

May 2017

Message from Commissioner Cecile Noel



In the early hours of June 28, 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village. Ongoing and coordinated raids of gay bars resulted in frequent arrests and harm to LGBTQ people. These raids were met with six days of resistance and demands for dignity and liberation, led by trans and gender non-conforming people of color, including Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. We observe LGBTQ Pride in June to mark the anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Riots and to honor the courageous people who fought for liberation.

While LGBTQ communities have enjoyed numerous victories and gains over the years, they continue to face violence, discrimination, and barriers – from the institutional to the interpersonal. In honor of

LGBTQ Pride Month, the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence would like to share the steps that we are taking to begin addressing institutional barriers and increasing support and access to caring, competent, and identity-affirming services and advocacy for LGBTQ survivors of intimate partner violence.

First, we thank our organizational partners who have led this work over the years, with special recognition to the [New York City Anti-Violence Project \(AVP\)](#) for all its work with and for LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities. In addition to services at their home offices, AVP provides services to LGBTQ and HIV-affected survivors of intimate partner violence at all five of the City’s [Family Justice Centers \(FJCs\)](#), where they have trained hundreds of advocates and community members. We are grateful for their ongoing partnership, support, and leadership.

From the beginning, the FJCs have been open to survivors, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. In January 2017, to learn more about our clients and be able to meet their needs, OCDV began collecting demographic information about the sexual orientation, gender identity and expression of clients served at the FJCs. The intake questions were created in consultation with service providers, LGBTQ-focused organizations, and NYC government organizations including the Administration for Children’s Services and the Human Resources Administration. The data collected will be used to better inform the services provided at the FJCs, as well as outreach and community engagement, and continued relationship building with those throughout New York City providing services for and by LGBTQ communities. We aim to make our FJC spaces, services, and resources more accessible and supportive of LGBTQ survivors and those who serve them.

In the two years leading up to the addition of these intake questions, OCDV provided multiple trainings to all OCDV staff and to contracted FJC frontline staff and took steps to create more deliberately inclusive spaces for all visitors and staff. This training and its supplements provided a primer on sex and gender as well as LGBTQ-affirming concepts and terminology to create a basic and uniform level of competency. Staff at the FJCs were also trained in asking the new demographic questions and discussing LGBTQ topics in a variety of settings, including screening, case management, outreach, and training. This past fall, we also installed new “All-Gender Restroom” signage for each single-stall restroom onsite at the FJCs.

These steps, among others, represent the initial actions of OCDV’s commitment to increasing meaningful inclusivity. In honor of Pride, we stand alongside all of you who continue to march in favor of love, tolerance, acceptance and liberation.

OCDV Is Hiring!

[Executive Director, Staten Island Family Justice Center](#)
[Policy Analyst, Domestic Violence Task Force](#)
[Community Liaison](#)

Additionally, 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.
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- 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, search “Peer Educator” or use Job ID 247406.

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](#)



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. To submit information or updates to be included in the Resource Directory, please email Kara Noesner at knoesner@ocdv.nyc.gov.

