

March 2017

Message from the NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy



(OCDV Commissioner Cecile Noel speaks at the 2016 Denim Day rally on the steps of City Hall. Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and Council Member Laurie A. Cumbo stand to her right.)

Just nineteen years ago, the Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction using what was termed a “denim defense.” The Court’s opinion stated that because it is difficult to remove another’s jeans, the victim must have assisted her assailant in removing her own jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament wore jeans in a display of solidarity with the victim. With that, Denim Day was born.

**Denim Day** is observed each April during Sexual Assault Awareness Month to raise awareness about sexual assault and to show solidarity with survivors. The Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence is proud to be a long-standing coalition member of Denim Day NYC, alongside Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, City Council Member Laurie Cumbo and various other community-based organizations and city agencies committed to this important work. This year Denim Day will take place on **Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**, across the five boroughs.

The Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence is committed to highlighting and addressing the intersection between intimate partner violence and sexual assault. An important statistic that has gained increasing attention is that 70% of rapes are committed by someone the victim knows.<sup>1</sup> What is less widely known, however, is that of those cases 25% are committed by a current or former spouse or dating partner. It is important that programs and advocates around New York City continue raising awareness about sexual assault in all contexts. This year, OCDV’s Healthy Relationship Training Academy is piloting a new curriculum entitled “Navigating Consent and Healthy Relationships” to help young people ages 14-24 understand the dynamics of consent and learn to recognize situations and circumstances where consent can or cannot be given.

We hope you will join us on Denim Day to raise awareness about sexual assault and show solidarity with survivors. **On Wednesday, April 26th the Denim Day NYC coalition will be holding a rally at 11am at Foley Square.** The rally will feature a line-up of speakers and performers, from survivors to local government officials to nonprofit advocates to art performances.

For more information please visit [www.denimday.nyc](http://www.denimday.nyc) or email [info@denimdayny.org](mailto:info@denimdayny.org).

- Elizabeth Falcone, Director

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<sup>[1]</sup> Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2010-2014 (2015).

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# News Coverage of Intimate Partner Homicides in New York City (2013-16)

