



Mayor's Office to  
End Domestic and  
Gender-Based Violence

REMARKS OF

COMMISSIONER SALONI SETHI  
MAYOR'S OFFICE TO END DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

on

**EXAMINING THE ADEQUACY OF DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE  
DATA IN NEW YORK CITY**

October 16, 2025

Good morning, Chair Louis and Members of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity. I am Saloni Sethi, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV). I am joined by Edward Hill, Deputy Commissioner for Research, Evaluation and Training. ENDGBV operates the City's five Family Justice Centers and directly manages a contract portfolio of prevention and intervention programming. Our office builds capacity for agency staff and community members to identify and respond to domestic and gender-based violence (DV/GBV) through outreach and training. We also develop policies and best practices to strengthen the City's approach to these issues. We collaborate with City agencies, over 100 nonprofit providers, community stakeholders, and people with lived experience to reduce barriers and ensure access to inclusive, culturally responsive services for all survivors.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today regarding domestic and gender-based violence data in New York City.

ENDGBV's Research and Evaluation team provides data management and analytical support for our programs and initiatives, evaluates key efforts, and conducts research in collaboration with interagency partners. This includes annual reporting on domestic violence initiatives, indicators, and factors that compile



data across some of our key programs. The team also produces data and research reports and manages the work of the New York City Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee.

Established under Local Law 61 of 2005, the Committee, which consists of representatives from 10 City agencies, 2 district attorney's offices, 2 community-based domestic violence programs and 2 survivor representatives, reviews and analyzes domestic violence-related homicides, including intimate partner and family violence homicides, each year to better understand the circumstances surrounding these deaths and assess how victims and survivors accessed or faced barriers to accessing available services and prevention supports.

We also oversee the Fatality Advisory Committee, established under Executive Order 36, which will conduct individual reviews of gender-based and domestic violence fatalities. This research-based committee includes representatives from 14 City agencies, and will conduct two in-depth reviews of domestic and gender-based homicides annually. This Committee's work complements the broader efforts of the Fatality Review Committee by providing deeper, case-specific insights to help identify barriers and service gaps. The FAC will complete its first case reviews next year.

In addition to the annual analysis of cases involving fatalities, ENDGBV periodically conducts broader analyses of NYPD data to examine the intersections of intimate partner violence, gender, race, and other contributing factors. These analyses help identify disparities, highlight emerging trends, and inform more equitable prevention and intervention strategies. Together, these efforts ensure that our policies and programs are guided by the full spectrum of survivor experiences reflected in city data.

We want to emphasize that in collecting and analyzing program data, ENDGBV prioritizes survivor safety, confidentiality and anonymity. When it comes to program data, this means ensuring that we only report data in aggregate form. Our goal is to ensure that all data collection practices are trauma-informed and do not create additional risks or discomfort for survivors. We also strive to minimize the reporting burden on both our providers and survivors themselves. We collect only the information necessary to conduct meaningful evaluations, assess program effectiveness, and identify opportunities for improvement. Since much of our data relies on self-reporting, survivors can choose whether to share sensitive information based on personal experience and safety concerns, which naturally limits the completeness of available data.

We support Int. 1188 (Informational resource for newly married individuals).

Int. 1297 purports to authorize claims against entities brought under the Gender Motivated Violence Act that predate 2022, including claims predating the enactment of the GMVA in 2000. The City, of course, supports the goal of holding perpetrators of gender-based violence to account and supporting victims of such violence. However, there are additional considerations, including the potential for substantial cost considerations, that the Administration would like to discuss with the Council in a separate context.

In relation to Int. 1216, we support the intent of the bill to raise awareness and connect survivors with critical resources. However, we note that outreach to cosmetologists is already being conducted under Local Law 39 of 2019. As part of that mandate, our office has distributed printed domestic violence toolkits, posters, and palm cards to salons citywide to help connect survivors with local resources and support services. The same resources are also available online at no cost. We also recognize there may be challenges related to the implementation of this bill.