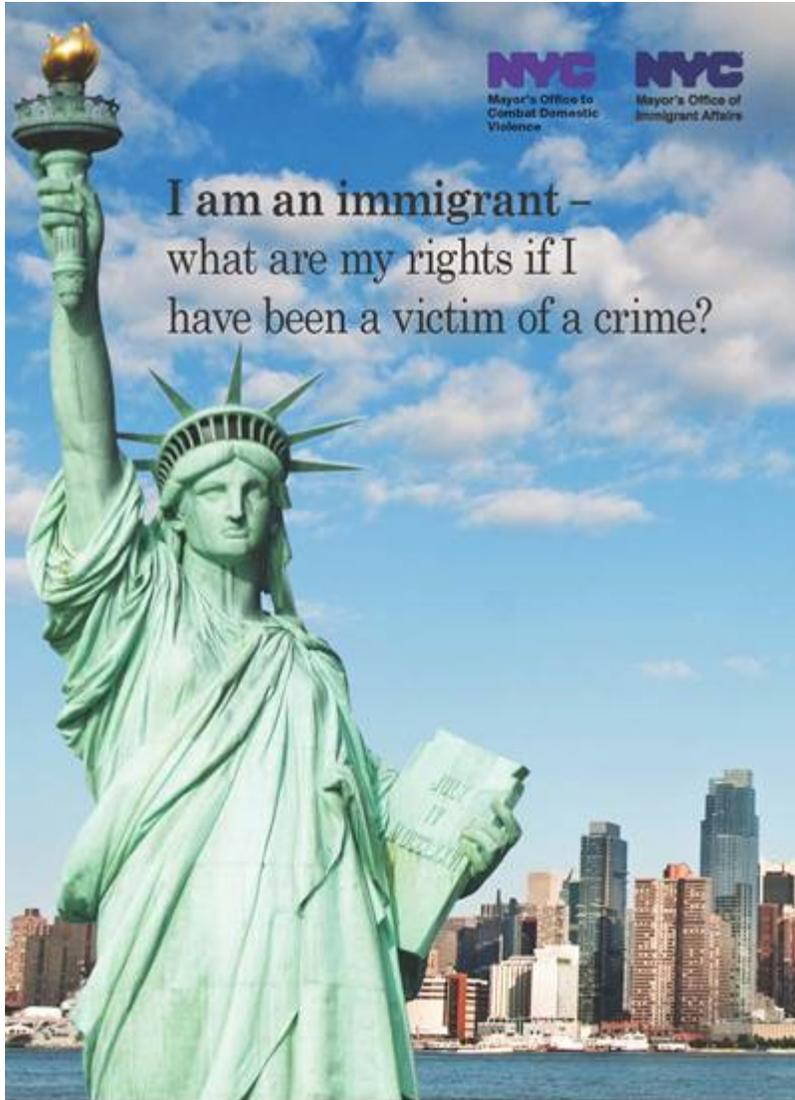
News Coverage of Intimate Partner Homicides in New York City (2013-16)

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 intimate partner violence. The study provides an evidence-based foundation upon which to develop best practices and educational strategies for intimate partner violence 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 that the media plays in shaping public conversation around intimate partner violence.

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



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.**

We know immigrant survivors of domestic violence may feel particularly vulnerable, especially when disclosing abuse to authorities. OCDV has worked with the 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 Cecile Noel and MOIA Commissioner Nisha 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. The 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

administration's executive order will affect these programs, but will be monitoring them closely. City-funded immigration attorneys are available at each of the FJCs and are ready to provide consultation and representation around domestic violence related immigration remedies.

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. 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:

Mental Health First Aid

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Friday, June 9th, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Bronx

198 East 161st Street, 2nd Floor

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

MANHATTAN:

Introduction to Immigration Law

Facilitated by Sanctuary for Families & NYLAG

Monday, June 5th, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5th Floor

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

Engaging Trauma Survivors

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Friday, June 9th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5th Floor

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

Cultural Conversations: Considerations/Tools for Supportive Practice

Facilitated by NYC Anti-Violence Project

Monday, June 12th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5th Floor

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

Introduction to Elder Abuse

Facilitated by the Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention

Tuesday, June 13th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5th Floor

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

Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence

Facilitated by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office & NYPD

Friday, June 16th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5th Floor

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

Housing & Shelter Options

Facilitated by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office & NYPD

Monday, June 19th, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5th Floor

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

Consumer Debt & Credit Advocacy for Domestic Violence Survivors

Facilitated by Legal Aid Society

Monday, June 19th, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5th Floor

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

Introduction to Sex Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Facilitated by Legal Aid Society

Wednesday, June 21st, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5th Floor

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

Introduction to Family & Matrimonial Law

Facilitated by Sanctuary for Families

Thursday, June 22nd, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5th Floor

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

Economic Empowerment & Public Benefits for IPV Survivors

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Tuesday, June 27th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5th Floor

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

Immigrant Eligibility for Public Benefits for IPV Survivors

Facilitated by OCDV Staff

Tuesday, June 27th, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NYC Family Justice Center, Manhattan

80 Centre Street, 5th Floor

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.

July – Brooklyn FJC

August – Queens FJC

September – Bronx FJC

October – Manhattan FJC

November – Staten Island FJC

December – Brooklyn FJC

Top News Stories from April

Abusers Who Want to Find Their Victims Have a New Tool Because of the Department of Homeland Security

Asylum seekers who are victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking are listed in a new online searchable database launched by the Trump administration, according to an advocacy group, which calls the practice both dangerous and illegal. The US Department of Homeland Security rolled out the Victim Information and Notification Exchange, or VINE, last month, with a stated purpose to allow victims and witnesses of crimes to be notified when a detained immigrant is released or moved. However, the Tahirih Justice Center, a nonprofit that assists immigrants experiencing abuse, said it identified a major privacy concern that would let assailants track their victims.

