

# Trans specific vulnerabilities to INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE TRANS SURVIVORS

- Internalized transphobia, shame, self-doubt of survivor
- Isolation (internalized feelings, actual societal isolation)
- Lack of available culturally sensitive, trans-specific resources
- Economic dependency generated by a transphobic, racist, sexist, and classist society.
- Lack of acceptance, understanding, or validation within culturally (ethnically-specific) communities.
- Fear of disclosure to others outside the relationship and subsequent rejection, harassment, discrimination, and violence.
- Fear of disclosure within the relationship, and subsequent rejection, harassment, and violence.
- Gender-Validation through “love” and “acceptance” of perpetrator
- Enactment of harmful, culturally-specific, gender-stereotypes in order to achieve feelings of validation and authenticity or to prevent partner from “finding out”.
- Perceived gender-validation through actual DV (domestic violence) abuse.
- Perceived gender-validation through actual sexual harassment, objectification, and assault.
- Belief that this is better than the other options (internalized shame, reality of a transphobic society)
- Trans-specific issues about body, and sexual interaction.
- Fear about losing custody of the children
- Lack of knowledge about DV and SA (sexual assault) issues (MTF).
- “Whore” stereotype “She’s trans, so she wants it”, (MTF)
- Specific ignorance of FTM individuals, and their issues (FTM)
- Increased vulnerability during transition
- Medically/Hormonally-specific needs (depend on partner for medical insurance, partner may control hormone use)

## “SOFFA” SURVIVORS

**Significant Others, Friends, Families, Allies**

- Sensitivity to partners “trans-status” may allow trans-abusers to use this status to manipulate partner and/or to excuse abusive behavior (“I’m a man. This is how men are supposed to act”, “I’m going through my second adolescence”)
- If the SOFFA is “non-trans”, sensitivity to partners “trans-status” may allow trans-abusers to “play the victim” by denying that their partner ever experiences the effects of a transphobic society, denying that their partner could ever understand, etc.
- If the SOFFA is “non-trans”, lack of inclusion within trans-community, lack of access to trans-specific resources, status as “outsider” may be used to help create further isolation.
- If SOFFA is “non-trans”, the “trans-status” of perpetrator may be used to claim “holier/queerer than thou”, use rhetoric of political correctness to shame and control.