

# Understanding Gender-Based Violence: Experiences of Newcomer 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth

## What is Gender-Based Violence (GBV)?

According to Women and Gender Equality Canada, people across the country experience violence daily due to their gender, gender expression, gender identity, or perceived gender identity. This type of violence is known as gender-based violence (GBV).

**GBV can be physical, emotional, verbal, systemic, or digital.**

## How Does GBV Show Up: Voices of Newcomer 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth

### Verbal Harassment & Discrimination

*In the C-Train, I was talking to my mom on the phone, and they were like: "You're in Canada, you need to speak English."*

### Exclusion & Barriers

*"...when you try to apply for a job or just get somewhere...you can tell immediately that they're judging your appearance or how you look, or how you present or how you talk a certain way, but it feels harsher."*

### Homophobia Within Cultural Communities

*"I feel I've sometimes had to, even correct my walk when I'm walking around [my own community]. I know there's gonna be homophobes everywhere, but the fear sometimes comes from being [around] people of my own community. It just feels like they would be the most overtly homophobic people that I could come by."*

### Emotional & Psychological

*"For the most part, at least kind of just being misgendered or like people assuming things."*

## What Can You Do?

- Recognize** – trust your feelings. If something feels wrong, it matters.
- Find Support** – You're not alone. Look for safe spaces and community resources.
- Set Boundaries** – Your safety comes first. It's okay to distance yourself from harmful situations.
- Report When Safe** – If possible, report discrimination or violence to trusted organizations.

These quotes were gathered from interviews with **23 2SLGBTQIA+ Newcomer Youth** in Calgary, Alberta, as part of the **Voices in the Art Project**.

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