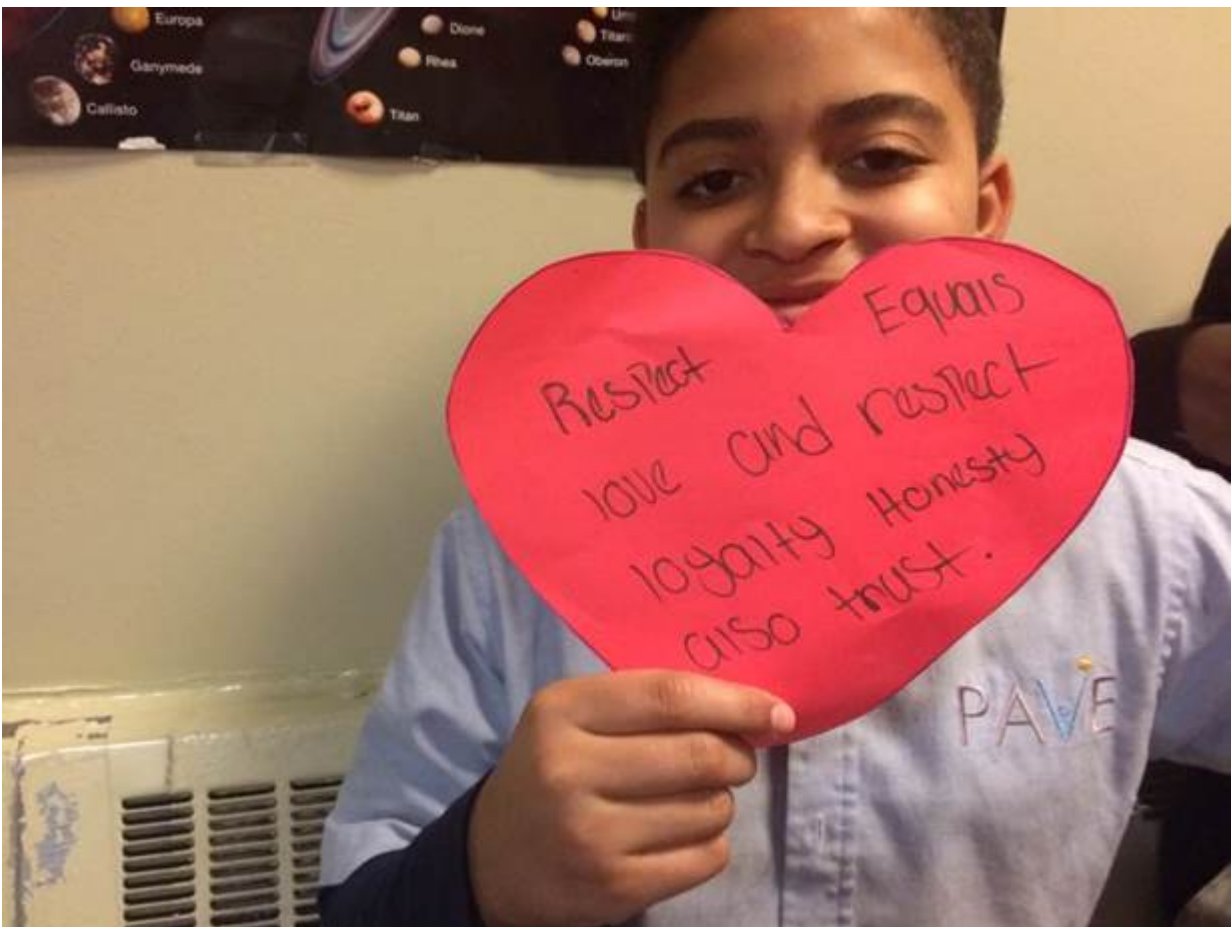


January 2016

## Message from the NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy



(A Middle Schooler at NYCHA's Miccio Community Center in Redhook, Brooklyn, holds up a healthy relationship Valentine's Day card that he made after a two-day workshop with OCDV's NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy. Youth use what they learn in order to raise awareness about healthy relationships in their community.)

