

March 2016

Message from Commissioner Cecile Noel

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, providing another opportunity for all of us to let victims and survivors know that they are not alone and that there is help. More than a quarter of a million people are sexually assaulted in the United States every year, and most victims first experience sexual violence before the age of 25. The [Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network](#) has created a helpful guide for how each of us can make a difference, from volunteer and activism opportunities to simply reaching out to a loved one. I also encourage you to follow the [New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault](#), another important organization working to prevent sexual violence and reduce the harm it causes through education, research and advocacy.

A critical piece of prevention is educating our youth about healthy relationships. Understanding that approximately 72% of 8th and 9th graders are dating, in 2005 OCDV launched the **NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy** to provide interactive workshops – in English and Spanish – on dating violence and cyber-abuse for adolescents, young adults, parents and service providers. These peer educator-led workshops educate our youth to recognize unhealthy relationships and provide them with the tools they need to build healthy relationships.

OCDV sits on the planning committee of Denim Day NYC, a coalition of community agencies, elected officials, students and volunteers united to promote awareness around the issue of sexual assault. This year, Denim Day will be commemorated throughout New York on Wednesday, April 27th. The day will consist of a rally at City Hall as well as events throughout the five boroughs. I encourage all of you to watch and share [this powerful video](#) for Denim Day NYC's #IAmNotInvisible campaign. For more information about Denim Day 2016, please [click here](#).



Host a workshop on teen dating violence and healthy relationships with OCDV's NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy. Submit your request through our online [workshop request form](#) or call the Academy at 212-788-2516.



The [New York State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Intimate Partner Violence Network](#) has created a [Best Practices Toolkit](#) and a [Shelter Access Toolkit](#) to help make shelters and other domestic violence services more LGBTQ inclusive.

Upcoming OCDV Events & Trainings

****Please note that Family Justice Center trainings are intended for service providers and professionals ONLY.***

BRONX:

Introduction to Elder Abuse

Monday, April 4th, 2-4:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Bronx

198 E. 161st Street, 2nd Floor

To register, please email Sandra Mejia at sandram@fjcnyc.org

Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) Mental Health Series: Trauma-centered Therapy

Wednesday, April 6th, 2:30-4 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Bronx

198 E. 161st Street, 2nd Floor

To register, please email Sandra Mejia at sandram@fjcnyc.org

Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) Mental Health Series: Addressing Paranoia, Distrust & Suspicion in Clients

Wednesday, April 6th, 2:30-4 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Bronx

198 E. 161st Street, 2nd Floor

To register, please email Sandra Mejia at sandram@fjcnyc.org

BROOKLYN:

Child Support 101 for DV Service Providers

Friday, April 22nd, 2-4 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn

350 Jay Street, 15th Floor

To register, please email Stefanie Keegan at stefaniek@fjcnyc.org

MANHATTAN:

Restorative & Transformative Responses to Domestic Violence

Friday, April 22nd, 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5th Floor

To register, please [click here](#)

QUEENS:

Housing Options for Survivors of Domestic Violence

Tuesday, April 5th, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue

To register, please [click here](#)

Economic Empowerment Training

Wednesday, April 13th, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue

To register, please [click here](#)

Immigrant Eligibility for Public Benefits Training

Wednesday, April 13th, 2-5 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue

To register, please [click here](#)

Introduction to Elder Abuse

Monday, April 18th, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue

To register, please [click here](#)

Introduction to Family and Matrimonial Law

Wednesday, April 20th, 2-5 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue

To register, please [click here](#)

DV Dialogue

Thursday, April 28th, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue

To register, please [click here](#)

Risk Assessment and Safety Planning

Thursday, April 28th, 2-5 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue

To register, please [click here](#)

Cultural Conversations (Considerations & Tools for Supportive Practice)

Friday, April 29th, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue

To register, please [click here](#)

Introduction to Immigration Law

Monday, May 2nd, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue

To register, please [click here](#)

Top News Stories from March

Queens Borough Cabinet Discusses Stalking

OCDV, NYPD and QDA intend to expand a collaborative program that addresses intimate partner stalking throughout Queens in the coming months. Cecile Noel, the Commissioner of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, relayed the news about the plan to beef up the Coordinated Approach to Preventing Stalking (CAPS) during a meeting of the Queens Borough Cabinet at Borough Hall. [Read more](#)

