

## Message from OCDV Commissioner Cecile Noel



(From Left: Queens Family Justice Center Deputy Director Salua Baida; Manhattan Family Justice Center Coordinator Stefany Rojas; OCDV Outreach Director Tesa Arozqueta; Manhattan Family Justice Center Executive Director Anabella Escobar; Bronx Family Justice Center Director of Programs & Community Partnerships Sophia Welbeck; Bronx Family Justice Center Executive Director Margarita Guzman; and OCDV Community Liaison Chelsea Ocon.)

Every year in October, we observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is a time to reflect on the countless individuals and families that are affected by domestic violence every day – not just in New York City, but across the country and the world. We think of those we have lost to violence and those who are currently suffering in an abusive relationship.

But this month is also a time for strength and hope. It is when we restate our commitment to connect survivors and their families to resources and services, when we gather together to show the strength and resolve of our supportive communities, and when we redouble our efforts to end domestic violence once and for all.

This has been a momentous year for New York City, especially in terms of our commitment to domestic violence prevention, awareness and services. Earlier in the summer, we opened the doors to the Staten Island Family Justice Center – the fifth in the City – and celebrated the completion of our vision to have a Family Justice Center in every borough. This summer we also unveiled our Policy & Training Institute, which will assist City agencies and community-based organizations in reviewing and updating their domestic violence policies, and providing tailored trainings for their staff.

Included in the Institute is our NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy. Just last year, the Academy conducted over 300 workshops and trained almost 7,000 youth, parents and organizational staff about what a healthy relationship consists of and looks like. This year, as part of the Academy, we also introduce the Creating Awareness about Relationship Equality (CARE) Program, which will bring our trainings to the over 5,000 youth in the City's foster care system, giving them the tools they need to build healthy relationships.

I encourage everyone to share the [NYC Domestic Violence Awareness Month Calendar](#), which is filled with events in every neighborhood of the city from OCDV and many other organizations. And of course I encourage you to take part in this Thursday's NYC Go Purple Day. Please wear purple and help raise awareness on social media with the hashtag #NYCGoPurple.

We are making real progress for survivors of domestic violence, but we still have a long way to go. I know that, with your help, we can build a culture where everyone feels safe and respected in their relationships.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

# NYC GO PURPLE DAY

CITYWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS OUTREACH EVENT



New York City Council Member  
**LAURIE A. CUMBO**  
Women's Issues Committee, Chair  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MAYOR'S OFFICE  
TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

For more information, contact Monica • P: 212.788.7081 • E: MABEND@COUNCIL.NYC.GOV



OCDV has create the [NYC Domestic Violence Awareness Month Calendar](#) of activities hosted by community and advocacy organizations during the month that raise awareness and highlight the services that are available. There are many events that are taking place across the City and in your neighborhood. [Find an event near you!](#)

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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.

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OCDV has updated the [New York City Resource Directory of Domestic Violence Services](#), which provides information regarding assistance available for survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking and elder abuse. Your input and participation are important to ensure that the Directory is comprehensive, identifies culturally competent programs and reflects the variety of services for individuals, families and children in need.

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### [\*\*ANNOUNCING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH YOUTUBE CHALLENGE\*\*](#)

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB), Division of Family Violence and Prevention Services (FVPSA), announces a Domestic Violence Awareness Month YouTube Challenge. This Challenge is open to individuals and organizations that support children and youth exposed to domestic violence and their abused parents. The goal is to bring attention to the most innovative and inclusive approaches, practices, policies, programs, safe spaces, activities, and strategies that the public is using to improve safety, promote healing, and provide support for this special population.

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## Upcoming OCDV Events & Trainings

**\*Please note that Family Justice Center trainings are geared toward service providers and professionals.**

### MANHATTAN:

#### **Tips on When & How to Draft Strong Family Offense Petitions in Family Court**

*Facilitated by Sanctuary for Families*

Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

To register, please [click here](#).