*A Systematic Review*

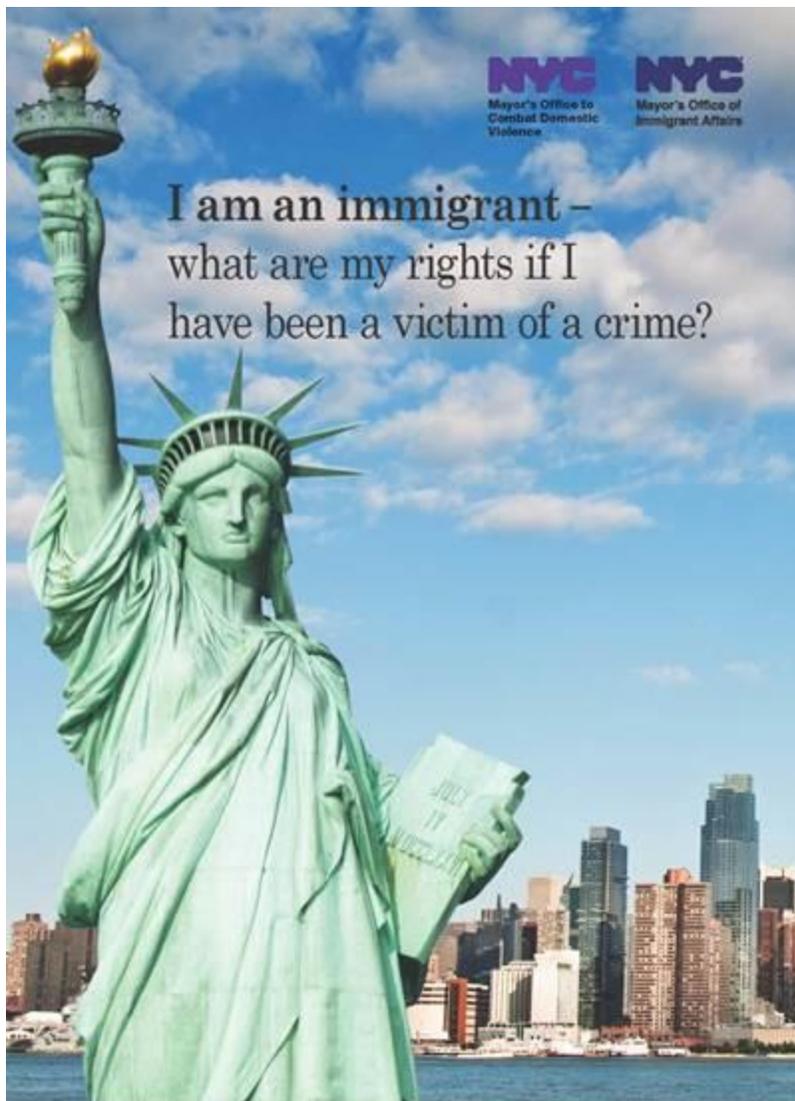


The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence Research team conducted a systematic review of news coverage of New York City intimate partner homicides from 2013-16 to improve understanding of the quality of media coverage of IPV. The study provides an evidence-based foundation upon which to develop best practices and educational strategies for IPV media coverage. The results showed that news coverage of intimate partner homicide in NYC has become more comprehensive in the past year, but there are important aspects of coverage quality that necessitate improvement given the critical role the media play in shaping public conversation around intimate partner violence.

[Download the full report for more details.](#)

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**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, especially 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. (See the [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 current federal

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administration's executive order will affect these programs, but will be monitoring them closely. City-funded immigration 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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## 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 Is Hiring Peer Educators!

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence is hiring Peer Educators to join the NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy. We are in search of candidates who:

- Have some experience working in relationship abuse prevention.
- Enjoy working with young people and can easily relate to youth audiences.
- Are comfortable with public speaking and facilitating group discussions.
- Thrive in team settings.

Please encourage your friends and networks to apply! The hiring process is ongoing until all positions are filled. To apply please visit [nyc.gov/jobs](https://nyc.gov/jobs), search "Peer Educator" or use Job ID 247406.

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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.

A two-column brochure with a purple and white color scheme. The left column is titled "FOR EMPLOYERS" and the right column is titled "FOR EMPLOYEES". Both columns have a sub-header: "If your employee is a survivor of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING –". The left column lists ways to support an employee and legal requirements for employers. The right column lists rights for employees, reasons they cannot be fired or penalized, and how they may have to report the abuse. Both columns provide contact information for the NYC 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline and the NYC Commission on Human Rights.

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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. The above brochure for employers and employees outlines those protections and how survivors can access services.

## Upcoming OCDV Events & Trainings

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

**BRONX:****Strangulation & Lethality in Intimate Partner Violence**

*Facilitated by OCDV & Columbia University Medical Center*

Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Bronx

198 East 161<sup>st</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

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

**QUEENS:****Engaging Trauma Survivors**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Thursday, April 6<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](#).

**Risk Assessment & Safety Planning**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Thursday, April 6<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](#).

**Economic Empowerment for Intimate Partner Violence Survivors**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Monday, April 10<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](#).

**Immigrant Eligibility for Public Benefits**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Monday, April 10<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](#).

**Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence**

*Facilitated by Queens District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Bureau & NYPD*

Thursday, April 13<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 & Urban Justice Center*

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

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

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

**Cultural Conversations: Tools for Supportive Practice**

*Facilitated by Arab American Family Support Center*

Thursday, April 20<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 Elder Abuse**

*Facilitated by Jewish Association for Serving the Aging & The Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention*

Monday, April 24<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 Sex Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation**

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

Thursday, April 27<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 Immigration Law**

*Facilitated by Queens Legal Services*

Thursday, April 27<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](#).

**STATEN ISLAND:**

**Sexual Assault Resource Fair**

Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wagner College

One Campus Road (Union Atrium), Staten Island, NY 10301

**Know Your Rights (Spanish)**

*Facilitated by Sanctuary for Families – Immigration Intervention Project*

Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island  
126 Stuyvesant Place

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

**Denim Day Sexual Assault Resource Fair**

Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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College of Staten Island  
1800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314

***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.***

**May** – Staten Island FJC

**June** – Manhattan FJC

**July** – Brooklyn FJC

**August** – Queens FJC

**September** – Bronx FJC

**October** – Manhattan FJC

**November** – Staten Island FJC

**December** – Brooklyn FJC

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## Top News Stories from March

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### Funding Cuts Pose Triple Threat to Survivors of Domestic Violence

A confluence of budget cuts proposed by President Trump will be deadly for vulnerable, low-income survivors of domestic violence. Plans to eliminate funding for Legal Services Corporation (LSC), and funding under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) will decimate legal services currently available for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

[Read More](#)

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### The Judge Will See You Now. By Skype.