While we understand its intent, we do not support int. 459. Currently, anyone who calls 311 and mentions domestic violence is transferred to the City's Hope hotline. Adding a direct transfer or menu prompt from 311 to the hotline would significantly increase call volume to the hotline and could unintentionally overwhelm the service with misdirected calls. Given that a majority of domestic violence shelter referrals are made through the hotline, such disruptions could directly impact access to safety and support for survivors.

We support the intent of Int. 1416 (Increasing access to data around gender-based violence); however, we also have concerns related to feasibility and privacy. We intend to connect with the Council post hearing to discuss further.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the Council, our sister City agencies, and community-based partners to strengthen data coordination and advance evidence-based and survivor-centered approaches across our collective work. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I welcome any questions you may have.



**JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS**

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**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC ADVOCATE JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS TO THE  
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY  
OCTOBER 16, 2025**

Good afternoon. My name is Jumaane D. Williams and I am the Public Advocate for the City of New York. Thank you very much Chair Louis and members of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity for holding this hearing and allowing me the opportunity to provide a statement.

We live in an era in which men credibly accused of sexual harassment hold powerful positions and even feel entitled to run for leadership here in New York City. It is more important than ever that we make it clear to New Yorkers who are survivors of domestic, sexual, or gender-based violence: you matter, you deserve closure, and we will not stop fighting for you.

We now know that the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with a significant increase in the number of calls to domestic violence hotlines, both in New York City and nationwide.<sup>1</sup> While calls to the NYC domestic violence hotline have declined to pre-pandemic levels, the number of NYPD domestic violence incident reports and the number of visits to the City's Family Justice Centers have risen slightly each year since 2020.<sup>2</sup> These concerning trends are compounded by recent weak job growth and the upcoming opening of new casinos, both of which have been associated with increases in domestic violence.<sup>3</sup>

I'm able to share this information because I have dedicated staff who spent time locating, compiling, cleaning, and analyzing data published by the Mayor's Office to End Gender-Based Violence. I commend the City's efforts thus far to track data on gender-based violence but most New Yorkers, including many municipal offices and service providers, do not have the luxury of data-savvy staff members.

Organizations and City offices supporting domestic violence survivors would benefit from an audit of the City's data on gender-based violence and from a dashboard compiling this data across agencies. Introduction 1416 would mandate these measures and so ensure our City programs are as well equipped as they can be to serve survivors. It is for this goal that I support

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<sup>1</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10282862/>

<sup>2</sup> [NYC ENDGBV Annual Fact Sheet Data](#)

<sup>3</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4860387/>,  
<https://www.anrows.org.au/publication/the-relationship-between-gambling-and-intimate-partner-violence-against-women/>

Intro. 1416 and this Committee's efforts to ensure that the City's data on gender-based violence are consistent, transparent, and easily accessible.

The City offers several programs to those experiencing domestic or gender-based violence, but affected New Yorkers are too often unaware that they exist. Intros. 1188 and 1216 would go a long way towards ensuring that more New Yorkers know about these resources.

Introduction 1297 is particularly vital. If passed, this law would re-open the lookback window for the Gender-Motivated Violence Act so that survivors of gender-based or sexual violence have full access to due process. In particular, it would clarify the law to allow survivors to pursue action against institutions that enable abuse by their staff members. At last month's rally in support of this law, we heard how important this ability would be for those New Yorkers who experienced sexual abuse in juvenile detention centers. In a moment when too many abusers feel emboldened by government inaction, we must pass Intro. 1297 to empower survivors and hold abusers and the institutions that protect them accountable.

Thank you.





# NYS LGBTQ+ IPV NETWORK

Service Access  
Assessment Toolkit



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# INTRODUCTION

## About the Network and the Assessment Tool

The New York State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer Intimate Partner Violence Network (The Network) is a statewide group of direct service providers who are working to ensure that intimate partner violence (IPV) services are inclusive and affirming of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+) people, especially transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary (TGNCNB) and/or Black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC).

LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors disproportionately include immigrants and people with unstable documentation status, people living with disabilities, people affected by HIV, people who use drugs, people engaged in informal and illicit economies, sex workers, incarcerated people or those who have been or are currently entangled with the criminal legal system, and low income working class communities.

Our work and this tool recognize that these survivors are the most marginalized in our society, targeted by multiple systems of oppression, and have been historically underserved by the government and the services sector. This marginalization and intersection oppression increases their exposure and subjection to violence, both interpersonal and systemic. This tool aims to help service providers ensure that the needs of these survivors with the most barriers to service and aid are considered and prioritized, not just those who are white, heterosexual, and cis, in order to better address the needs of **all** survivors.

This self-assessment tool was adapted from In Our Own Voices' Assessment, and is a starting point to understanding and analyzing the ways in which organizational practices, culture, and norms may be contributing to barriers to access for LGBTQ+ survivors of color.

## Why Use this Tool?

Reflecting the broader injustices of our society, the mainstream domestic violence movement has tended to focus on the needs of white heterosexual cisgender women who experience IPV from their heterosexual, cisgender men partners. This narrow focus erases experiences of LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors from the narrative of abuse, despite the evidence that these marginalized survivors face an alarming rate of violence of all forms.

According to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Hate and Intimate Partner Violence in 2017 Report by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, transgender women are at least three times more likely to experience violence on the street compared to cisgender or non-transgender women. LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC people are also more likely to experience violence from family members, roommates, neighbors, landlords, and other people they are in relationship with.

Unfortunately, even when these survivors seek support, they experience discrimination and further violence. In shelters, LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors face violence both from shelter staff and other clients, with transgender women nearly two and a half times more likely to experience violence than their cisgender counterparts. Thus, LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors may avoid accessing necessary support due to fears of rejection or invalidation of their identity and experiences.

Because of policing's role in upholding cisgender heteropatriarchy and white supremacy, LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors are also less likely to seek police intervention, and have worse experiences when they do, sometimes getting arrested with or instead of the person causing them harm. LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors are disproportionately criminalized because of their marginalized identities, documentation, and work status.

Providing services to LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors includes deconstructing the heteronormative paradigm of "domestic violence" to include LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors at every level of IPV programming, policy, and service planning.

By completing this tool, service providers can take an important step in providing affirming services for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors of violence. LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors are often not prioritized by IPV service providers, which can lead to further traumatization and isolation for these survivors. It is also important to also create safe and affirming spaces for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC staff within IPV service organizations, as they are often at the front lines of serving survivors and are often survivors themselves.

## Who Should Use This Tool?

This tool was designed for programs that are focused on IPV. However, non-IPV specific gender-based violence programs may also find this tool helpful in assessing how inclusive and affirming their services are and can be. There may be assessment questions not applicable to non-IPV programs but providers are encouraged to apply what is useful from the tool to their programming, and skip or leave what is not applicable. Note: please be advised that too many "N/A" answers (more than 6) may result in an invalid or unusable result.



## Steps to Complete This Tool

1. Service providers can complete this tool on paper or [online](#); the Network recommends online completion for several reasons: 1) results can be used to assess overall trends in the IPV service provision sector, 2) results will be tabulated automatically for participating service providers, 3) results can be emailed to participating service providers upon completion.
2. Service providers should have staff closest to the programming complete the assessment.
3. Service providers should focus on their specific programming, shelter, or service when completing the assessment.
4. Service providers should answer honestly to get an accurate result from the assessment.
5. This Assessment tool can work hand-in-hand with other tool kits the Network has created and the Training and Technical Assistance Center to aid organizations in improving their score over time. This includes:
  - [Best Practices Toolkit](#)
  - [Shelter Access Toolkit](#)
  - [Power & Control in Relationships Assessment Tool](#)
  - [Sample Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Non-Discrimination Policy](#)
6. Service providers can reach out to the New York City Anti-Violence Project or the Network for training support through our [Technical Assistance Center](#) and [Training Request Portal](#).