"That's just how relationships are." This is a phrase that the Peer Educators of the NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy hear all too often. Someone who controls what you wear, someone who demands you stop talking to close friends, someone who texts you constantly to track where you are and who you're with, or someone who publicly shares your explicit pictures on social media to

retaliate after a fight or break-up – these are all scenarios that many adolescents in New York City believe to be normal behaviors and patterns of intimate relationships.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and it's an important opportunity to talk to teenagers and young adults about how to understand and recognize unhealthy relationship behaviors. In NYC, 1 in 10 high school students in a dating relationship report that, in the past year, they have been intentionally hit, pushed, or injured with an object and/or weapon by their dating partner. Similarly, more than 1 in 10 NYC high school students in a dating relationship report being forced to participate in nonconsensual sexual activities by their dating partner in the past year. These statistics highlight why commemorative months such as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month are important opportunities for parents, service providers and community members to speak with young people about healthy relationships.

For the NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy, February is a time to not only promote but to celebrate the work it does with NYC adolescents all year round. In 2016, the Academy facilitated 737 workshops and trainings on teen dating violence and healthy relationships to 11,500 youth between the ages of 11 and 24, parents, and organizational staff. This February, the Academy will facilitate another 70 workshops and trainings, collaborating with the Department of Education during Respect for All Week at various middle and high schools, and support healthy relationship conversations through visual arts projects.

You can help a young person in your life or community by:

- 1) Talking to them about healthy relationships and reminding them that all healthy relationships are rooted in trust, respect and equality;
- 2) Connecting young people in need of direct services to NYC's 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-621-HOPE or the Family Justice Center in their borough; and
- 3) Being a supportive and non-judgmental resource that young people can talk to and rely on for support.

All month long, the NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy will be posting information, resources, and ways to help raise awareness about Teen Dating Violence on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts. Together we can all make a difference for an entire generation.

- Lizzie Falcone, Director, NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy

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**NYSCADV**  
**NEW YORK STATE COALITION**  
**AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month 2017

#controlisntlove is a social media advertising campaign to educate young adults about the signs of teen dating abuse and where to get help.

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February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Send a virtual valentine and a strong message about dating violence and the importance of healthy relationships. Use social media to share photos of you, your friends and adults in your life holding paper versions of candy conversation hearts with this sentence completed: "I'm changing the message by..."

[Learn More](#)

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## 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 identify needs for initial staff training, create work plans for the implementation of ongoing advanced staff trainings, and assist in the review and development of organization policies and protocols around domestic violence. 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](#)