A victim seeking an order of protection from an abusive partner no longer needs to travel to a courthouse and wait to file paperwork and see a judge. In seven New York counties, including Westchester and Manhattan, litigants can now file their petitions electronically and see a judge via Skype within an hour, with help from specially-trained advocates.

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## **“I Wish I’d Never Called the Police”**

For years, the United States has given a safe path to citizenship for victims of abuse. Under Trump, they may face an impossible choice: silence or deportation. The U visa, which was designed to encourage immigrants to report dangerous criminals to law enforcement, has been a point of relative consensus in the divisive world of immigration policy. To qualify for a visa, a victim needs law enforcement to certify that he or she was “helpful” in the investigation or prosecution of a crime. But advocates no longer know how to square the visa’s message that police can be a force to protect immigrants with Donald Trump’s promise to deport as many of the undocumented as possible—and to enlist local law enforcement as part of that effort.

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## **Fear of Deportation Spurs 4 Women to Drop Domestic Abuse Cases in Denver**

The Trump administration's talk of cracking down on undocumented immigrants has frightened many people living in the country illegally. And it has deterred some domestic abuse victims from appearing in court for fear they'll be spotted by agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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## **NYC Lawyers Urge Undocumented Women to Seek Protection from Abusers**

Attorneys for Her Justice, a law firm offering free legal help to women in New York City specializing in domestic violence cases, say they are seeing an increase in fear among clients that are undocumented. Most afraid if they report the abuse they will be deported. The lawyers want their clients and other women to know that they need to keep living their lives and should call 911 to protect themselves and their children. They point out that women who are being abused have rights, regardless of their immigration status.

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## **LAPD: Latinos Report Fewer Sex Crimes Amid Immigration Fears**

Reports of sexual assaults and domestic violence among Los Angeles' Latino population have plummeted since the beginning of the year, amid fears that immigrants in the country illegally could face deportation if they interact with police or appear in court, the city's police chief said. Since the beginning of 2017, sexual assault reports have dropped 25 percent and domestic violence reports have decreased by 10 percent among Latinos.

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## **New York Court Officers Union Tells Members to Cooperate “100 percent” with ICE**

Court officers across New York have been instructed to provide "100 percent cooperation" with Immigration and Customs Enforcement" as part of a directive sent by the head of the State Court Officers' union. The memo, from New York State Court Officers Association head Dennis Quirk, was in response to requests by legal service providers in New York City who have been pushing the state's Office of Court Administration (OCA) to establish the courthouses as sanctuary spaces. The issue has taken on newfound relevance in recent weeks, after an increase in enforcement by ICE officials, including attending local court proceedings in order to make arrests.

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## **NYC Bill Would Require NYPD to Get Sensitivity Training for Rape Cases**

A city council bill would require all police officers to get sensitivity training when dealing with victims of sexual assault. The bill was drafted by Brooklyn Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo and backed by councilwomen Helen Rosenthal and Vanessa Gibson.

> [Read More](#)

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## **State Senator Parker Proposes Legislation to Protect Victims of Domestic Violence**

State Senator Kevin Parker proposed a legislative package consisting of four bills aimed to help victims of domestic violence. The bills concern ensured leave of absence, a new commission on dating violence, removing violent offenders from the deed of a co-owned property and ensuring guns stay out of the hands of abusers.

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## **Sexual Assault Task Force Headed to 14 Brooklyn Colleges**

The acting Brooklyn District Attorney will begin working with college campuses to raise awareness on sexual assault, better coordinate with faculty and bolster services for survivors of sexual violence. Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez rolled out his Campus Sexual Assault Response Initiative, the first of its kind in New York City. It will work with 14 Brooklyn colleges including CUNY Brooklyn College, CUNY Medgar Evers College, Long Island University, NYU Tandon School of Engineering, Pratt Institute and St. Francis College.

