

HATE CRIMES AGAINST TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA, 2016



Research initiative of the
Love Not Hate (LNH) Campaign,
conducted by OUT LGBT Well-being



Lesbian & Gay
Community &
Health Centre





Access Chapter 2

www.ac2.org.za | 012 430 3272

Durban Lesbian & Gay Community & Health Centre

www.gaycentre.org.za | 031 312 7402

Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action (Gala)

www.gala.co.za | 011 717 4239

Gay and Lesbian Network - Pietermaritzburg

www.gaylesbian.org.za | 033 342 6165

OUT LGBT Well-being

www.out.org.za | 012 430 3272

Social, Health & Empowerment Feminist Collective of Transgender Women of Africa

www.transfeminists.org | 043 7220750

Triangle Project

www.triangle.org.za | 081 257 6693

Love Not Hate Campaign

www.lovenothate.org.za | 012 430 3272 | speakout@lovenothate.org.za |

Facebook: [lovenothatecampaign](https://www.facebook.com/lovenothatecampaign)



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BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH AIMS

There is limited data on the prevalence of transgender discrimination and hate crimes in South Africa that can be used to inform services, interventions and advocacy. This report seeks to help fill this data gap. It is based on a wider study of levels of discrimination amongst LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) people compiled for the "Love Not Hate Campaign".

The Love Not Hate Campaign is a nation-wide multi-partner initiative addressing violence against LGBT people. The programme has three main objectives:

Empowering LGBT individuals and communities through strengthened community organisations, competent services and community building

Increasing capacity in the South African Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to address LGBT hate crimes, in collaboration with LGBT civil society partners

Building of an evidence base for programming and advocacy (research)

OUT, a Love Not Hate partner organisation, took responsibility for leading the research process together with Nudge, which conducted the research.

The research objectives were:

To determine the prevalence of discrimination among transgender persons:

- In healthcare
- At secondary schools (or institutions offering secondary school level of education)
- In general

To understand the experiences of transgender South Africans when using services such as:

- The police
- The justice system

To determine any significant differences in the prevalence of discrimination between key demographic groups (race, age, sexual orientation, sex, socio-economic status or province)

To determine the level of impact fear of discrimination has on self-esteem

A total of 2130 South Africans participated in the wider study: 1165 identified as gay; 687 as lesbian; 216 bisexuals; and 285 as transgender. The respondents were aged 16 and older (with 63% between the ages of 16 and 29). The survey was conducted between 1 October and 8 December 2015. The research design was a quantitative self-completion online survey. Survey completion was via mobile, desktop or tablet.