## Steps To Take After Completing This Tool

Upon completing this tool, service providers should be able to assess how inclusive and affirming each component of their programs and services are for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC, by examining the score they received after completing the questionnaire, and following the recommendations given at the end of the assessment.

An organization may take an assessment multiple times, after doing internal work to improve their services or address barriers to service for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors. The ultimate goal is to see scores improve as an indicator of greater service access for these marginalized survivors.

Providers can use this tool to anchor a conversation on program evaluation with a program team, or do an individual analysis of responses to then inform an action plan. This information can support team or individual staff efforts to evaluate their inclusiveness and help teams improve their efforts to serve LGBTQ+BIPOC individuals.

The tool includes a short section toward the end to support providers in identifying key barriers to providing more inclusive and affirming services, and the next action steps the provider can take to become more inclusive and affirming.



# SERVICE ACCESS

# ASSESSMENT TOOL

[Click here to complete the Service Access Assessment Tool online](#)

## Assessment: Direct Services (Answer A-F)

1. Do staff and volunteers share their own pronouns when interacting with survivors, colleagues, and community?
2. Do outreach staff and other staff use gender neutral pronouns when referring to survivors or the person(s) causing them harm until gender specific pronouns are provided?
3. Are screenings conducted based on power and control, not perceived gender identity, to ensure that the caller is not the primary person(s) causing harm before they are admitted to confidential survivor-centric programs/groups/sites?
4. Are staff and volunteers, including crisis line workers, trained to sensitively support LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors with the particular safety needs of belonging to each of these communities, and to competently provide other services, including links and referrals to relevant resources and culturally specific agencies?
5. If available and/or requested, do staff make referrals for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors of IPV who experience criminalization (connected to their survival) and/or have civil legal needs (i.e. order of protection, immigration, divorce, custody, housing, discrimination, etc) to programs that meet those intersecting needs?
6. If an organization has youth programming, are program staff familiar with issues confronting LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC parents and youth (custody, coming out, school issues, transitioning, accommodations, etc.)?

For assessments, respond with:

**A** Always **B** Often **C** Sometimes **D** Rarely **E** Never **F** N/A



**Assessment: Policies and Organizational Culture (Answer A-F)**

1. Does the organization make an effort or have a process to hire LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC people as staff, and to support these staff in progressing in the agency?
2. Are LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC individuals involved in the development and decision-making process for inclusive staff and client policies?
3. Have all of your staff (including administration, HR, volunteers, and board members) received routine and ongoing training regarding oppression and best practices in providing affirming services for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors?
4. Are your policies reviewed on an annual basis to monitor the intentional inclusion of LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC communities?
5. Are new clients aware of agency confidentiality policy surrounding LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors and the consequences for violating this policy?
6. Are strategies for increasing accessibility for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors integrated into programs and services on an ongoing basis? (For example: language, physical space, printed materials, etc.)

**Assessment: Printed Materials (Answer A-F)**

1. Do all written and web-based materials use inclusive language and images? (For example: using gender neutral language and avoiding specific pronouns, when speaking of person(s) causing harm or survivors, images with a diversity of community members)
2. Do you have materials in languages other than English?
3. Do your materials explicitly state whether or not your program serves LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB survivors?
4. Does your program provide materials/opportunities to assess whether LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors feel comfortable and welcomed when accessing services?
5. Does your agency have a system for recording names and pronouns other than what is on legal documents?
6. Does your program provide outreach and materials specific to LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors?

For assessments, respond with:

**A** Always   **B** Often   **C** Sometimes   **D** Rarely   **E** Never   **F** N/A





## Assessment: Physical Space (Answer A-F)

1. Is information about community services and resources for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors easily accessible in your space(s)?
2. Do resource areas contain materials such as books, magazines, and videos that reflect the lives and experiences of LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors?
3. Are your facilities arranged to accommodate survivors of all gender identities, including safe access to restrooms and other shared spaces?
4. Does your waiting area or public areas have your non-discrimination policy posted?
5. Is the non-discrimination personnel policy available in languages other than English?
6. Does your space provide a welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors? (i.e. signage, community photos, etc.)