#### **Child Support Workshop & Clinic**

*Facilitated by the Human Resources Administration*

Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

- **Child Support Overview Workshop for Advocates and Clients, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**
- **Client Sessions to Answer Child Support Questions, 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

To register, please [click here](#).

### QUEENS:

#### **Engaging Trauma Survivors**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

#### **Domestic Violence Dialogue**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

#### **Risk Assessment & Safety Planning**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

#### **Economic Empowerment**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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NYC Family Justice Center, Queens  
126-02 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

### **Immigrant Eligibility for Public Benefits**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens  
126-02 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

### **Introduction to Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation**

*Facilitated by Sanctuary for Families & Mt. Sinai Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program*

Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens  
126-02 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

### **Housing and Shelter Options**

*Facilitated by Safe Horizon*

Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens  
126-02 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

### **Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence**

*Facilitated by the NYPD and Queens District Attorney's Office DV Bureau*

Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens  
126-02 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

### **Introduction to Family & Matrimonial Law**

*Facilitated by Queens Legal Services and the Urban Justice Center; Moderated by OCDV Staff*

Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens  
126-02 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

### **Cultural Conversations: Considerations & Tools for Supportive Practice**

*Facilitated by the Arab American Family Support Center (AAFSC)*

Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens  
126-02 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

### **Introduction to Immigration Law**

*Facilitated by Queens Legal Services and OCDV Staff*

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Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

### **Introduction to Elder Abuse**

*Facilitated by the Jewish Association Serving the Aging (JASA) & the Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention*

Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

To register, please [click here](#).

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## **Top News Stories from September**

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### **OCDV Joins with Univision & El Diario for Three-day Spanish-language Phone Bank (Spanish Only)**

NYC First Lady Chirlane McCray joined with OCDV staff for a three-day domestic violence phone bank organized by Univision and El Diario. From 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., September 19<sup>th</sup> through September 21<sup>st</sup>, Spanish-speaking staffers received 453 calls from individuals across New York City and New Jersey, and were able to direct callers to the domestic violence resources that they needed.

[El Diario Article on the Phone Bank](#)

[El Diario Interview with Anabella Escobar, Executive Director of the Manhattan Family Justice Center](#)

[Univision Segment on the Staten Island Family Justice Center](#)

[Univision Interview with NYC First Lady Chirlane McCray](#)

[El Diario Interview with NYC First Lady Chirlane McCray](#)

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## NYC Lawmakers Are Trying to Make Revenge Porn a Crime

City lawmakers are looking to crack down on nonconsensual pornography or “revenge porn” — making it a crime to pass on explicit pictures of someone without their consent. A bill in the City Council would make it a crime for people to post naked photos online or text and email them to other people with the intent to cause emotional or economic harm.

> [Read More](#)

## Bill Aims to “Break the Silence” on Public Housing Domestic Violence

Bronx Councilman Ritchie Torres has introduced legislation to obligate the NYPD to collect and publicize statistics on domestic abuse in New York City Housing Authority buildings—which Mr. Torres said was necessary to tamp down on crime in general within the long-troubled developments.

> [Read More](#)

## Female Senators Push FBI on Stalking, Domestic Violence

The FBI is coming under pressure from a bipartisan pair of female senators to collect more information on domestic violence and stalking crimes. “The seriousness and devastating effects of these crimes, as well as the propensity for repeat victimization, expose a dangerous gap in the FBI’s crime data collection programs,” Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) and Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) wrote in a letter sent Monday to FBI Director James Comey and Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

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## How Domestic Violence in One Home Affects Every Child in a Class

While it's difficult to get an exact number, researchers estimate that between 10 and 20 percent of children are exposed to domestic violence each year. New data quantifies what many teachers and school counselors already know: While such violence often takes place outside of school, its repercussions resonate in the classroom. It hurts not only the kids who witness the violence, but also their classmates. The harm is evident in lower test scores as well as lower rates of college attendance and completion. And the impact extends past graduation — it can be seen in lower earnings later in life.