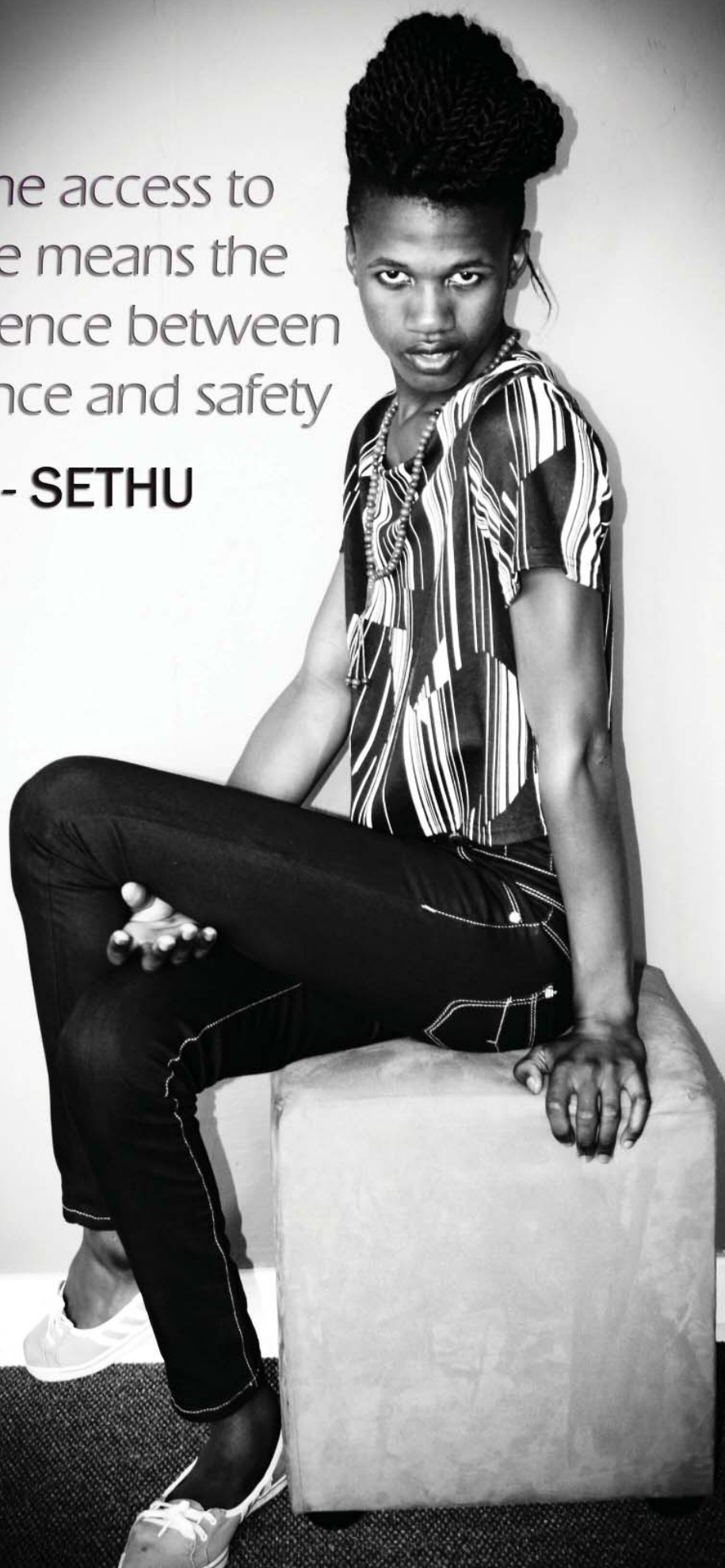
Limitations

Limitations are mainly related to the sourcing of participants and the methodology of collecting responses. The survey was done online through smartphones, tablets and laptops. This presented itself as a limitation as some individuals do not have access to these electronic devices (about 39% of South Africans have smartphones). Of the sample, 8% came from lists provided by LGBT organisations. This is considered a convenient sample, but not a large enough portion to bias the results significantly.

The survey was only conducted in English and, due to its structure, an illiterate individual may have struggled to answer the questions. The survey did have a slight skew to the urban regions. However, all socio-demographic categories were still present in the sample size. None of the limitations would affect the results drastically and therefore did not present as an issue in the analysis of the data.

For me access to
justice means the
difference between
violence and safety

- SETHU



PREVALENCE OF TRANSGENDER IN THE LGBT COMMUNITY

The prevalence of transgender among LGBTs is

18%

So, in which segments is it more or less prevalent?

Lower amongst:



- 12% of bisexuals**
- 11% of males**
- 11% of Coloureds**
- 8% of gays**
- 6% of Whites**

Average amongst:



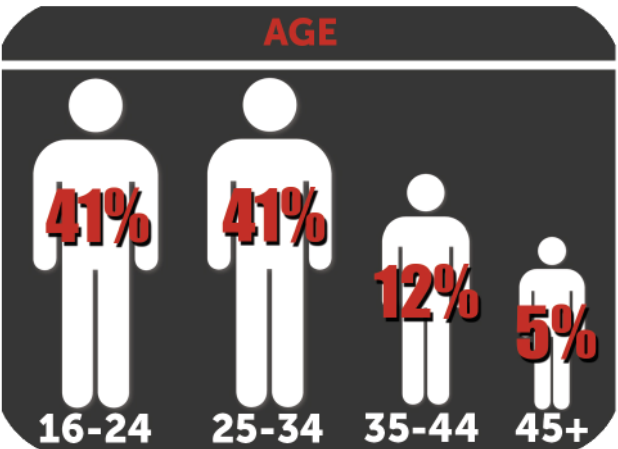
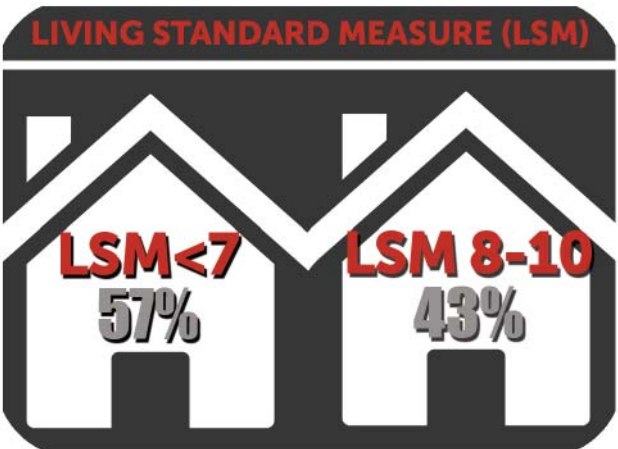
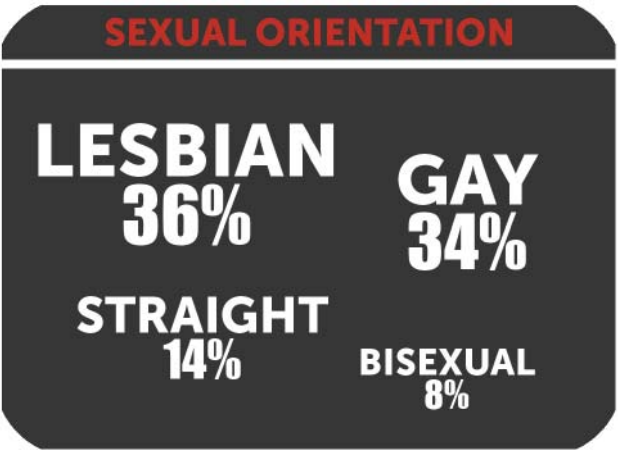
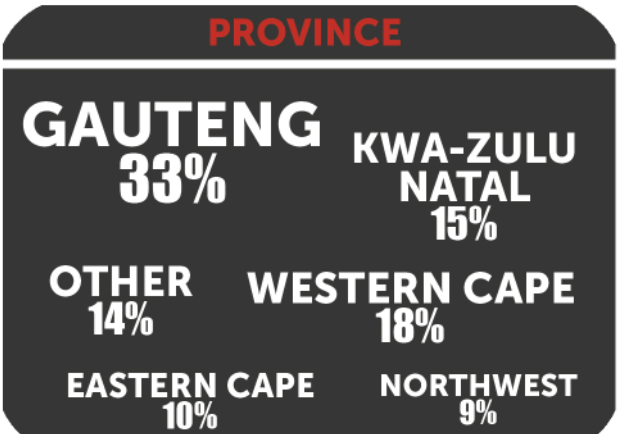
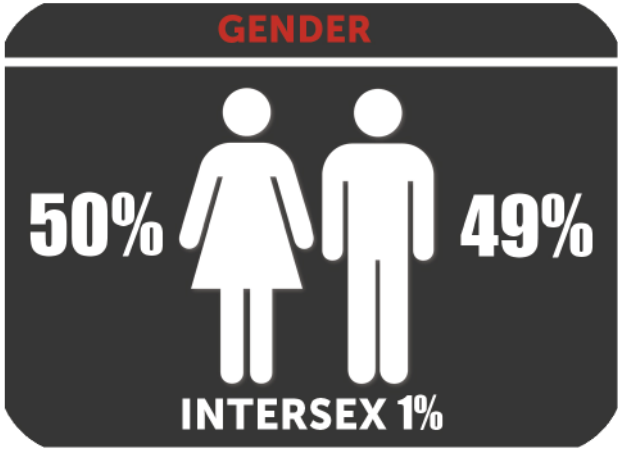
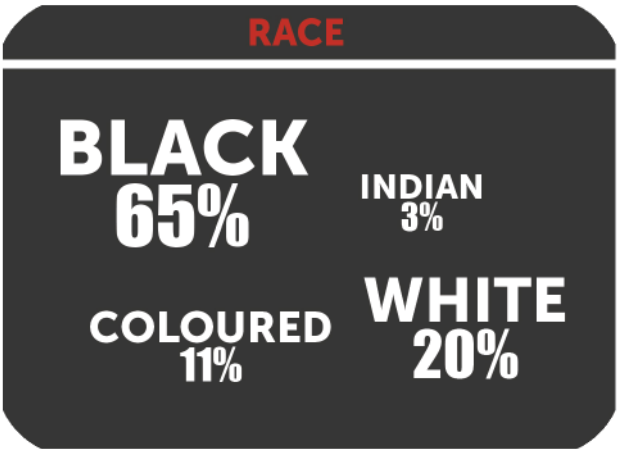
- 16% of bisexuals**
- 15% of males**