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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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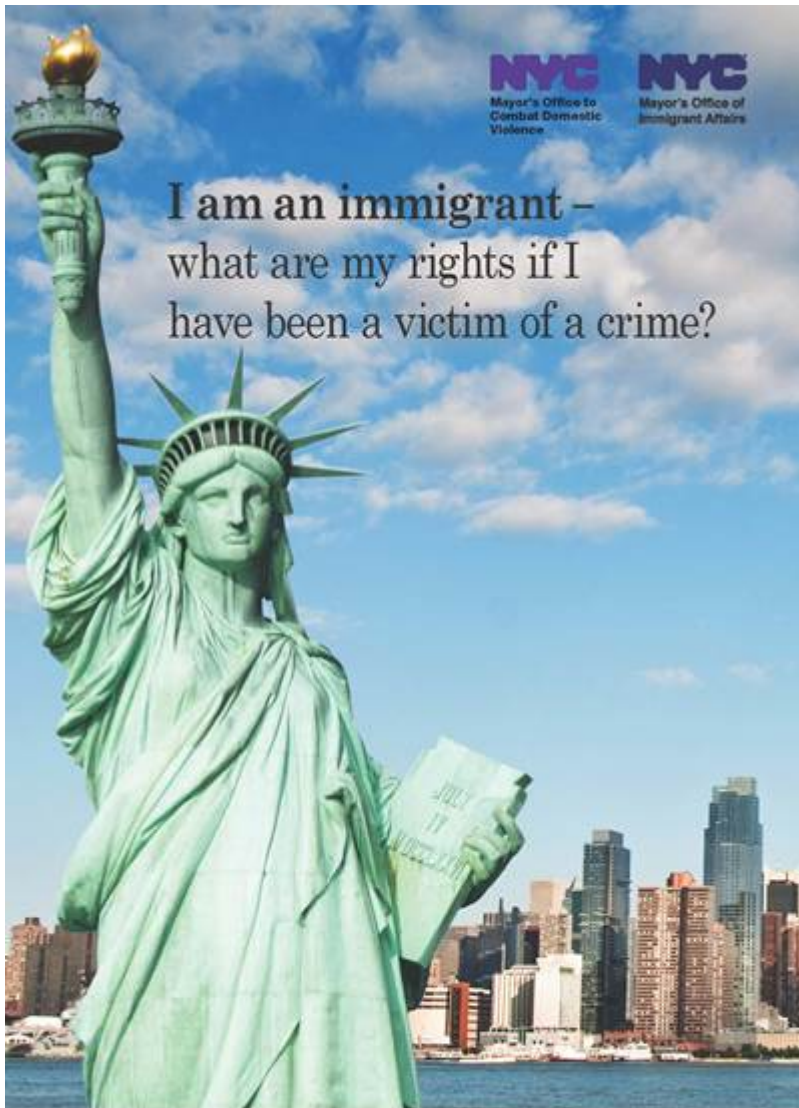


OCDV has updated the [New York City Resource Directory of Domestic Violence Services](#), which provides information regarding assistance available for survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking and elder abuse. Your input and participation are important to ensure that the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

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR EMPLOYERS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">If your employee is a survivor of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING –</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>You can support your employee by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Listening to and believing the employee</b> who is experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. You can <b>tell them that it is not their fault</b> and that you are worried about their safety.</li> <li>• <b>Asking your employee</b> about their safety concerns and what can be done in the workplace to make everyone safer.</li> <li>• <b>Educating yourself</b> and your employees about domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and on how to seek help at <a href="http://www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence">www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Creating a workplace policy to support survivors</b> and ensure safety and productivity in your business. View a model policy at <a href="http://www.workplacesrespond.org/learn/model-policy">www.workplacesrespond.org/learn/model-policy</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Cooperating in securing unemployment insurance</b> for your employee if they left work because of the violence.</li> <li>• <b>Calling the NYC Commission on Human Rights</b> for information on workplace protection laws at <b>311</b> or <b>718-722-3131</b>, or visit <a href="http://www.nyc.gov/humanrights">www.nyc.gov/humanrights</a>.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The law requires that you:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permit your employee <b>time off to speak to a District Attorney or seek an Order of Protection</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Make "reasonable accommodations"</b> when requested (if you employ four or more people) as long as they are not an "undue burden" to your business.</li> <li>• <b>Do not discriminate</b> against a survivor in hiring, promotion, or other considerations in the workplace due to their status as a survivor.</li> <li>• <b>Keep confidential</b> any information about the employee's situation, requests for time off, or accommodations.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR EMPLOYEES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you are a survivor of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING –</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>You have the right to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Take time off to speak with a District Attorney or seek an Order of Protection.</b></li> <li>• <b>Ask your employer for "reasonable accommodations,"</b> like changing your worksite, schedule, or phone number.</li> <li>• <b>File for unemployment insurance</b> if you lost or left your job because of the violence – even if you quit, were fired, or relocated due to the violence.</li> <li>• Have any personal <b>information shared</b> with your employer remain <b>confidential</b>.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>You cannot be fired or penalized because:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are a victim or survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.</li> <li>• Your abusive partner harasses or makes threats to you or others at your workplace.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>You may have to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>For more information or to ask for help:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call the <b>NYC 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline</b> at <b>311</b> or <b>(800) 621-4673</b>.</li> <li>• Visit <a href="http://www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence">www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence</a>.</li> <li>• Call the NYC Commission on Human Rights to report an employer violation at <b>311</b> or <b>718-722-3131</b> or visit <a href="http://www.nyc.gov/humanrights">www.nyc.gov/humanrights</a>.</li> </ul>
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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**

