

December 2016

Message from Commissioner Cecile Noel



January is Stalking Awareness Month. For many people, the idea of stalking evokes stories of celebrities being hounded by overzealous fans. But the truth is that 75% of stalking victims know their stalker. It is imperative that we understand that stalking is linked first and foremost to domestic violence. Like all forms of abuse, stalking is a behavior meant to control and scare an individual.

According to the Stalking Resource Center, 7.5 million Americans are stalked every year. 61% of female victims and 44% of male victims of stalking are stalked by a current or former intimate

partner. 76% of women who were murdered by their intimate partner experienced stalking from the perpetrator before they were killed.

In 2014, OCDV, in conjunction with the NYPD and the Richmond County District Attorney's Office, launched the **Coordinated Approach to Preventing Violence (CAPS)** program in Staten Island. CAPS is a homicide prevention model aimed at better identification of intimate partner violence stalking cases, enhanced stalking arrests and prosecutions, and linking victims to comprehensive services.

In 2013 in Staten Island, three out of four of the precincts in the borough recorded no stalking arrests. Within the first year of the program's launch, there was a 233% increase in stalking arrests on Staten Island.

CAPS expanded to Queens in 2015, and within the first month of the launch, two precincts in the borough recorded the City's first felony stalking arrests that year. After the program was expanded to all precincts in Queens, there was a 177% increase in stalking arrests recorded by NYPD compared to the same time period in the prior year.

Programs like CAPS are actively helping us change the reality around stalking in our city. Awareness and early intervention can save lives. To learn more about the CAPS program, please [watch OCDV Deputy Commissioner Elizabeth Dank's webinar](#). To learn more about stalking and National Stalking Awareness Month, please visit the [Stalking Resource Center](#) and [stalkingawarenessmonth.org](#). Each and every one of us can make a difference.

OCDV POLICY & TRAINING INSTITUTE

OCDV's Policy and Training Institute (the Institute) provides trainings to City agencies and community-based organizations on intimate partner violence and related topics. The Institute can assist in the review and development of organization policies and protocols around domestic violence, identify needs for initial staff training, and create work plans for the implementation of ongoing advanced staff trainings. The Institute also includes the NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy (the Academy), which offers educational and skills-building training for adolescents, parents, and organizations that provide services to young people.

[Request a Training](#)



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.



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.

An infographic divided into two columns: "FOR EMPLOYERS" and "FOR EMPLOYEES". Each column contains several sections with bullet points and a "The law requires that you:" section. The infographic is purple and white.

FOR EMPLOYERS
If your employee is a survivor of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING –

You can support your employee by:

- **Listening to and believing the employee** who is experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. You can tell them that it is not their fault and that you are worried about their safety.
- **Asking your employee** about their safety concerns and what can be done in the workplace to make everyone safer.
- **Educating yourself and your employees** about domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and on how to seek help at www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence.
- **Creating a workplace policy to support survivors** and ensure safety and productivity in your business. View a model policy at www.workplacesrespond.org/learn/model-policy.
- **Cooperating in securing unemployment insurance** for your employee if they left work because of the violence.
- **Calling the NYC Commission on Human Rights** for information on workplace protection laws at 311 or 718-722-3131, or visit www.nyc.gov/humanrights.

The law requires that you:

- Permit your employee **time off to speak to a District Attorney or seek an Order of Protection**.
- Make **"reasonable accommodations"** when requested (if you employ four or more people) as long as they are not an "undue burden" to your business.
- **Do not discriminate** against a survivor in hiring, promotion, or other considerations in the workplace due to their status as a survivor.
- **Keep confidential** any information about the employee's situation, requests for time off, or accommodations.

FOR EMPLOYEES
If you are a survivor of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING –

You have the right to:

- **Take time off to speak with a District Attorney or seek an Order of Protection.**
- **Ask your employer for "reasonable accommodations,"** like changing your worksite, schedule, or phone number.
- **File for unemployment insurance** if you lost or left your job because of the violence – even if you quit, were fired, or relocated due to the violence.
- Have any personal information shared with your employer remain **confidential**.