## Open-Response Questions

1. What are 2-3 internal barriers in your agency that prevent more inclusive services?
2. What are 2-3 external barriers facing your agency that prevent more inclusive services?

For assessments, respond with:

**A** Always **B** Often **C** Sometimes **D** Rarely **E** Never **F** N/A



# SCORING AND RESULTS

## Scoring the Overall Assessment

To score your assessment, follow the grading system and add up the individual question points to see where you are at in terms of LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB cultural competency and service access. The assessment is out of 100 points total.

For every answer **A** = 4 points

For every answer **B** = 3 points

For every answer **C** = 2 points

For every answer **D** = 1 points

For every answer **E** = 0 points

For every answer **F** = Multiply by 4 and add to the points

Open-Response = Add 2 points each for completing, 4 points total

## Subscores: Scores by Assessment Area

Service providers can calculate the sub-scores of each of the four sections of the assessment to see where there is particular need to make improvements.

For example, an organization may be meeting many of the best practices of the printed materials and/or physical space, but may be lagging in policies and organizational culture and direct services.

Service providers can then look at the specific recommendations to improve their score in that area. Each area score is out of a total of 24 points.

## Results

Once you've counted up your points, refer to the grading range of LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB cultural competency to understand where there is room for improvement. Then use the recommendations to improve in particular areas of service access.

**0-24: Novice.** Your organization may be unfamiliar with the recommended best practices around LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB cultural competency. Your organization is just starting this work and have not yet or have just started to think intentionally about culturally competent services. Read our recommendations on how to actively work to reduce barriers for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC, and reach out to the Network if you are interested in more targeted support around implementing best practices.

**28-48: Skilled Learner.** Your organization may be developing an awareness of LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB cultural competency and is attempting to implement some of the recommended best practices. Your organization is trying to think intentionally about culturally competent services, and you may have a few committed staff doing this work. But overall, the organization may be facing internal or external barriers to doing the work, including but not limited to time, funding, staffing shortages, a lack of commitment from the organizational leadership, or a lack of integration of incorporating service access into the organizational strategic planning and budgeting. Read our recommendations on how to actively work to reduce barriers for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC, and reach out to the Network if you are interested in more targeted support around implementing best practices.

**52-72: Competent Practitioner.** Your organization is working on improving LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB cultural competency at your agency, and has implemented a sizable amount of recommended best practices, but still strives to reduce barriers and improve services for these marginalized survivors. Your organization may be facing internal or external barriers to going further, and implementing more involved or difficult-to-execute recommendations. There may be other commitments on time, energy, and staffing, a lukewarm commitment from organizational leadership, or a lack of integration of incorporating service access into the organizational strategic planning and budgeting. Read our recommendations on how to actively work to reduce barriers for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC, and reach out to the Network if you are interested in more targeted support around implementing best practices.

**76-100: Best Practices Maven!** Your organization is following many or most of the frequently recommended best practices around LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB cultural competency. There's always room for improvement, but it's clear you are committed to this work and have thought intentionally about culturally competent services, and are actively working to reduce barriers for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC. Your organization may consider joining the Network to build connections with other providers doing this work, continue building expertise, and spread knowledge to other providers.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations for organizations to improve their score is broken down by assessment area to aid agencies in understanding what actions they can take to specifically improve in particular areas.

Organizations can also refer the Network's other tools, such as the [Best Practices Toolkit](#), [Shelter Access Toolkit](#), [Power & Control in Relationships Assessment Tool](#), and [Sample Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Non-Discrimination Policy](#) to aid in improving their assessment score. Service providers can also request training with the New York City Anti-Violence Project or the Network through the [Technical Assistance Center](#) and [Training Request Portal](#).