[Read More](#)

This Gay Man Shares His Domestic Abuse Story to Help Break the Silence

Intimate partner violence is a serious yet oft-ignored issue facing LGBT people, says the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. To help break the cycle, Patrick Dati shares his experience.

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Trump Policies Empower Abusers, Not Victims

With the signing of executive orders on immigration and the threat by the Department of Justice to cut federal funding to so-called "sanctuary cities," President Trump has inje the weight of the US government into the p imbalance used by abusers. Undocumented immigrants who were working with police a prosecutors in reporting their abusers are suddenly retreating, canceling interviews, o simply no longer returning calls.

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Marissa Alexander, Jailed for Three Years, Speaks Out on Intimate Partner Violence and Building Movements

Marissa Alexander, the African-American mother of three, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for firing what she maintains was a warning shot at her abusive husband in 2010. She attempted to use Florida's "stand your ground" law in her defense -- the law that was made famous when white vigilante George Zimmerman successfully used it has his defense after he shot and killed unarmed

Police Responded to Nearly Two-Thirds of Reported Nonfatal Domestic Violence Victimization in 10 Minutes or Less

Police were notified in more than half (56 percent) of the 1.3 million nonfatal domestic violence victimizations that occurred annually during the 10-year period from 2006 to 2015 in the United States, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) announced today. Police responded to nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of these victimizations in 10 minutes or less. When police responded to the scene, they

African-American teenager Trayvon Martin. But in March 2012, the jury rejected Alexander's use of "stand your ground" and convicted her after only 12 minutes of deliberation. She was sentenced to 20 years behind bars under a Florida law known as "10-20-Life" that carries a mandatory minimum for certain gun crimes regardless of the circumstance. Alexander won an appeal for a new trial and later accepted a plea deal that capped her sentence to three years of time served. Earlier this year, she was freed from house arrest after being jailed for three years and serving two years of court-ordered home confinement.

> [Read More](#)

took a report 78 percent of the time. During some initial responses, they also questioned persons (36 percent), conducted searches (14 percent) or collected evidence (11 percent).

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Bresha Meadows, Teen Who Killed Allegedly Abusive Dad, Given Second Chance

Bresha Meadows, a 15-year-old who fatally shot her father in his sleep last summer, pleaded true to a charge of involuntary manslaughter, ending a legal ordeal that began over nine months earlier. As part of a plea agreement, Bresha was sentenced to a year and a day in juvenile detention, as well as six additional months at a residential mental health facility and two years of probation. She'll get credit for time served, so she can move to the mental health facility in about two months. Her record will be sealed and expunged when she reaches adulthood. Her family will likely be responsible for shouldering the cost of the mental health facility.

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"Stealthing" Your Partner During Sex Could Soon Be Classified as Sexual Assault

"Stealthing," removing a condom or other protective device during sex without permission, could become an act of sexual assault for the first time in the US under bills being introduced by lawmakers in Wisconsin and California.

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Trump's Immigration Crackdown Is

Facebook's Imperfect Fight against

Pushing Victims of Abuse Underground

Immigrants are increasingly reluctant to report domestic violence and sexual assault, citing fears of deportation under President Donald Trump, according to a survey released this month of 715 victim advocates and attorneys in 46 states and the District of Columbia.

> [Read More](#)

Revenge Porn

How and when Facebook removes offensive content is once again being called into question. In addition to banning nudity on its platform, Facebook says that it removes intimate images that are not consensually shared as it becomes aware of them. But last week, The Guardian reported on leaked Facebook documents that show how its content moderation policies are actually implemented. When it comes to revenge porn, Facebook defined it as "attempts to use intimate imagery to shame, humiliate or gain revenge against an individual."

> [Read More](#)

Climate Change Has Created a New Generation of Sex-Trafficking Victims

As severe storms and rising sea levels wear down coastal regions, women and girls are at ever-greater risk. Climate change is a new push factor for human trafficking; its effects destroy livelihoods and place women and children in post-catastrophe situations that traffickers exploit.

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The Dentist's Office Is a New Front the Fight against Domestic Violence

According to some dentists and hygienists, routine appointments should be more than opportunity for garbled chit-chat. Stat reported this week on an "activist group" of dental professionals who are urging their colleagues use appointments as a chance to screen patients for signs of domestic violence. Dentists point out, typically see patients for cleanings twice a year, more often than the recommendation for medical checkups. Studies of domestic violence victims have found that the overwhelming majority suffer injuries to their head, neck, or face, where dentists can observe them. Horribly, signs of sexual abuse in children are often present in the mouth.

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