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**>>> 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](http://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.

We know immigrant survivors of domestic violence are particularly vulnerable, particularly when it comes to disclosing the abuse they have suffered to the authorities. OCDV has worked with Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs to increase access to U and T visas, and together recently released a fact sheet outlining resources for immigrants who are crime victims (also discussed in a [Huffington Post op-ed](#) by OCDV Commissioner Noel and MOIA Commissioner Agarwal). These federal immigration visas protect immigrant victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and other serious crimes, who are helpful to a law enforcement investigation or prosecution. Each visa has several eligibility requirements and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, a branch of the Department of Homeland Security, is the only agency with the authority to provide either immigration status. We do not know at this point how the new Trump administration's executive order will affect these programs, but will be monitoring them closely. City-funded immigration

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attorneys are available at each of our FJCs and ready to provide consultation and representation around domestic violence related immigration remedies.

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## Upcoming OCDV Events & Trainings

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

### **BROOKLYN:**

#### **Intimate Partner Violence Dialogues**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn

350 Jay Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

#### **Engaging Trauma Survivors**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn

350 Jay Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

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

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff & Kings County District Attorney Victims Services Unit*

Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn

350 Jay Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

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

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff & Kings County District Attorney Victims Services Unit*

Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn

350 Jay Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

#### **Introduction to Immigration Law**

*Facilitated by Sanctuary for Families*

Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn

350 Jay Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

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

*Facilitated by Sanctuary for Families*

Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn  
350 Jay Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
To register, please [click here](#).

### **Shelter Options for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn  
350 Jay Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

### **Housing Options for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn  
350 Jay Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

### **Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation**

*Facilitated by Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty*

Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn  
350 Jay Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

### **Elder Abuse**

*Facilitated by Jewish Association Serving the Aging (JASA)*

Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn  
350 Jay Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

### **Economic Empowerment**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn  
350 Jay Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

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

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn  
350 Jay Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

### **Cultural Conversations**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff & NYC Anti-Violence Project*

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Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
NYC Family Justice Center, Brooklyn  
350 Jay Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
To register, please [click here](#).

**MANHATTAN:**

**How to Prepare Clients Financially for Separation, Divorce & Beyond**  
Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan  
80 Centre Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
To register, please email Stefany Rojas at [stefanyr@fjcnyc.org](mailto:stefanyr@fjcnyc.org).

**QUEENS:**

**Domestic Violence & Devices: Tech Safety**  
*Facilitated by NYPD*  
Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
NYC Family Justice Center, Queens  
126-02 82<sup>nd</sup> 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.***

**March** – Bronx FJC  
**April** – Queens FJC  
**May** – Staten Island FJC  
**June** – Manhattan FJC

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## Top News Stories from January

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### Can Understanding Neurobiology Provide a Better Approach to Working with Abuse Survivors?

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, in the United States alone, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by their partner. This comes out to more than ten million people each year. One in three women and one in four men have been victims of physical abuse by an intimate partner at some point in their lives. Given the frequency of incidents, then, how can health-care professionals, advocates, and attorneys best work with domestic violence survivors? At “Arresting Survival,” an OCDV-led conference, some said that understanding neurobiology—how the nervous system processes and mediates behavior—can help them do so by connecting the dots between trauma, mental health, and domestic violence.