## Recommendations: Direct Services

1. Staff and volunteers should share their own pronouns when interacting with survivors, colleagues, and community.
2. Outreach staff and other staff use gender neutral pronouns when referring to survivors and person(s) causing harm until gender specific pronouns are provided.
3. Staff should conduct screenings based on power and control, not perceived gender identity, to ensure that the caller is not the primary person(s) causing harm before they are admitted to confidential programs/groups/sites. Crisis line workers should not assume the gender or sexuality of the caller, or the gender or sexuality of the person causing harm.
4. Staff and volunteers, including crisis line workers, must be trained to sensitively support LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors with the particular safety needs of belonging to each of these communities, and to competently provide other services, including links and referrals to relevant resources and culturally specific agencies.
5. If available and/or requested, staff should be able to make referrals for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors of IPV who experience criminalization (connected to their survival) to programs that meet those intersecting needs. Staff should also be able to make referrals for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors of IPV who have civil legal needs (i.e. order of protection, immigration, divorce, custody, housing, discrimination, etc).

Note: It's important for service providers to be able to conduct trauma informed, nuanced and context driven assessment for survivors of IPV who live at the intersection of criminalization and various types of legal engagement (family, matrimonial, immigration, child support, etc). Criminalized survivorship is intricate in nature and often overlooked in IPV assessment, care coordination, safety planning as well as clinical counseling and multi system advocacy. Many survivors who identify as LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC are not properly assessed for criminalization upon engaging with service providers of victim advocacy organizations, yet are some of the most affected by violence. Having practitioners engage in nuanced assessment that are designed to differentiate survivor responses from a pattern of controlling and coercive behavior or other forms of aggression is paramount to providing holistic service provision.

6. An organization that has youth programming must have program staff familiar with issues confronting LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC parents and youth (custody, coming out, school issues, transitioning, accommodations, etc.)

## Recommendations: Policies and Organizational Culture

1. The organization should make a concerted effort to hire LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC individuals as staff, and to support these individuals in progressing in the agency.

Note: Service providers may struggle to connect how staffing practices can improve service provision, but many LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors develop more authentic and trusting relationships with staff when they share those identities. However, it is important that the organization support staff with these identities and ensure there are LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC staff at all levels of the organization to prevent tokenization, burnout, and exploitation.

2. LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC individuals should be involved in the development and decision-making process for inclusive staff and client policies.
3. All staff (including administration, HR, volunteers, and board members) should receive routine and ongoing training regarding oppression and best practices in providing affirming services for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors.
4. Policies must be reviewed on an annual basis to monitor the intentional inclusion of LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC communities. Policies should address safety, discrimination, and access among LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC communities.
5. New clients should be aware of agency confidentiality policy surrounding LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors and the consequences for violating this policy.
6. Strategies for increasing accessibility for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors must be integrated into programs and services on an ongoing basis. (For example: language, physical space, printed materials, etc.) LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors should be included in all areas (i.e. language, image, etc.) of outreach for your organization.



## Recommendations: Printed Materials

1. All written and web-based materials use inclusive language and images. (For example: using gender neutral language and avoiding specific pronouns, when speaking of person(s) causing harm or survivors, images with a diversity of community members.) Homophobia, transphobia, racism, sexism, ableism, and classism should be defined as forms of violence and oppression in your materials. Printed and/or web-based materials should include images of LGBTQ+ survivors, including those who are male and/or transgender.
2. You should have materials in languages other than English.
3. Your materials should explicitly state whether or not your program serves LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB survivors.
4. Your program should provide materials/opportunities to assess whether LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors feel comfortable and welcomed when accessing services.
5. Your agency should have a system for recording names and pronouns other than what is on legal documents. Your agency's client intake form should allow LGBTQ+ survivors to self-identify their gender identity.
6. Your program should provide outreach and materials specific to LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors.

