



Office of the Director
Bureau of Consumer Protection

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

**Remarks of Samuel Levine at
LGBTQ+ Veteran Fraud Listening Session**

Thank you, Maureen. 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 you and our colleagues at the Department of Veterans Affairs who have made today possible.

I am honored to join you for this Listening Session and to open up a conversation about your experiences with fraud and how it affects you as LGBTQ+ veterans. I'm here not only as a representative of the FTC, but as a staunch supporter of our veterans and an out and proud American who has been inspired by so many in the LGBTQ+ community. Today I hope we can explore the ways in which fraud and other forms of economic exploitation can uniquely affect LGBTQ+ veterans.

The FTC has also gotten reports about scams targeting the LGBTQ+ community. Scammers know many people want to support a cause — and they’ll use your affinity with this community to gain your trust and draw you in. In one version of a job scam, online ads pitch a remote job to “help LGBTQ+ people in need from the comfort of your own home.” Sounds promising, but there are red flags to look out for. The posting may be really short on the specifics of the job, and claim that they’re apt to “hire fast.” They may urge you to act quickly before you ask for details or look into their promises. They may ask you for personal information, which you’d never share this early if the application were legitimate. Or they may send you a check, saying it’s for equipment you’ll need for the job, and then tell you to send part of the money on to someone else. These are sure signs of a scam in any community, but the hook here is our connection to the LGBTQ+ community.

FTC Consumer Update: Scammers Target LGBTQ+ Community | FTC.gov