[Read More](#)

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## **New York’s Indo-Caribbean Community Honors its Victims of Domestic Violence**

Around 50 people gathered to honor the many other women in the Indo-Caribbean community who have died in New York in recent years as a result of domestic violence. The vigil was held at Naresa Palace, a bar and music venue just north of John F. Kennedy Airport, and was organized by the Jahajee Sisters, a New York-based group led by Indo-Caribbean women that campaigns against gender-based violence and advocates for reproductive justice and LGBT rights.

> [Read More](#)

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## **“New York Has the Power to Stop Revenge Porn”**

Attorney Carrie Goldberg argues that the passage of a properly drafted revenge porn bill will illustrate that we prioritize sexual privacy. A strong bill must not discriminate based on the offender’s motives. Offenders are motivated to send naked images of another person by all sorts of reasons — to injure or humiliate; out of boredom; to show off sexual conquests; for sexual gratification, money, competition, the joy of hacking; because the perpetrator thinks the victim is hot (or not), or for no reason at all. The injury to the victim is massive.

> [Read More](#)

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## **Revenge Porn Victim to Google: Make Me Disappear**

A college student is asking a Manhattan court to take an unprecedented measure: Order Google, Yahoo and Bing to permanently delete her full name from their internet search engines over revenge porn posted by an ex-boyfriend.

> [Read More](#)

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## **New York to Debate Statute of Limitations on Sex Crimes**

Lawmakers in New York will tackle a proposal “this year to lift the statute of limitations on sex crimes.” If it passes, it will give survivors of sexual assault more time seek justice by filing lawsuits or seeking criminal charges against their abusers. The bill would also “create a “one-year window for past victims to file civil suits even if the statute of limitations has already run out.” As it stands right now, survivors of child sex abuse have until they’re 23-years-old to bring charges against their abusers. However, many supporters of the bill agree that setting such a short time frame for reporting such crimes is unfair, considering the fact that it can take years before a survivor feels comfortable or safe enough to step forward and report a crime.

> [Read More](#)

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## **Trump Administration Prepares to Cut Funding for Domestic Violence Grants**

The Heritage blueprint used as a basis for Trump's proposed cuts calls for eliminating several programs that conservatives label corporate welfare programs: the Minority Business Development Agency, the Economic Development Administration, the International Trade Administration and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. The total savings from cutting these four programs would amount to nearly \$900 million in 2017. At the Department of Justice, the blueprint calls for eliminating the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, [Violence Against Women Grants](#) and the Legal Services Corporation and for reducing funding for its Civil Rights and its Environment and Natural Resources divisions.

> [Read More](#)

## **Ft. Lauderdale Airport Gunman Another Example of a Mass Murderer with a History of Domestic Violence**

The Iraq War veteran's mother told reporters that he was suffering ever since he saw a bomb explode next to his friends. In November, he walked into an FBI office in Anchorage and said the CIA was controlling his mind and forcing him to watch Islamic State videos. He was also accused of attacking his girlfriend in a domestic violence case last year. In January of 2016, according to charging documents obtained by the Associated Press, his girlfriend told police that Santiago assaulted her while she was in the bathroom. She stated that he broke the door, strangled her and hit her on the side of the head. He was charged with fourth-degree assault and damage of property over \$50, both misdemeanor crimes. A month later, police spotted him at his girlfriend's home, in violation of the no-contact order that was a condition of his release. Santiago's alleged history of domestic violence adds him to the long list of mass shooters who abuse their families before going on to attack the public.

> [Read More](#)

## **The Deadliest Shootings in 2016 You Didn't Hear About**

According to data collected by Everytown for Gun Safety, of the 16 mass shooting incidents last year, seven — 43 percent — involved a male shooter targeting a family member or intimate partner. In those shootings, women and children made up 81 percent of the victims. Sarah Tofte, research director for Everytown for Gun Safety, said those findings align with previous research on the connection between mass shootings and

## **Gillibrand: Homeless Domestic Violence Survivors Shouldn't Be Invisible**

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand announced a new push calling on President Donald Trump's incoming administration to direct officials at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to permanently include homeless victims of domestic violence in its annual count of the homeless population. Currently, HUD does not require the count of these victims as part of the homeless

domestic violence.

