

July 2016

## Message from the Queens Family Justice Center



(From left: Carolien Hardenbol, Co-Director, Immigration Intervention Project, Sanctuary for Families, Queens Family Justice Center; Melissa A. Brennan, Esq., Deputy Director, Anti-Trafficking Initiative, Sanctuary for Families; and Julina Guo, Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow, Anti-Trafficking Initiative.)

OCDV, Sanctuary for Families and the Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Court (HTIC) are **celebrating the two-year anniversary of the Queens Trafficking Intervention Pro Bono Project (Q-TIPP)**, an innovative project that provides free immigration legal services to individuals arrested on prostitution and related charges. Through Q-TIPP, highly-trained pro bono attorneys work under the supervision of Sanctuary for Families and provide legal screenings to dozens of trafficking victims and at-risk individuals referred by the HTIC each month. This exciting project is housed at the Queens Family Justice Center, which provides a safe and welcoming environment for potential clients to receive much-needed legal information and advice.

In its first two years, Q-TIPP provided immigration legal screenings to more than 350 individuals, the majority of whom disclosed histories of trauma, including sex trafficking, domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, forced sterilization, forced abortion and related abuses. Not only does this project extend critical services to victims in need, it also provides great insight into the experiences of immigrants in New York City who have survived sex trafficking or are at high risk of being trafficked. Major findings include:

- The vast majority of those receiving legal services are women between the ages of 35 and 50, predominantly monolingual Mandarin speaking and of Chinese nationality;
- The majority of trafficking victims identified were trafficked in illicit massage parlors;
- Nearly all who were identified as victims of trafficking were deemed eligible for the T visa, a form of immigration relief that provides work authorization, a pathway to a Green Card and reunification with minor children abroad;
- One quarter of those screened disclosed histories of domestic violence and commonly cited intimate partner violence as a push factor underlying their migration to the United States;
- Nearly three-quarters of individuals screened did not hold lawful immigration status;
- Many of those lacking lawful immigration status had applied for or were contemplating applying for asylum; frequently, those with pending asylum applications lacked a basic understanding of U.S. asylum law and the risk of applying for asylum; and,
- Those receiving legal screenings frequently expressed interest in ESL classes, medical care and job training/placement services.

The Queens HTIC is one of New York's statewide system of eleven Human Trafficking Intervention Courts. Launched in 2013, these courts have been lauded as a national model for their innovative approach to assisting individuals arrested on prostitution and related criminal charges by providing them with a wide array of services. The guiding principle of the courts is that individuals arrested on prostitution charges should not be treated as criminals, but as victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking. The Queens HTIC hears approximately 900 cases each year, an estimated 60 percent of which concern foreign-born defendants, many of whom are undocumented. In its first two years alone, Q-TIPP has proven itself to be an invaluable resource for many survivors of sex trafficking in New York City.



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.

---

## Upcoming OCDV Events & Trainings

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

### QUEENS:

#### **Working with Vulnerable Youth: The Intersection of Dating Abuse and Domestic Sex Trafficking of Youth**

*Facilitated by Day One*

Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Queens

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

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

### STATEN ISLAND:

#### **Economic Empowerment & Public Benefits**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

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

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

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

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

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

*Facilitated by The Center for Court Innovation*

Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

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

---

**Introduction to Elder Abuse**

*Facilitated by the Community Agency for Senior Citizens (CASC) & The Human Resources*

*Administration: Adult Protective Services*

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

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

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

**Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff & The Richmond County District Attorney's Office*

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

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

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

**Cultural Conversations: Considerations for Supportive Practices**

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

Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

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

**Introduction to Immigration Law**

*Facilitated by Her Justice & the New York Legal Assistance Group*

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

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

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

**Risk Assessment & Safety Planning**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

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

**Introduction to Family & Matrimonial Law**

*Facilitated by Staten Island Legal Services & The Urban Justice Center, Domestic Violence Project*

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

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

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

**Intimate Partner Violence 101**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

---

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

### **Housing & Shelter Options**

*Facilitated by Safe Horizon & The Urban Justice Center, Domestic Violence Project*

Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

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

### **Trauma-informed Client Engagement**

*Facilitated by OCDV Staff*

Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place

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

---

## **Top News Stories from July**

### **New NYC Law Expands Housing Protections for Survivors of Domestic Violence (Video)**

A new law that protects housing rights for victims of domestic violence went into effect. The New York City Commission on Human Rights supported the new law that says victims of domestic violence, sex offenses or stalking cannot be denied housing, evicted from their apartment or treated differently by landlords or brokers. OCDV joined CCHR to spread the word.

[Read more](#)

### **How This Senator Is Fighting For Rights For Sexual Assault Survivors**

Senator Jeanne Shaheen worked with Amanda Nguyen,

### **Congress Wants To Criminalize Revenge Porn**

For many victims of “revenge porn,” or the non-consensual distribution of sexually

founder of the advocacy group Rise, to introduce the Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act. The legislation aims to establish basic standards for how we should treat survivors of assault, including guidelines on how to maintain evidence related to sexual assault cases. The proposal passed the Senate unanimously in May as part of another piece of legislation, and cleared a major hurdle in the House of Representatives.

> [Read More](#)

explicit photos, the law has been inadequate. After suffering an invasion of privacy fused with sexual violation, victims — predominantly women — are often left with no legal recourse. Lawmakers in Congress want to change that. Representative Jackie Speier unveiled new legislation that would criminalize the spread of revenge porn for the first time nationwide, a move that advocates and victims say is a needed corrective to humiliating crimes that often go unpunished. The law would make it unlawful to knowingly distribute sexually explicit images of a person with reckless disregard for their lack of consent. Websites that knowingly solicit such images, or advertise that they have them, can be held criminally liable as well. The bill states that people who violate the law would face fines and up to five years in prison.