You cannot be fired or penalized because:

- You are a victim or survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- Your abusive partner harasses or makes threats to you or others at your workplace.

You may have to:

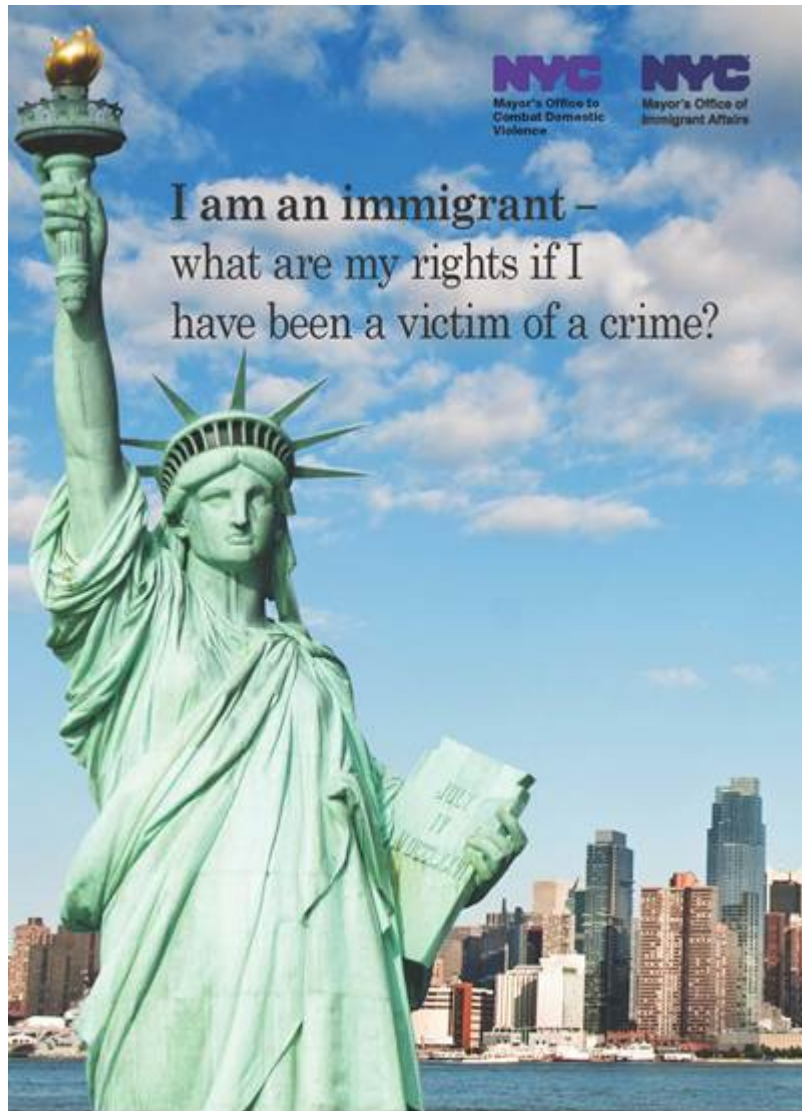
- Tell your employer about the abuse in order to get reasonable accommodations, and your employer may ask for proof – like a letter from a service provider, police report, District Attorney's Office, or court staff.

For more information or to ask for help:

- Call the **NYC 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline** at 311 or (800) 621-4673.
- Visit www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence.
- Call the NYC Commission on Human Rights to report an employer violation at 311 or 718-722-3131 or visit www.nyc.gov/humanrights.

OCDV and NYC Small Business Services want you to know that New York State and New York City Laws extend protections to survivors, or those perceived to be survivors, of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. In October, OCDV partnered with NYC Small Business Services to produce a brochure for employers and employees to outline those protections and how survivors can access

services. The brochure was also distributed at an exciting panel discussion hosted by the Brooklyn Family Justice Center at St. Francis College.



Resources for Immigrant Crime Victims

>>> You can report the crime

If you have been the victim or witness of a crime, or are not sure, contact the New York City Police Department. Police officers are prohibited from asking about the immigration status of crime victims and witnesses.