Push to Boost Housing Aid for Domestic Violence Victims

Steven Banks, Commissioner of the Human Resources Administration, was in Albany to lobby to include domestic violence victims in a state rental assistance program (FEPS) designed to prevent homelessness. Mayor de Blasio also hosted a roundtable at City Hall with advocates, survivors of domestic violence, and key leaders in the administration, [including OCDV Commissioner Cecile Noel](#), to discuss the expansion of funding and eligibility for the FEPS program in the New York State budget.

> [Read More](#)

NYC Landlords Banned from Discriminating against Domestic Violence Victims

New York City landlords will be banned from discriminating against victims of domestic violence under new legislation passed by the City Council. The bill will make it illegal to refuse to rent or sell a home to someone because they are a victim of domestic violence or stalking.

> [Read More](#)

NYS Senate Passes Bill to

Unsafe Haven: City Homeless

Protect Victims of Domestic Violence in Criminal Court

The New York State Senate has passed legislation (S3087) to provide stronger protections for vulnerable domestic violence victims by allowing them to testify via closed-circuit television in criminal proceedings. The bill has been sent to the Assembly.

> [Read More](#)

Shelters Are Hotbeds of Domestic Violence

NY1 reviewed 416 domestic violence incidents at shelters from 2015 — documents they received through the freedom of information law. The records reveal that being choked, bruised, beaten or slammed was widespread, and some women feared the person sleeping next to them could lead to their demise.

> [Read More](#)

Convicted Domestic Violence Offenders Take Their Fight to Own Guns to the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is hearing a case that will decide whether convictions for reckless crimes, as opposed to knowing or intentional crimes, should also result in a forfeiture of gun rights for domestic violence offenders.

> [Read More](#)

When It Comes to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Reporting, Deaf Women Are Underserved by Police

Deaf women experience sexual and domestic abuse at much higher rates than women who hear, but are unlikely to report it. A new initiative announced last week from the Vera Institute of Justice, a New York City-based nonprofit, and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime aims to change that by training police officers to facilitate communication with deaf victims, such as teaching them how to find legitimate sign language interpreters.

> [Read More](#)

He Abused Her for Years. She Shot Him. France Asks: Is it Self-Defense?

Jacqueline Sauvage's murder case in

Dispatches: "Who Can Save Me?" – Domestic Violence and Disability

According to the World Health

France has raised an uncomfortable question for France: If your husband abuses you for years and one day you shoot and kill him, is it self-defense? More than 400,000 people in France signed a petition, started by Ms. Sauvage's lawyers, asking for President François Hollande to pardon her. [In a similar story closer to home](#), 12 jurors will hear evidence about Cherelle Baldwin, a 24-year-old Black woman from Bridgeport, Connecticut, whose attempts to escape her ex-boyfriend ended in his death.

> [Read More](#)

Organization, 30 percent of women have experienced physical or sexual violence by their intimate partner; but women with disabilities are nearly twice as likely to experience some form of domestic violence.

> [Read More](#)

Will Changing the Focus from Victim to Perpetrator End Domestic Violence?

"Drive," a pilot program in the UK, will offer high-risk male and female perpetrators of domestic violence bespoke one-to-one sessions to change their behavior as part of a three-year pilot project. Though there are programs of this kind already in the UK, Drive is a new, more pragmatic response, focusing on the individual circumstances of those involved.

> [Read More](#)

This Is What Domestic Violence Is Like when You Are LGBT

What happens when your same-sex partner controls, assaults, or abuses you? BuzzFeed News spoke to survivors and the national LGBT domestic violence charity, Broken Rainbow.

> [Read More](#)

For Domestic Violence Survivors, Family Court Becomes Site of Continued Abuse

Ending an abusive relationship does not necessarily end the violence and terror,

Manitoba Passes Law to Offer Victims of Domestic Violence Paid Safe Leave

A new Manitoba law will offer victims of domestic violence paid and unpaid leave from work, guaranteeing job

particularly when children are involved. Abusive partners often use custody proceedings to continue their abusive behavior through the children, a phenomenon that Dr. Evan Stark, a professor at Rutgers University and expert on domestic violence, calls "tangential spouse abuse."