Higher amongst:



- 23% of Black LGBTs**

PROFILE OF TRANSGENDER PARTICIPANTS



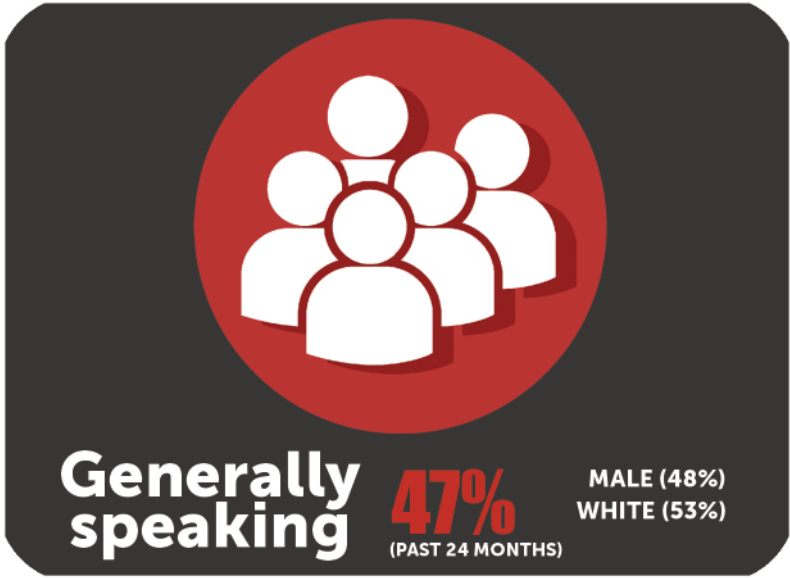
The lack of access
to justice further
heightens my risk
of experiencing
violence.

-Tulie



DISCRIMINATION OVERVIEW

Have you experienced discrimination in...?