For emergencies call 911. For non-emergencies call your local precinct.

>>> You can get help.

Many New York City government agencies provide free services including emergency shelter, counseling, health care, child care and other family services. Call 311 to learn more about these services.

If you have been a victim of domestic violence, you can get free help at a New York City Family Justice Center, including criminal justice, civil legal, and social services all in one location. Call 311 to be connected to a Family Justice Center near you.

>>> You can learn about your immigration options.

Some immigrant victims of crimes may be able to get immigration visas called U and/or T visas. These visas protect victims of certain serious crimes who help law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of those crimes.

U visas provide immigration benefits to crime victims who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse as a result of the crime. T visas provide immigration benefits to victims of trafficking. U and T visas provide:

- Temporary immigration status
- Access to a work permit
- Opportunity to apply for permanent residence (known as a green card) for visa holders and their family members
- Access to cash assistance, Medicaid, a Social Security number, a driver license, and various other public benefits

In order to apply for a U or T visa, you must get a certification form from a law enforcement agency confirming that you meet certain requirements for the visa. Visit nyc.gov/immigrants to learn more about the U and T visa certification form and how to request it from a law enforcement agency.

Get free, safe immigration help to find out if you are eligible for a U or T visa or any other immigration benefits. Call 311 and say "ActionNYC" to make an appointment with a trusted immigration service provider in your community.

OCDV and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs want NYC's immigrant population to know their rights when they are victims of crime. In October, OCDV partnered with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) to produce a one-pager to succinctly outline resources survivors can access, also discussed in a [Huffington Post op-ed](#) by OCDV Commissioner Noel and MOIA Commissioner Agarwal.

Upcoming OCDV Events & Trainings

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

BRONX:

Stabilizing Trafficking Victims with the Help of Immigration Benefits

Facilitated by Tenaz H. Dubash, M.S., Victim Assistance Specialist, Homeland Security Investigations

Tuesday, January 17th, 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Bronx

198 East 161st Street, 2nd Floor

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

MANHATTAN:

Intimate Partner Violence Dialogue

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Tuesday, January 17th, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Center Street, 5th Floor

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

Risk Assessment & Safety Planning

Facilitated by Safe Horizon

Wednesday, January 18th, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Center Street, 5th Floor

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

Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence

Facilitated by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office & the NYPD

Thursday, January 19th, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Center Street, 5th Floor

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

Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Facilitated by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

Friday, January 20th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Center Street, 5th Floor

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

Elder Abuse

Facilitated by the Weinberg Center

Monday, January 23rd, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Center Street, 5th Floor

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

Economic Empowerment

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Tuesday, January 24th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Center Street, 5th Floor

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

Immigrant Eligibility for Public Benefits

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Tuesday, January 24th, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Center Street, 5th Floor

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

Cultural Conversations

Facilitated by NYC Anti-Violence Project & Sauti Yetu Center for African Women and Families

Wednesday, January 25th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Center Street, 5th Floor

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

Family & Matrimonial Law

Facilitated by Sanctuary for Families

Wednesday, January 25th, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Center Street, 5th Floor

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

Immigration Law

Facilitated by NY Legal Assistance Group & Sanctuary for Families

Thursday, January 26th, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Center Street, 5th Floor

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

Housing & Shelter

Facilitated by New Destiny Housing

Tuesday, January 31st, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Center Street, 5th Floor

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

Engaging Trauma Survivors

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Wednesday, February 1st, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Center Street, 5th Floor

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

QUEENS:

Stabilizing Victims of Human Trafficking with the Help of Immigration Benefits

Facilitated by Tenaz H. Dubash, M.S., Victim Assistance Specialist, Homeland Security Investigations

Wednesday, January 18th, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens
126-02 82nd Avenue

To register, please email Marissa Beckett at marissab@fjcnyc.org.

STATEN ISLAND:

Human Trafficking Immigration Relief

Facilitated by Tenaz H. Dubash, M.S., Victim Assistance Specialist, Homeland Security Investigations

Thursday, January 19th, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

126-02 82nd Avenue

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

Below is the monthly schedule for upcoming FJC Core trainings. A full listing of the month's trainings will be provided in the corresponding monthly e-bulletin.