> [Read More](#)

security if they have to take time off as they seek safety from abusers. The law will give victims five paid days (to be taken in one stretch or intermittently, when needed), five unpaid days and an additional 17-week unpaid period, if a victim needs to relocate.

> [Read More](#)

Domestic Violence ‘Doubles Risk of Premature Birth’

Domestic violence by a partner or ex-partner during pregnancy doubles the risk of pre-term birth and low birth weight, according to a study by the University of Iowa.

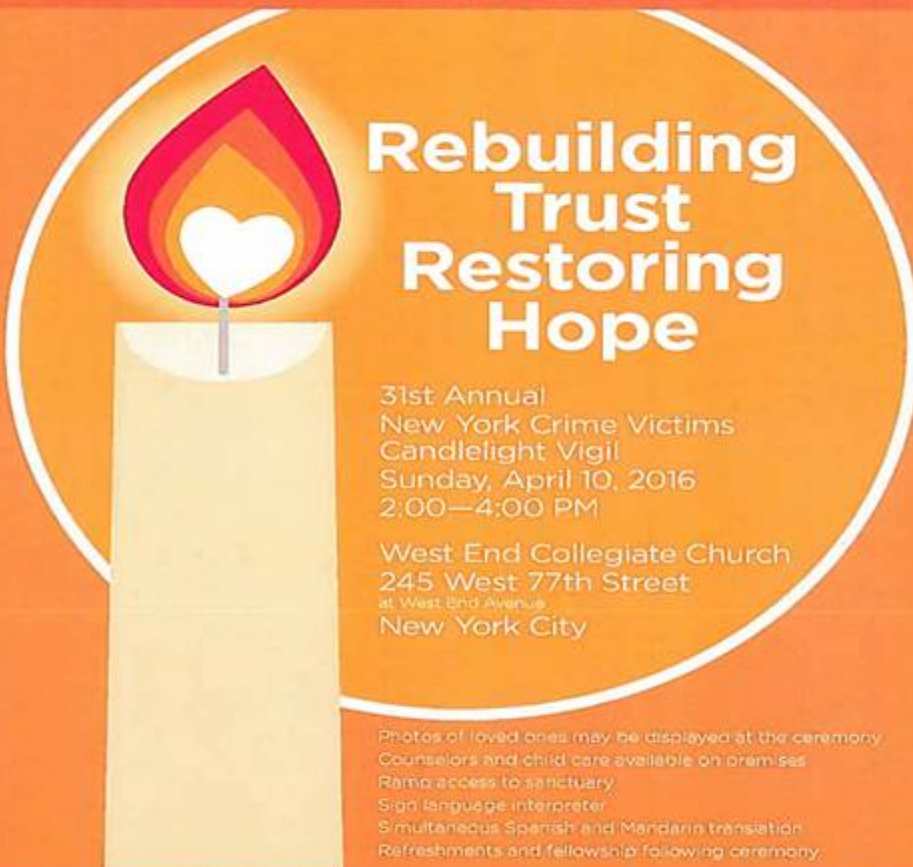
> [Read More](#)

A Smart Shift in D.A.’s Strategy on Domestic Violence

Under Staten Island District Attorney McMahon, a domestic violence case will now stay with one prosecutor from start to finish, in a process called vertical prosecution, as opposed to being handled by different prosecutors as the matter moves from Criminal Court to the grand jury and possibly to state Supreme Court.

> [Read More](#)

2016 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK



Rebuilding Trust Restoring Hope

31st Annual
New York Crime Victims
Candlelight Vigil
Sunday, April 10, 2016
2:00—4:00 PM

West End Collegiate Church
245 West 77th Street
at West End Avenue
New York City

Photos of loved ones may be displayed at the ceremony
Counselors and child care available on premises
Ramp access to sanctuary
Sign language interpreter
Simultaneous Spanish and Mandarin translation
Refreshments and fellowship following ceremony

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The Downstate Coalition for Crime Victims
The New York County District Attorney's Office

For further information:
(212) 335-9040

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