> [Read More](#)

population, resulting in underfunded programs and resources to help this vulnerable population get back on their feet.

> [Read More](#)

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## Anger at Russian Move to Decriminalize Some Forms of Domestic Violence

Russia has passed a bill to decriminalize some forms of domestic violence, sparking anger among women's rights advocates. The legislation would define first assaults which cause less serious injuries as administrative - rather than criminal - offences. MP Yelena Mizulina, who supports the bill, says people should not be jailed and labelled a criminal "for a slap". Penalties for offences should not "contradict the system of social values that society holds on to", the Moscow Times quoted her as saying.

> [Read More](#)

## Men and Women Are Equally Vulnerable to Domestic Abuse Online

The Data and Society Research Institute asked 3,000 Americans over the phone about what they have experienced abusive behaviors by current or past romantic partners. The study defined these online abusive behaviors as, "physical threats, monitoring of the victim's online activities, stalking the victim, or threatening to post nude or nearly nude photos of the victim online." Overall, 12% of the participants admitted to being victims of digital domestic abuse. This holds true for both male and female participants.

> [Read More](#)

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## Why It Matters that an Imprisoned Domestic Violence Survivor Was Granted Clemency

Valerie Seeley told her boyfriend that she had had enough. After three years of enduring his verbal, emotional, and physical abuse, she told him that she was leaving. Her declaration unleashed an explosion of violence. First, he tried to strangle her with the telephone cord. Then he threw her against a door and began choking her. Terrified, she grabbed at and thrust the nearest object at him. That object turned out to be a knife. Seeley called 911 and attempted to stop the bleeding. Her boyfriend was taken to the hospital, where he died. Seeley

## The Forgotten Victims of Domestic Abuse Are the Children Like Me Who Survived It

The epidemic of domestic violence continues to affect households across the country—affecting women and men of all races, socioeconomic levels and sexual orientations. And for every woman who has been a victim of domestic abuse, there is a largely forgotten group: the children like me who live with their own leg of pain, shame, and isolation. They are a generation wounded by the violence they witness between adults whose behavior confuses and frightens them. For the children involved in these situations, however,

was arrested, charged with second-degree murder, and ultimately sentenced to 19 years to life. On Friday, December 30th, Cuomo announced that he had granted clemency to 113 New Yorkers—including to Valerie Seeley.

> [Read More](#)

awareness is lacking. And yet, there are many lasting effects on children who witness domestic abuse.

> [Read More](#)

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## **Food Control: The Symptom of Abuse Nobody Talks About**

Domestic violence is a very big umbrella that covers a variety of abuse (physical abuse, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, etc). According to the NDVH, "abuse is a repetitive pattern of behaviors to maintain power and control over an intimate partner." Some red flags include jealousy of your friends and family, isolating you from them, controlling your finances, as well as making demeaning comments, shaming you, or pressuring you into sex. Food control is not necessarily a warning sign of abuse, but it could be a symptom.

> [Read More](#)

## **Florida Woman Not Allowed to Cl “Stand Your Ground” Against Abusive Husband Is Freed**

Marissa Alexander, the Jacksonville, Florida woman jailed in 2012 over a warning shot s fired to defend herself from an attack by he abusive husband, was freed from house arr According to the anti-violence initiative Sur and Punished, Alexander, a mother of three completed two years of court-ordered hom confinement, after she served nearly three years in state prison on weapons and assau charges. In 2014, following an appeal of her conviction in a jury trial, Alexander accepte plea deal to avoid a potential 60 years behi bars.

> [Read More](#)

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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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