## Recommendations: Physical Space

1. Information about community services and resources for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors should be easily accessible in your space(s).
2. Resource areas should contain materials such as books, magazines, and videos that reflect the lives and experiences of LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors.
3. Facilities should be arranged to accommodate survivors of all gender identities, including safe access to restrooms and other shared spaces.
4. Waiting area or public areas should have your non-discrimination policy posted.
5. The agency's non-discrimination personnel policy should be available in languages other than English.
6. Your space should provide a welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ and/or TGNCNB BIPOC survivors (i.e. signage, community photos, etc.)

## Recommendations: Barriers for Organizations to do Service Access Work

Internal barriers in your agency that prevent more inclusive services may be difficult to overcome if there is not an organizational commitment to service access work, and so it is important for dedicated staff to begin there. External barriers like funding barriers or geographic isolation of services may be more difficult to overcome. The Network will be collecting information on these barriers to see if there are collective ways to address or advocate for policy or budget changes that might address these issues, but we recognize that organizations are trying to work through these barriers in real time. The Network can be a resource to you, and your organization can reach out to us to get more support.



# GLOSSARY

**LGBTQ+:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans or Transgender, and/or Queer

**Lesbian:** women primarily attracted romantically, erotically, and/or emotionally to other women.

**Gay:** experiencing attraction to some members of the same gender.

**Bisexual:** a person who experiences attraction to some people of their gender and another gender. (Often used interchangeably with “pansexual.”)

**Trans or Transgender:** Trans/Transgender is an umbrella term for anyone whose sex assigned at birth and gender identity do not correspond in the expected way (according to social norms).

**Queer:** an umbrella term to describe individuals who aren't straight and/or cisgender.

**+**: the + is included to acknowledge that there are a myriad of queer and trans identities.

**BIPOC:** Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

**TGNCNB:** Transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary communities (TGNCNB or TGNCNB). TGNCNB face statistically higher rates of violence and discrimination than their cisgender peers, even those within LGBTQ+ communities. TGNCNB identities are often erased and misunderstood, acting as a barrier to accessing services.

**Violence:** any act where harm is caused to a person, negatively impacting wellbeing. Power over another facilitates harm. There are many different forms of violence: physical, emotional, financial, sexual, spiritual, etc. Violence is defined as perceived by the person experiencing it.

**Historically underserved communities:** communities that do not receive equitable resources compared to their white, normative counterparts, and in fact, are criminalized, targeted, and subjected to violence instead. This includes BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and TGNCNB people, immigrants and people with unstable documentation status, people with disabilities, people affected by HIV, folks who use drugs, sex workers, survivors of violence, incarcerated people or those who have been or are currently entangled with the criminal legal system, and low income working class communities.



**Homophobia:** a range of negative attitudes (e.g., fear, anger, intolerance, resentment, erasure, or discomfort) that one may have toward LGBTQ+ people.

**Transphobia:** fear, discrimination, or hatred of trans people or community, or gender ambiguity.

**Racism:** systemic and interpersonal violence and abandonment based on race and power. A system of oppression maintained by institutions and cultural “norms” that exploit, control, and oppress BIPOC, to maintain a position of social/material supremacy for white people.

**Sexism:** attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors, and organizational, institutional, and cultural practices that either reflect negative evaluations of individuals based on their gender or perceived gender, which privilege cisgender males. Sexist attitudes stem from stereotypes of gender roles and power of cis heterosexual men over others.

**Misogyny:** sexism or the hatred of women. A person with misogynistic beliefs may not be aware that they are demonstrating a hatred towards women – or even believe that they hate women – but their behavior and words expose prejudice, disdain of, or hostility to women.

**Misogynoir:** the specific hatred, dislike, distrust, and violent prejudice directed toward Black women. Coined by the queer Black feminist Moya Bailey in 2010, the term is a blending of concepts that combines “misogyny” and the French word for black, “noir.”

**Cisgender:** when someone’s gender identity is the same as their sex assigned at birth, following social norms.

**Cissexism:** exercising position of power and preferential treatment of cisgender people, the idea that being cisgender is somehow better or more “right” than being trans, that invisibilizes or hypervisibilizes other genders, and justifies violence against all those who are not cis.