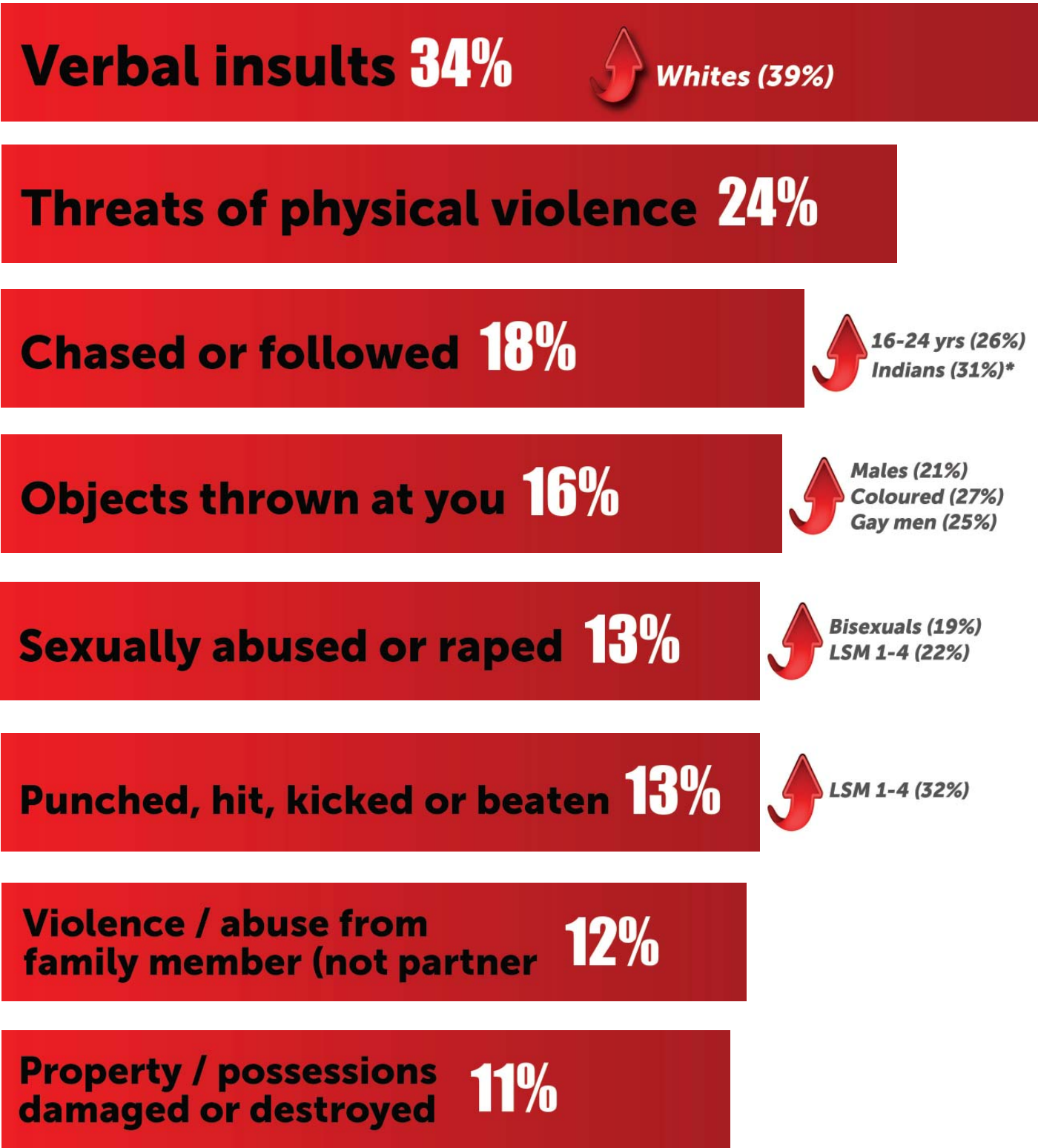


Justice denied
anywhere
diminishes justice
everywhere.