> [Read More](#)

## The Link Between Domestic Violence and Terrorism

In the wake of the bombings in New York City and New Jersey, and the revelations that Ahmad Khan Rahami had a history of

## Why Domestic Violence is an Economic Issue

Economic abuse is present in 98 percent of abusive relationships, and 60 percent of survivors report losing their jobs.



domestic violence, Nimmi Gowrinathan, a visiting professor at the City College of New York who studies women's roles in and relationship to insurgent and terrorist conflicts, and Amanda Taub, reporter for the New York Times and who wrote the article "Control and Fear: What Mass Killings and Domestic Violence Have in Common," explore the relationship between terrorism and abuse and listeners call in with their reflections.

> [Read More](#)

> [Read More](#)

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## **Fear of Deportation Often Keeps Undocumented Victims of Domestic Violence Silent**

In the often silent world of undocumented immigrants in the United States, fear of deportation discourages people from seeking help from the police, even in the worst circumstances. In rural areas, immigrants may also be isolated by geography, making their ability to seek help even more fraught.

> [Read More](#)

## **Deaf Individuals Are More Likely to Experience Domestic Violence than Hearing Individuals**

Deaf individuals are one and a half times more likely to be victims of relationship violence than hearing individuals, according to research out of the Rochester Institute of Technology.

> [Read More](#)

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## **The Link Between Natural Disasters and Domestic Violence**

Victims of domestic violence are at their most vulnerable immediately after they leave abusive partners. Approximately 75 percent of women who are murdered by their abuser are killed as they are in the process of leaving or just after they depart. This vulnerability is compounded in the wake of natural disasters, when something as simple as evacuating to a relief shelter becomes a heavy threat. This exposure is just one of the concerns at the intersection of disasters and domestic abuse.

## **He Kidnapped, Beat & Tortured His Wife. Free on Bond, He Killed Her.**

For 11 days this summer, Tierne Ewing was tortured by her husband. Kevin Ewing kidnapped her, beat her, locked her in a closet, hit her in the head with a pistol, strangled her, burned her with a hot stick and made her sleep with a rope around her neck, according to Pennsylvania law enforcement. More than once, he put her in the bathtub and pointed a gun at her, threatening to kill them both. On July 8, she managed to escape when Kevin allowed her to enter a bank. She

After disasters occur, there is often an uptick in domestic-violence incidents. Domestic-abuse experts say this is likely because batterers often have more access to their families, because they are not at work.

> [Read More](#)

was hysterical, and begged the bank tellers to call the police. After law enforcement arrived, she was too frightened to leave the building, telling them, "I don't want to die." Kevin was arrested the same day and charged with kidnapping, aggravated assault, terroristic threats, unlawful possession of a firearm and other crimes. Less than two months later, while released on a \$100,000 bond, he kidnapped his estranged wife again. This time, he followed through on his threats.

> [Read More](#)

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## Airlines Are Surprisingly Ill-equipped to Handle Accusations of Sexual Assault on Their Planes

An FBI spokeswoman reports that the agency had 40 open cases involving sexual assaults on aircraft in 2015 and 37 cases so far this year. But the FBI doesn't currently track sexual assaults on planes in its Uniform Crime Report, its official, nationwide effort to collect crime data from all levels of law enforcement. Thus it's impossible to say how many reports made to airport security officers and local police departments aren't reaching the FBI's stats.

> [Read More](#)

## N.H Supreme Court Rules Murder Victim's Records Won't Be Unsealed

The state's highest court has reversed its earlier decision and is now upholding New Hampshire's rape shield law. Because of this decision, the sexual history of murder victim Lizzi Marriott will remain sealed during her convicted killer's appeal. Marriott's family is applauding the ruling, and victims' rights organizations call the ruling groundbreaking protection for sexual assault victims.

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Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in the content of this email and in linked articles do not necessarily reflect the positions or policies of the NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence.

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