> [Read More](#)

---

**Background Checks  
Miss 7% of Gun  
Buyers with**

**Biden and Obama  
Rewrite the  
Rulebook on**

## **Domestic Violence Records, Protective Orders**

The federal background check system missed 7 percent of gun purchases that should have been denied over the past decade based on the buyer's domestic violence record or a court protective order, the government's chief watchdog said. While 89,000 sales were blocked, nearly 6,800 were cleared despite the buyer's record, said the Government Accountability Office, partly blaming the complexities of domestic violence cases in determining whether they rise to the level that would land someone on the no-buy list.

> [Read More](#)

## **College Sexual Assaults**

According to White House officials, top members of the administration — including the president, the vice president, their wives and members of the Cabinet — will not visit institutions where they feel the school leadership has not taken sufficient action to pursue sexual-assault allegations and hold offenders accountable. Vice President Biden said in an interview that he would like the federal government to “take away their money” if a college or university fails to change its ways. As the administration nears its end, the urgency of some proposals has dissipated, but the focus on campus sexual misconduct has intensified: “Now’s the time to put the pedal to the metal,” Vice President Biden said.

> [Read More](#)

---

## **It's Time To Recognize What Many Mass Murderers Share In Common**

## **A Cycle of Violence: When a Woman's Murder Is Called 'Understandable'**

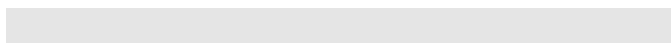
Lance Hart killed his wife,

In the years before Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel made the reprehensible decision to commit mass murder by ramming his truck into a crowd gathered for a Bastille Day fireworks display in Nice, France, he terrorized his own family. Four days after Lahouaiej Bouhlel killed 84 people, a portrait has begun to emerge of the mass murderer — not as a religious extremist but as an angry, volatile man who physically and verbally abused those closest to him on a regular basis. As The Huffington Post has previously reported, this story is tragically familiar. In the past few years, many of the men who have committed heinous, unthinkable acts of violence against the public have had a history of abusive behavior against their intimate partners. Prior to unleashing their deranged violence onto the world, it appears they practiced it against the most vulnerable and accessible targets — those living inside their homes.

> [Read More](#)

but reports implied guilt on her part because she had angered her husband by leaving him. Couching male violence against women in terms that absolves the perpetrator of responsibility reinforces a culture that doesn't value female lives.

> [Read More](#)





## **Social Media Abuse Of Nursing Home Residents Often Goes Unchecked**

Regulators and law enforcement officials nationwide are struggling to respond when employees at long-term care facilities violate the privacy of residents by posting photos of them on social media websites. In a story published last year, ProPublica identified nearly three dozen of these cases, the majority involving Snapchat, a social media service in which photos appear for a few seconds and then disappear. They have discovered nine more instances since then.

[> Read More](#)

## **Man Charged With Murder for Allegedly Driving His Partner to Suicide**

For approximately 10 years, Minnesota authorities say, Jessica Haban was physically and emotionally abused by her partner. Long Vang, 34, allegedly smashed her head into a washing machine, tossed her into the wall by her hair, held a knife to her throat, and in May 2015, punched her in the head with a closed fist, causing a traumatic brain injury. Haban was hospitalized on three occasions, but never stayed long. She was afraid of losing custody of her kids — which, according to a social worker, is what Vang told her would happen if she continued receiving care. On December 16, 2015, three days after being discharged from the hospital, Haban killed herself at age 28. Earlier this month, in a surprising move, authorities arrested Vang and charged him with murder for allegedly driving his partner to take her own life.

> [Read More](#)

---

## **Viral Humans Of New York Post Shows Why Every Kid Needs To Learn About Consent**

Recently, Humans of New York shared a photo of a young woman, along with a caption about one of her first sexual experiences, and the sad story she shared highlights just how much work we have to do to teach young people about consent. The post is heartbreaking, because it sounds like sexual experiences so many of us have had or have heard about from friends — blurred lines, coercion, discomfort, a feeling that you're not ready for what's happening but you have to go along with it.

> [Read More](#)

## **For Brazil's Women, Laws Are Not Enough To Deter Rampant Violence**

The country hosting this summer's Olympic Games is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a woman. In Brazil, a woman is killed every two hours and assaulted every 15 seconds — often by someone she knows — according to a report from the nonprofit Mapa da Violencia. In particular, gender violence has skyrocketed in the northern Brazilian state Rio Grande do Norte, where Moreira's hometown of Natal is located. According to the Observatory of Violence for the State Council on Human Rights, violence against women in the state has grown 39 percent in the last four years. One hundred and twenty women were murdered in the state in 2014.

> [Read More](#)

---

## **In India, Snapchat Is Leading a Revolution around Domestic Violence Support**

In recent years, family and domestic violence services in India have increasingly recognized the unique and emerging role social media can play in addressing problems around violence against women. Earlier this year, the Climb Against Sexual Abuse campaign drew global attention when survivors of sexual abuse used Snapchat filters to hide their identity while speaking publicly about their experiences. It's this understanding of the vital role of a phone that led to Snap Councillors: a service that provides support and information around domestic and sexual violence through Snapchat. The idea was conceived by advertising creative director Rajshekar Patil, who had been exploring several social projects when he became interested in the potential of the app to reach out to vulnerable parties - especially young people.

> [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.

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](mailto:msidman@cityhall.nyc.org).

[Privacy Policy](#)

