

October 2009

Transgender Experiences in the Commonwealth



**Massachusetts
Transgender
Political
Coalition**

People with diverse gender identities and expressions suffer discrimination and harassment throughout Massachusetts. As we wait to hear whether “*An Act Relative to Gender-Based Discrimination and Hate Crimes*” will pass, organizations throughout Massachusetts continue to hear about Transgender related discrimination, harassment and violence.

September Intakes

Organizations received 37 calls in September 2009 on transgender-related discrimination, harassment and violence. A short sampling follows:

- 50 year old transgender man fired from his employment after coworkers outed him. (9/3/2009)
- A transgender woman harassed by her boss until she quit. (9/22/09)
- A transgender man’s legal name change not recognized by a private insurer who, as a result, refused to process his billing information. (9/15/09)
- A transgender woman denied access to a rehabilitation program. (9/30/2009)
- Transgender student faced harassment by police and school security. (9/1/2009)
- Two transgender women refused access to appropriate restroom facilities. (9/30/2009)
- 22 year old transgender woman harassed by police. (9/24/09)

A Ten Year Struggle for Safe Housing

**Names have been changed to maintain the confidentiality of our callers*

Jessica, a transgender woman, moved into an apartment ten years ago and can no longer live in her apartment due to the frequent harassment she has experienced. Tenants snicker and call her names as she enters and exits the building. She says she doesn’t feel safe and her mental health deteriorated as a result.

Jessica reported the harassment when it first started, and has contacted management at least twenty times over ten years, but her complaints are ignored. When she filed a complaint, building management never addressed the people she reported but instead reported Jessica for causing a disturbance. “It’s mind blowing,” Jessica said, “I haven’t been able to share my story.”

The eviction proceedings started recently. “I want to get out of here anyway,” Jessica said. But it is not clear what options she has for housing and where she will be safe. Whether or not she will be able to successfully challenge the eviction and keep her housing is uncertain.

From a September 2009 call to GLAD’s Legal InfoLine

***Other Contributing Organizations:** Transgender Civil Rights Coalition, Massachusetts Transgender Legal Advocates, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, Health and Education Services, The Network/La Red, AIDS Project Worcester