



## Message from Commissioner

**Cecile Noel**



### **Reflecting Upon Women's Equality Day**

One hundred years ago, women in the United States did not have the right to vote. When women's suffrage was achieved in August 1920, it was the hard-won success of a movement over seven decades, a struggle that reached across state and political party lines to achieve fairness and equity. We have come a long way since the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment which gave women the right to vote. Today, in New York City, we are proud of our strides towards making this a just and equitable city—the fairest big city in America.

In the past year alone, the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence is proud to have partnered extensively with our sister agencies, including, to name a few: NYC Health + Hospitals, to provide mental health teams at NYC's Family Justice Centers (FJCs); NYC's Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), to develop the Earned Sick and Safe Time Act; the Human Resources Administration (HRA), to pilot access to the Family Homelessness and Eviction Program (or FHEPS, a rent supplement for families receiving cash assistance who have been evicted or are facing eviction due to a domestic violence situation or healthy and safety issues) at our FJCs, as well as starting emergency food pantries at each FJC location; the Commission on Gender Equity (CGE), on 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence; and NYC's Department of Veteran Services and the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA), on Theater of War performances addressing intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

To say nothing of our ongoing commitments with valued community partners, such as art and entrepreneurship sessions by here there and EVERYwhere, Sanctuary for Families' economic empowerment program, and job readiness programs facilitated by the New York Junior League.

Even so, there is more we must strive for. Every day, women, girls, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals continue to experience violence and sexual abuse. Gender-based violence promotes and compounds inequality within our society, and is felt by all of us—and particularly felt by women of color, LGBTQ women, immigrant women, women living in poverty. As evidenced by recent events—from reversals of decades of precedents protecting domestic violence survivors, to reports of abuse at detention centers for women and youth—we, as a society, have work to do yet. As true today as it was one hundred years ago: Change requires the consistent and considerable efforts of many. It also requires a broad coalition of committed individuals. As we celebrate the strides made towards safety and human rights, including the rights of survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, we must continue to reach across boundaries to nurture meaningful partnerships—across agencies, public-private partnerships,

faiths, and so on—to continue our advocacy and efforts in an evolving national landscape with vigilance and humanity.

## News/Events

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### Queens FJC Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Our Queens Family Justice Center team celebrated its ten year milestone with an event featuring powerful client testimonials, domestic violence advocates and allies, like *Law & Order: Criminal Intent* actress, Kathryn Erbe, and elected officials. Since QFJC opened in 2008, it has served nearly 40,000 clients from NYC's largest immigrant communities—surpassing 117,500 client visits. On Tuesday, July 31, 2018, the Queens FJC was awarded a Proclamation by New York State Senator Leroy Comrie and a Certificate from Councilmember Helen Rosenthal.



### Commissioner Noel Speaks to News 12

Following U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' decision the *Matter of A-B-*, OCDV Commissioner Noel speaks to Brooklyn reporter Nicole Ryan about resources for domestic violence survivors in NYC. [Watch the clip.](#)

### Fatality Review Committee Releases 2018 Annual Report

The report examines domestic violence-related homicide data, and includes key recommendations for strategic ways the City can continue to improve prevention and intervention efforts, raise awareness, perform outreach, and enhance future data collection. [Read the report.](#)

## Calls for Submissions

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### Seeking Workshops for October Youth Conference

OCDV's first youth-focused conference, "Balancing You, Me and Us: Exploring Ourselves, our Relationships and our Communities", will explore building and maintaining healthy relationships between oneself and intimate partners, as well as within the larger community.

[Check the RFP for submission details.](#) *Submissions must be received by August 31, 2018.*

### Now Accepting Visual Art for NYC's "Response and Resiliency" Art Exhibit

This November, OCDV and the Commission on Gender Equity (CGE) will host an art exhibit showcasing visual art pieces exploring how people move forward from, or respond to, acts of gender-based violence committed against themselves or others. The exhibit is part of NYC's annual observance of the global campaign, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. [Check the flyer for submission details.](#) *Submissions must be received by September 10,*

2018.

## Articles

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### **Banks—the Unexpected Heroes in the War Against Human Trafficking**

[Read full story in Fortune Magazine.](#)

### **The Rape Survivor Who Turned Her Activism Into A Nobel Peace Prize Nomination**

[Read full story in the Huffington Post.](#)

### **'We're Monumentally Fucked': Trans Sex Workers on Life Under FOSTA/SESTA**

[Read the full story on VICE.](#)

### **Immigrant Youth Shelters: “If You’re a Predator, It’s a Gold Mine”**

[Read full story in ProPublica.](#)

### **Federal funds help launch elder abuse pilot**

Local legal groups are launching a new pilot program to help court personnel and others spot potential abuse.

[Read full story in the Buffalo Law Journal.](#)

### **‘It Can Happen Even to Guys’: Ohio State Wrestlers Detail Abuse, Saying #UsToo**

[Read full story in the New York Times](#)

### **For the first time, domestic violence will be a crime under military law**

[Read more in the Military Times.](#)

## Upcoming Trainings

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### **Family Justice Center (FJC) Trainings and Workshops**

#### **Core I at Queens FJC (126-02 82nd Avenue, Kew Gardens, NY):**

- Engaging Trauma Survivors Training  
Monday, August 27 at 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Facilitated by: OCDV
- Introduction to Elder Abuse  
Tuesday, August 28 at 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Facilitated by: JASA and The Weinberg Center for Elder Justice
- Introduction to Sex Trafficking  
Thursday, August 30 at 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Facilitated by: Mt. Sinai SAVI and Sanctuary for Families Anti-Trafficking Initiative

You can [register online for classes at Queens FJC](#) listed above. Email Marisa at [marissab@fjcnyc.org](mailto:marissab@fjcnyc.org) for accommodations, such as ASL interpretation or other information.

**Core II at Brooklyn FJC** (350 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201):

- **Mental Health & Intimate Partner Violence**

Friday, August 24 at 10:00 – 1:00 PM

Facilitated by: NYC Health + Hospitals, Kings County Hospital

You can [register online for classes at Brooklyn FJC](#) listed above. Email Joscelyn at [JoscelynT@fjcnyc.org](mailto:JoscelynT@fjcnyc.org) for accommodations, such as ASL interpretation or other information.

**For more OCDV news, visit [nyc.gov/domesticviolence](https://nyc.gov/domesticviolence)**

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