



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2007

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**MAYOR'S OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE JOINS THE NEW YORK
LATINAS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO PROMOTE HEALTHY
RELATIONSHIPS AMONG TEENS**

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence ("OCDV") has teamed up with the Department of Youth and Community Development ("DYCD") to educate young people about dating violence. This partnership established the New York City Healthy Relationship Training Academy through which peer trainers teach other young people and service providers about the dynamics of abusive relationships and the characteristics of healthy relationships. OCDV and DYCD are joined by the New York Latinas Against Domestic Violence ("NYLADV") to bring this important initiative to the Washington Heights community for a week-long educational event.

"Young people need to be taught what a healthy, loving relationship looks like," said OCDV Commissioner Yolanda B. Jimenez. "If young people are empowered with the tools and knowledge to recognize healthy relationships, they will be less likely to enter into unhealthy relationships – this is the first step in the prevention of domestic violence."

"The Department of Youth and Community Development is committed to helping young people make positive choices in every aspect of their lives," said DYCD Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav. "We are proud to be a part of this innovative effort to provide the young people of Washington Heights with the information they need to forge healthy relationships."

As part of the week-long event, teams of peer trainers will facilitate 90-minute workshops for young people at various locations throughout the Washington Heights and Inwood communities. Workshops are scheduled for the following dates, times, and locations in Manhattan:

- September 24, 2007, 4:00 p.m. – George Washington High School, 549 Audubon at 192nd Street
- September 24, 2007, 6:00 p.m. – YM & YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood, 54 Nagle Avenue

(more)

- September 26, 2007, 4:30 p.m. – Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation Headquarters, 2183 Amsterdam Avenue at 168th Street
- September 26, 2007, 4:00 p.m. – Gregorio Luperon High School, 516 W. 181st Street
- September 27, 2007, 3:00 p.m. – Mother Cabrini High School, 710 Fort Washington Avenue
- September 27, 2007, 6:30 p.m. – Dyckman Community Center, 3782 10th Avenue

Registration is required to attend one of the free workshops. To register call: 212-788-3156.

"The Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program is important because having teen educators reaching out to their fellow peers allows teenagers to listen up more rather than if the information were coming from an adult," said peer trainer Andrea Santana.

The workshops will cover the definitions of family domestic violence, teen dating violence, the use of power and control tactics, the components of a healthy relationship, and warning signs of an abusive partner. Throughout the workshop, the peer trainers highlight real-life experiences and encourage participants to evaluate their own lives and those of others to recognize models of both unhealthy and healthy behaviors. The curriculum is inclusive of diverse populations, including foreign born, teen parents, runaway and homeless youth, and lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender youth. The program also stresses the importance of recognizing the warning signs that a relationship may become violent.

5 Signs That You May be in a Dangerous Relationship:

Your Partner...

1. Calls/texts/Instant Messages you constantly and/or checks your email.
2. Embarrasses or insults you in front of others.
3. Acts jealously and does not want you to spend time with others.
4. Consistently criticizes your friends, clothes, or interests.
5. Threatens to commit suicide and/or hurt you or someone close to you if you breakup.

This week-long event complements the efforts of NYLADV, which is hosting their annual Brides March Against Domestic Violence on September 26, 2007. Marchers will start gathering at 9:00 a.m. in front of the offices of the Dominican Women's Development Center at 251 Fort Washington Avenue, Manhattan. The six-mile march will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m. and will end after 3:00 p.m. in East Harlem at the Bonifacio Senior Center, 7 East 116 Street. The march is held in honor of the late Gladys Ricart who was killed on her wedding day by a former abusive boyfriend. OCDV and NYLADV are working to build awareness throughout the Washington Heights community and end the cycle of violence.

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic or dating violence please call 311 or the City's 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-621-HOPE for more information. In an emergency call 911.

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