

## **Hartford Courant**

### **Tuesday Sept. 3, 2002 Help Available for Victims of Harassment**

It is a step in a positive direction that the state police will conduct a study on whether additional diversity training is needed for state troopers. [Connecticut, Aug. 29 "Police Set Outreach to Gays, Lesbians"]

As many of us who are involved with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community already know, when it comes to hate crimes or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, people feel anxious and fearful about bringing their concerns to anyone, much less the police.

Police officers serve as role models within the community. Therefore, it is their responsibility to act with thoughtfulness and consideration in public and within their ranks.

The Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund provides a service that allows anyone to call and speak confidentially to an advocate who is sensitive to the issues of LGBT harassment and violence.

CWEALF offers an explanation of hate-crime statutes and can provide information about the callers'

rights and options, as well as referrals to lawyers and other LGBT-related social and support services.

As long as discrimination continues, these services and others like them are necessary to support those who have been victimized because of hate.

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