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## **Most Police, Prosecutors Miss New York Rape Kit Deadline**

More than half of New York's police agencies and prosecutors missed a mid-February deadline to report the number of untested sexual assault evidence kits to the state, hamstringing a state report meant to tally the full total. The state Division of Criminal Justice Services issued a report that counted at least 1,622 rape kits across the state that had not yet been sent to a laboratory for testing. The report, which was required by law, captured just a fraction of the total: Only 265 of 586 police and prosecutorial agencies across the state submitted their results on time.

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## **It Is Legal in New York for 14-Year-Olds to Marry. Should It Be?**

For nearly 90 years, an uncelebrated New York State law has largely escaped attention, allowing what would seem to be unfathomable in this day and age, and particularly in this state: child marriages, by the thousands. Marriages involving minors occur in New York far more than most would think: Between 2000 and 2010, nearly 3,900 minors were wed in the state, mostly in marriages arranged by parents whose religious or cultural traditions embrace the practice. State lawmakers and Governor Cuomo are now trying to put an end to so-called child marriages, and have introduced similar bills to end marriage altogether for 14-, 15- and 16-year-olds.

> [Read More](#)

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## **The Abuse Excuse: Dismissing Domestic Violence & Its Effects in the Criminal Court System**

For decades, domestic violence survivors have been criminalized, prosecuted, and imprisoned for acts carried out by their abusive partners. Often, these were actions that they either knew nothing about or were powerless to stop. But at trial, their experiences of abuse are often downplayed or outright dismissed.

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## **Do Gay & Lesbian Victims of Domestic Abuse Get Less Attention from Cops?**

A survey of police officers in 27 states found they take less seriously victims of domestic violence who suffer at the hands of lesbian or gay partners than females abused by heterosexual male partners, according to a recent study by the Journal of Crime and Justice. The study surveyed 273 police officers who were given different scenarios of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and asked to assess them based on the degree of dangers they perceived, the likelihood of the perpetrators inflicting future harm, and the culpability of victims.

> [Read More](#)

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## Why Data Matters More than Ever for LGBTQ People

“It was announced that the 2020 Census will not include questions about sexual orientation and gender identity. Later John H. Thompson, the director of the U.S. Census Bureau, released a statement saying that after review “there was no federal data need to change the planned census.” This couldn’t be more inaccurate. Collecting this information would have been monumental for the LGBTQ anti-violence movement and not collecting it sends a clear message that the needs and experiences of LGBTQ communities should remain invisible. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) understands this first hand as we have been collecting data on how hate violence and intimate partner violence impacts LGBTQ and HIV affected communities for the last 20 years.”

> [Read More](#)

## When You Go to Prison for Crimes Your Abusive Partner Made You Commit

When you're in an abusive relationship, it's hard to know right from wrong. This can leave women vulnerable to risky and even criminal behavior—especially if they're supporting a partner's drug habit. Some women end up paying with their liberty. According to the Prison Reform Trust, 48 percent of women in England and Wales are incarcerated for crimes they committed to support another person's drug habit. This compares to just 22 percent of men in prison—meaning that women are overwhelmingly more likely to find themselves behind bars as a result of another person's addictions.

> [Read More](#)

## Hotline Launched for American Indian Survivors of Domestic Violence

More than 84 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. More than half have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner. The number of American Indian and Alaska Native men who have experienced violence in their lifetime is also high – more than 81 percent, according to 2010 findings from the National Institute of Justice. Now, Native survivors of domestic and dating violence can use the nation’s first crisis line dedicated for tribal communities. The StrongHearts Native Helpline, which seeks to offer culturally relevant, safe and confidential

## When Chronically Ill Women Receive Treatment, Domestic Violence Declines, Researchers Find

Chronically ill low-income women who thought they were dying experienced a sharp reduction in domestic violence after getting access to lifesaving treatment, a Johns Hopkins University-led study found. The results, featured in a National Bureau of Economic Research working paper and highlighted in the bureau's latest Bulletin on Aging and Health, demonstrate for the first time how improving women's health can reduce cases of abuse by roughly 10 percent. "When these women who thought they were going to die realized this treatment gave them many years to live, they faced stronger incentives to avoid abusive

resources, was created by The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

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partners," said lead author Nicholas Papageorge, a Johns Hopkins economist.

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