-Wandi

DISCRIMINATION IN GENERAL

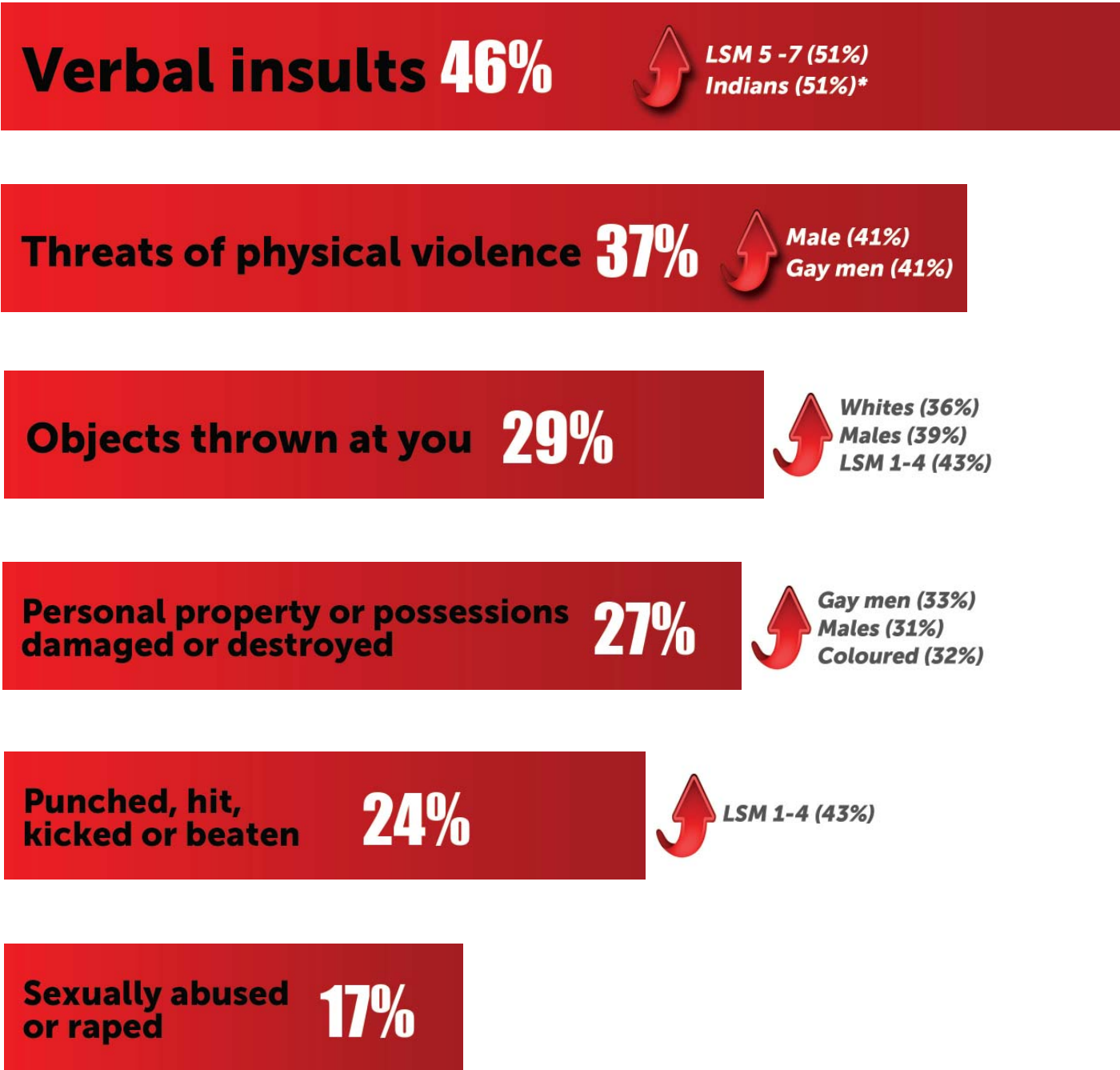
In the past 24 months, which of the following forms of discrimination have you experienced due to being gay / lesbian / bisexual?