February – Brooklyn FJC

March – Bronx FJC

April – Queens FJC

May – Staten Island FJC

June – Manhattan FJC

Top News Stories from December

1 in 25 Americans Has Faced or Been Threatened with Revenge Porn

One in 25 Americans has been threatened with or faced a vicious form of digital harassment in which explicit images are shared online without the subject's consent, according to a report released by think tank Data & Society and the Center for Innovative Public Health Research. This kind of non-consensual image sharing, commonly known as “revenge porn,” has made headlines in recent years. But there had been little data on how widespread this type of harassment is until this new report, which was based on a telephone survey of more than 3,000 U.S. Internet users age 15 or older.

[Read More](#)

LGBTQ+ Community Face Higher Risk of Revenge Porn

According to a new study, LGBTQ+ individuals are eight times more likely to be victims of nonconsensual pornography than straight-identifying people. The research found that one in 25 Americans has been targeted by the phenomena, but the statistics get much higher when researchers control for sexuality, showing that 17% of LGBTQ+ individuals have been targeted against just 2% of the straight population.

> [Read More](#)

Black Women Are Far More Likely to Be Fatally Shot by a Man Than White Women

When a woman is murdered in the United States, an intimate partner — a former or current dating partner or spouse — is often to blame. Black women are especially vulnerable. One government report found that African-American women were four times more likely than white women to be murdered by a boyfriend or girlfriend. Researchers say the phenomenon can be largely explained by the position black women occupy on the socioeconomic scale. Intimate partner homicides of both whites and blacks of either sex declined from 1976 to 2005, but black women are still dying at a disproportionate rate.

> [Read More](#)

Sex Crime Rates Are Up on NYC Subways

Sex crimes on the city's subways jumped 28 percent so far this year compared to the same period in 2015. There have been 913 sex crimes on trains and platforms to date in 2016, compared to 713 last year, NYPD Transit Division Assistant Chief Vincent Coogan said at an MTA meeting. NYPD reported that the increase was likely largely due to increased reporting.

> [Read More](#)

A New Front Against Domestic Abuse: The Hairstylist's Chair

A new Illinois state rule recognizes that the unique relationship between hairdressers and their customers may help curb domestic abuse and sexual assault. The amendment to a law that governs the cosmetology industry will require salon workers to take one hour of training every two years to recognize the signs of abuse and assault and will provide them with a list of resources to which they can refer clients for help. Without the training, cosmetologists in Illinois will not be able to renew their licenses. The professionals covered by the rule — believed to be the first in the nation — include hairstylists, nail technicians and aestheticians.

> [Read More](#)

New Bill Seeks to Add Campus Rape Charges to College Transcripts

The Safe Transfer Act would require information about sexual assault charges to stay on a student's transcript for five years after their disciplinary case settles. Colleges would also be required to disclose case results to officials at any other postsecondary institution that the accused student tried to attend. If a student was cleared, the case would be not added to their transcript.

> [Read More](#)

One Third of Homeless Young Adults ID'd as Sex Trafficking Victims by McCain Institute Study

The study, called the Youth Experience Study, or YES, surveyed homeless young adults ages 18 to 25 living in transitional house, on the streets, in a shelter, staying on a friend's couch, or living in a hotel. Out of more than 200 people surveyed, 66 (33.2 percent) said they had at some point been sex trafficked, forced or coerced into sexual acts for money, food, clothing, drugs, protection, or a place to stay.

> [Read More](#)

Making a 'Great Escape' from an Abusive Relationship

I'm a survivor of intimate partner violence and abuse, known as domestic violence and abuse within the LGBTQ community. Research suggests that a greater percentage of LGBTQ individuals are living in fear of an abusive partner than previously thought. Each year, between 50,000 and 100,000 lesbians (or more) and as many as 500,000 (or more) gay and bi men are battered — and about one in four LGBTQ relationships/partnerships are abusive in some way.

