



Office of the Director
Bureau of Consumer Protection

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Federal Trade Commission
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

LGBTQ+ Elder Fraud Prevention and Response Network Summit

**Remarks of Samuel Levine
Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, FTC**

**Virtual Conference
May 17, 2022**

I'm so glad to be here for the first federal-led convening on consumer protection issues affecting LGBTQ+ elders. This is a wonderful opportunity to extend yesterday's commemoration of National Honor Our LGBTQ+ Elders Day, which I know was so meaningful to so many of us.

I'm Sam Levine, my pronouns are he/him, and I'm the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection at the Federal Trade Commission. I'm delighted to be here with our colleagues at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, SAGE, the National Center on Elder Abuse, and the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Thank you all for working together to make today a reality.

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Well, to a 25-year-old law student only a couple years out of the closet, this couldn't help but feel familiar. Many of us in the LGBTQ+ community — especially our elders — spent much of our lives experiencing this shame. And one of the triumphs, the true triumphs, of the LGBTQ+ movement was coming together and realizing that we had power in numbers — and power in speaking out.

This same principle, in my view, should guide our approach to protecting LGBTQ+ elders from fraud and economic exploitation. There is a lot of shame around scams. But much like in the foreclosure crisis, that shame only hurts us — and actually helps scammers keep scamming. This is why we built our older adult education campaign, *Pass It On*,



