

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

City of New York

October 1998

Rudolph W. Giuliani, Mayor

October First Is The Third Annual *Work to End Domestic Violence Day*. The City is Joining Employers Across the Nation To Raise Awareness About Domestic Violence And Help Work To End This Devastating Epidemic.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

*If you are a victim of domestic violence  
you are not alone*

Every twelve seconds a woman is beaten in this country.

In one year, New York City's Domestic Violence Hotline received over 81,000 calls, averaging over 6,800 a month.

The New York City Police Department made over 26,000 family-related arrests in Fiscal Year 1998, a 9% increase from the previous year.

Forty-nine percent of all female homicide victims in New York City are killed in intimate partner or family homicides.

## TEEN RELATIONSHIP ABUSE STATISTICS

*Domestic violence is not limited to adult  
or marital relationships*

As many as one-third of all high school and college age young people experience violence in an intimate or dating relationship.

Nearly 80% of girls who have been physically abused in their intimate relationship continue to date their abuser.

30% of battered women married someone who had abused them while they were dating.

The City's Domestic Violence Hotline receives over 300 calls a month from teenagers.

10% of the identified domestic violence victims treated at New York City Public Hospitals are under the age of 20.

Teenagers comprise approximately 8% of the total number of women killed in intimate partner homicides in New York City.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**  
*Friends and co-workers can make a*

*difference without risking their own safety.*

Be alert to possible signs of domestic violence.

If someone confides in you that they are being abused, listen without judging.

Let the victim know there is no excuse for abuse, they are not to blame, and they are not alone.

Tell the victim they do not have to stay in the abusive situation and that help is available.

Call your local precinct or the hotline for assistance.

Bring speakers to your workplace, or organize clothing or food drives to benefit domestic violence shelters.

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***If you are a victim of domestic violence, please seek assistance. Counselors are available to speak with you 24 hours a day at the City's Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-621-HOPE.***

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Call 911 in emergencies.

## SAFETY PLANNING

*Safety planning is recommended for victims of domestic violence*

*While safety plans vary according to the situation, they may include: creating an exit plan for both the home and workplace in case of a dangerous situation; telling someone you trust about the abuse; keeping important documents together in a safe place, and deciding where you will go if you leave. If you are a victim, please get assistance in creating a safety plan that works for you. Planning for your safety is critical, and may save your life.*

## CITY-WIDE INITIATIVES

*Since 1994, New York City has been a leader in the fight against domestic violence. Some of the City's many efforts include:*

The Teen Relationship Abuse Public Education Campaign, a comprehensive effort to stop relationship abuse at a young age. The initiative includes: a poster campaign; distribution of fact sheets, resource directories and brochures; training on teen relationship abuse for service providers who work with young people; and services for teenagers involved in abusive relationships.

The NYPD's Domestic Violence Prevention Officer/Investigator Program, a strategy which places over 300 specially trained, dedicated officers in all police precincts throughout the City.

The New York City Domestic Violence Hotline, the only 24 hour city hotline of its kind in the nation, continues to help over 80,000 callers a year with crisis counseling and service referrals.

The Alternative to Shelter Project, a pilot program that allowed domestic violence victims to remain safely in their homes through a combination of electronic security technology and a coordinated community response.

*If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, or need help creating a domestic violence initiative in your workplace or community, please contact the Mayor's Commission to Combat Family Violence at (212) 788-3156. Established in 1994, the Commission coordinates and implements the City's many family violence policies.*

**Prepared by the Mayor's Commission to  
Combat Family Violence**