> [Read More](#)

FBI Uses Animal Abuse Data to Study Correlation to Crimes against Humans

Animal abuse is not just a crime of violence against dogs, cats and other domestic animals; it's also believed to be a key precursor activity to crimes of violence against humans — so much so that the FBI has begun collecting animal cruelty crime data for use in investigating such crimes as child abuse, sexual assault and homicide. In January, the FBI started including animal cruelty crime data in its National Incident-Based Reporting System, or NIBRS, which also tracks hate crimes and violent crimes like arson, rape and murder. Demographic information including age, gender and previous arrests entered into NIBRS by officers arresting animal cruelty offenders will help FBI analysts determine just how strong the link is between animal cruelty and crimes of violence against people.

> [Read More](#)

I Studied 18 Years-Worth of Domestic Violence Articles. Here's What Journalists Can Do Better

After studying news stories published over 18 years in Michigan about intimate partner homicide, Emily Meyer reached two conclusions. The first: The collateral damage was greater than she expected. At least 111 friends, children, relatives, and new romantic partners were slain over that period. The second conclusion: Most of the stories she read included language that unintentionally blames the victim — almost always a woman — and underplays the man's role.

> [Read More](#)

Why Does a Woman Stay with a Violent Man? Sometimes, to Save Her Life

The UK Femicide Census reveals that 936 women were killed by men from 2009-15, a those who had recently left an abusive part were most at risk. It's often asked of wome with violent partners, "why doesn't she just leave?" For many women it's because they know they're safer with him than if they lea him. He may have told her that he will kill h she goes — and she knows it's true. For som women staying with a violent man is a survi strategy. Having this detailed information highlights how important it is to have supp including refuge accommodation for wome escape to.

> [Read More](#)

How a Farmhouse Became a Safe Haven for Abused Refugee Women and Their Children

When asylum seekers flee domestic violence, they are often left stranded without access to support services—but an old farm outside London is providing a much-needed refuge. Ten years ago, the farmer who owned the life lease for the 40 acre estate allowed the Catholic Worker Farm to rent just over two acres of the land. The Farm now houses 21 women and has recently expanded to include mothers and their children. As an independent project with no government support, the old farmhouse runs entirely off private donations and the goodwill of those who volunteer there.

> [Read More](#)

When Your Rapist 'Friends' You on Facebook

Twitter is filled with hundreds of tweets from people with similar stories — about everyth from a sexual abuser "liking" their Instagram photos to Facebook suggesting their abuser "a person you might know." Blog posts and personal essays abound on the topic, with headlines like, "My Rapist Just Sent Me a Fr Request" and "My Rapist Friendened My Dad Facebook." It isn't the first time this phenomenon has shown up on Reddit, eith For some survivors of sexual assault, social media has made it harder than ever to forg about their abusers.

> [Read More](#)

Lorena Bobbitt Is Done Being Your Punchline

In an alternate version of history, the sad and horrible story of Lorena and John Wayne Bobbitt would have served as the perfect opportunity to start the dialogue. That year, an estimated 2,160 women were killed by their intimate partners, according to data collected by James Alan Fox, a criminology professor at Northeastern University. There was a desperate need to improve services for victims, to raise funds and, crucially, to change the culture that enabled abusers to beat their families in private with impunity. Instead, the story descended into a joke, with Lorena Bobbitt as the punchline.

> [Read More](#)

François Hollande Pardons French Woman Who Killed Abusive Husband

In an unexpected move, President François Hollande of France granted a full pardon to a woman who had been sentenced to prison for murdering her husband after decades of domestic abuse. The woman, Jacqueline Sauvage, was found guilty by a criminal court in 2014 of shooting her husband, Norbert Maillan, three times in the back with a hunting rifle in 2012. She was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Ms. Sauvage had spent more than four years in prison, and became a symbol of domestic violence in France. Violence against women occurs at a higher level in France than in Europe overall, according to a 2014 report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

> [Read More](#)

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.

[Sign up](#) to receive the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence monthly e-Bulletins.

If you no longer wish to receive these emails from the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, please email Michael Sidman at msidman@cityhall.nyc.org.

[Privacy Policy](#)