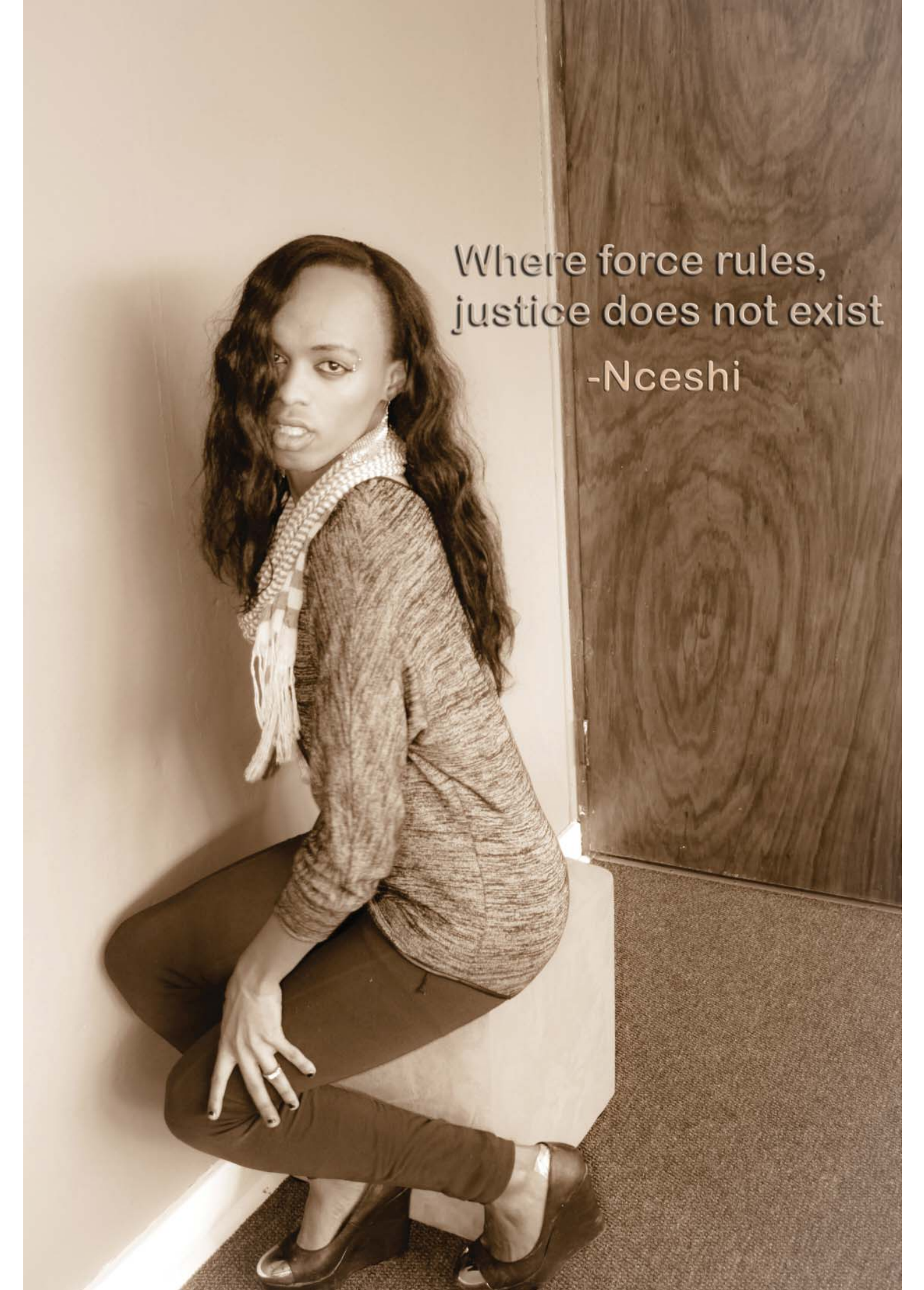
* Caution, small sample

DISCRIMINATION AT SECONDARY SCHOOL / INSTITUTIONS

Which of the following did you experience when you were at school?



* Caution, small sample



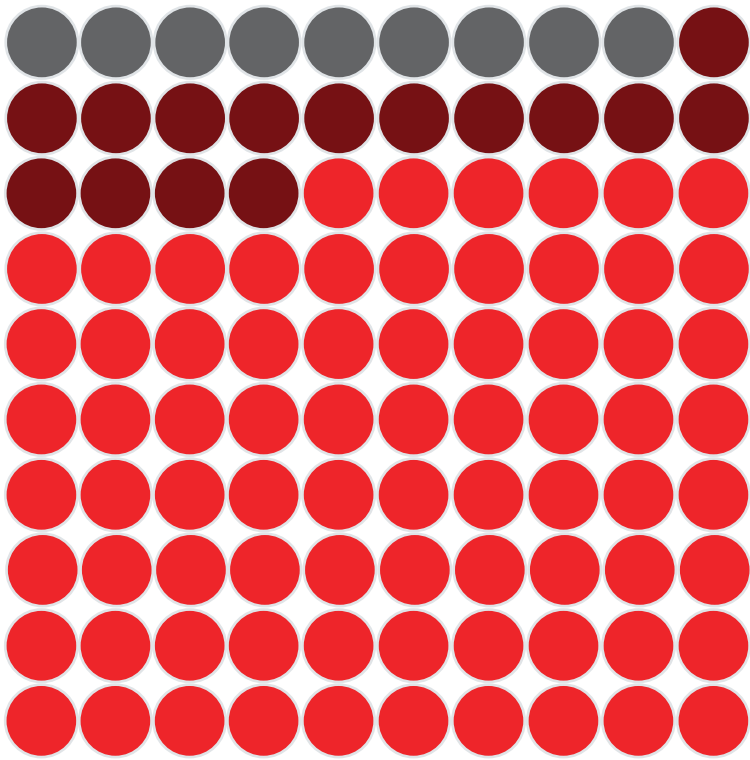
Where force rules,
justice does not exist

-Nceshi

REPORTING OF DISCRIMINATION

You mentioned that you experienced one or more incidents of discrimination in the past 24 months. Did you report one or more incidents to the police?

