possessions or property, which will instead go to the blood relatives.

We recommend that:

- ▼ you and your partner write wills and keep them up-to-date
- ▼ you name your partner as 'executor' or 'executrix' of your will - this means that your partner has the final say about funeral arrangements and gives him/her 'partner' status
- ▼ you have a solicitor prepare your will.

Our will pack contains an advice sheet on preparing wills and a standard form to prepare your will until such time as you have a will professionally drawn up. Please send an A4 SAE.



*Lesbian & Gay
Bereavement
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**ADVICE
SUPPORT
EDUCATION**

**HELPLINE
0181 455 8894**

**PROFESSIONAL TRAINING
0181 200 0511**

**FACE TO FACE COUNSELLING
0181 200 0511**

Helpline

Our helpline offers a listening ear to lesbians and gay men who have been bereaved or are preparing for bereavement as well as to family and friends, colleagues and carers.

All our helpline volunteers have been carefully selected and well-trained, and through on-going training continue to improve their understanding and ability to offer support and comfort. The volunteers can help you find suitable religious leaders or secular officiants for the funeral and suggest solicitors and funeral directors.

Education

We work to inform the caring professions – religious leaders, medical, bereavement, and social workers and funeral directors – of the particular problems of same-gender loss. Members of LGBP have considerable experience in all aspects of gay bereavement, and we can provide speakers to:

- ▼ lead seminars or training sessions for nurses, bereavement projects, social work students, AIDS helplines, etc
- ▼ address conferences and workshops
- ▼ talk to any group of interested people.

Training sessions can be tailored for the specific requirements of your group. Standard sessions are 1 - 3 hrs long. Longer or whole-day sessions can be arranged. We do not charge a fee, but expect that organisations with funds will meet the speaker's expenses. Donations are always welcome.



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Other Useful Contacts

CRUSE

National organisation providing bereavement
counselling

Helpline

0181 332 7227

Website <http://www.east-lothian.co.uk/cruse/>

GLAD (GAY AND LESBIAN LEGAL ADVICE)

Helpline 0171 976 0840

KALTONS SOLICITORS

0800 854 616

0171 278 1817

(England and Wales)

JOSEPH, DAVIS & CO. SOLICITORS

0141 429 7740

(Scotland)

LGBP would like to thank Barnet, Brent,
Camden and Islington Health Authorities,
Section 64, and London Borough of Camden
for their funding and support.

**Your donation will be gratefully received
and much appreciated,
(cheques crossed and made payable to LGBP).**

Funding gratefully received from:



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**The Lesbian and Gay Bereavement Project is a
Registered Charity No: 289982**

**A company limited by guarantee, registered in
England and Wales, No. 3465829**

September 1998