Transgender who have experienced discrimination in the past 24 months



-  Only 9% reported ALL of the incidents of discrimination
-  A further 15% reported SOME of the incidents
-  The remaining 76% did not report ANY of the incidents

 **25-29 years olds (13%)
Indian (20%)***

 **30-34 years (93%)**

1 in 10
transgender
people, who
have experienced
discrimination,
report all incidents
to police

1 in 4
transgender
people, who
have experienced
discrimination, Report
some or all incidents
to police

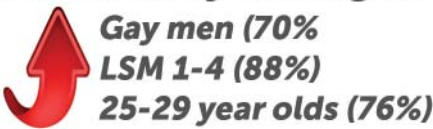
** Caution,
small sample*

SELF ESTEEM

Do you feel that fear of further discrimination in the future brings your self-esteem down?

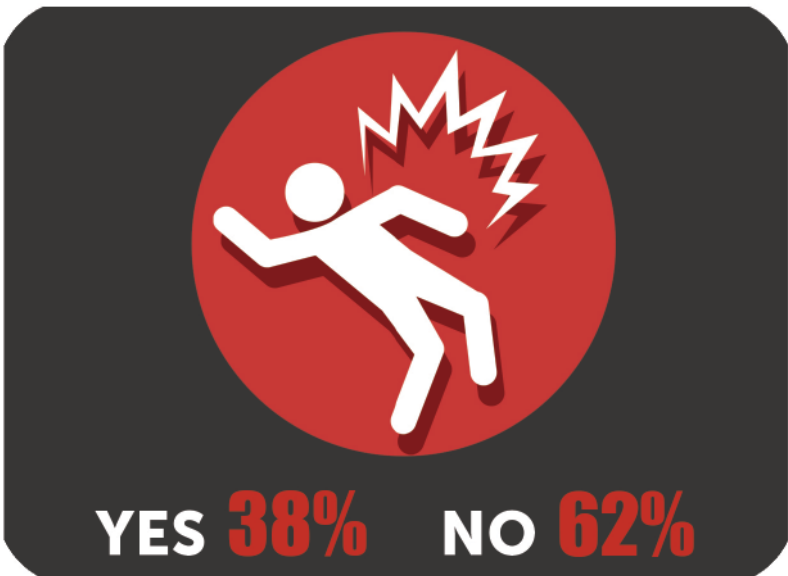


Particularly amongst:

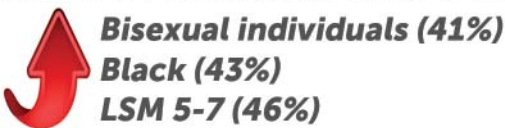


MURDER

Lastly, do you know of anyone who has been murdered due to being or suspected of being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender?



More likely to know of someone who's been murdered



PHOEBE'S STORY - JUSTICE DENIED



Phoebe Titus (30) was a transwoman from Wolseley, a small town in the Western Cape. Phoebe was a hairdresser and spent most of her time at the hair salon where she worked.

On the 27th of December 2017, Phoebe went to a local shop to buy ice lollies. She accidentally stepped on a 15-year-old boy's toes at the shop entrance. The name of the young boy has been withheld because he is a minor. It is alleged that the boy shouted transphobic slurs at Phoebe. Irritated, she replied that she was tired of being called names.

An older man, said to be in his twenties, handed the boy a knife and urged him to stab Phoebe, which he did; stabbing her in the neck. Bleeding, she tried to walk home but collapsed about 500 metres from the shops. Paramedics found her in a pool of blood and declared her dead at the scene.

The police arrested the young boy later that afternoon and he was released on bail the next day. The youth appeared in the Wolseley Magistrates' Court a few days later. He pleaded guilty to the murder charges and was released into the custody of his grandmother.

Activists working on the case are unsatisfied with the outcome because the boy could have been taken to a youth detention centre instead of being released. Furthermore, the Prosecution has still not looked into information about the older man who allegedly handed the young boy a knife. Triangle Project in Cape Town followed-up with the Prosecution in January 2016 with regard to further investigations. However, there was no clear response, with the police simply stating that they would "look into it".