**Ableism:** systemic or interpersonal discrimination and social prejudice against people with disabilities or who are perceived to have disabilities. Ableism characterizes persons as defined by their disabilities and as inferior to the “able-bodied.” On this basis, people are assigned or denied certain perceived abilities, skills, or character orientations.

**Classism:** systemic or interpersonal differential treatment based on social/economic class or perceived class. It’s the systematic oppression of subordinated class groups to advantage the dominant wealthy class(es). It’s the systematic assignment of characteristics of worth and ability based on social class.

**Chosen Family:** A group of individuals who deliberately choose one another to play significant roles in each other’s lives. One definition of chosen family is a group of people someone is emotionally close and consider ‘family’ even though they are not biologically or legally related. These relationships are especially important to LGBTQ+ and TGNCNB people who may be ostracised from their families due to stigma around their gender identity or sexual orientation.

**Primary Person(s) Causing Harm:**

An adult or adolescent engaged in an intimate partnership, who perpetrates violence (physical, emotional, financial, etc) on a consistent basis, to maintain power and control towards their partner. The motivation behind this behavior can be conscious or unconscious. PPCH does not necessarily mean the person who “started” a particular violent occurrence, although their behavior might move the victimized partner to enact violence (ex. self-defense). Often PPCH are assumed to be the person in the relationship with the most societal “power” or “privilege” (e.g. in North American society that means: white, male, straight, cisgender, able-bodied, etc). However, this is not always the case. Privilege often does play a factor for PPCH, however there are many ways to maintain power and control over a partner that are not exclusively linked to a person’s privilege. For this reason, privilege \*can\* plays a factor, but does not exclude those with the least societal power from being a PA (BIPOC, female, LGBTQ+, disabled, etc). Also known in IPV circles as the “primary aggressor,” not used here because we are attempting to move away from binary and outdated language in this tool.



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## **Asian American Federation**

Testimony for the New York City Council  
Committee on Women and Gender Equity

In Support of Int. 1216 — Promoting Awareness of Gender-Based Violence

*October 16, 2025*

### Written Testimony

Good Afternoon. Thank you, Chair Louis and members of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity, for convening this important hearing, and to Council Member Linda Lee, for introducing this critical legislation to promote awareness of gender-based violence city-wide.

My name is Andrew Sta. Ana and I am the Deputy Director of Research and Policy at the Asian American Federation (AAF), where we proudly represent the collective voice of over 70 nonprofit organizations serving 1.5 million Asian New Yorkers. We are here today to testify in support of and pass Intro. 1216, a key step toward preventing gender-based violence (GBV) through public education, awareness, and community engagement. Gender based violence, including domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence and sexual assault, is pervasive in our communities, even in Asian the Asian American Community.

According to the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, up to 55% of Asian women in the U.S have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. In comparison, 18% of AAPI women experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner. Indeed, here in New York City, some of our member groups provide specialized services to serve survivors of gender based violence, including the Korean American Family Services Center, Sakhi for South Asian Survivors, Womankind, and Garden of Hope.

The benefit of Int. 1216 would require the Office to End Gender-Based Violence to develop and distribute posters containing information about domestic violence services and warning signs to hair, nail, and skincare salons citywide—places that serve as trusted community hubs, particularly for immigrant, BIPOC, and low-income communities.

For many survivors—especially those who face language, cultural, or immigration barriers—these salons are not just places of business. They are safe spaces where clients find community and connection, and where stylists and technicians often serve as trusted confidants. At the Federation, we believe that language and cultural competency are key to building trust among community members. By posting clear, multilingual information in these settings, we can ensure that more survivors are aware that help is available for their community and in their language — even for those who may never interact with traditional service systems or law enforcement.



## **The Importance of Language Accessible Resources**

As New York City's Asian population continues to grow—up 34% since 2010, now making up 17.3% of the city's total population—language access remains a defining equity issue.

Half of all Asian New Yorkers are limited English proficient (LEP), compared to 23% of the city's population. Among Asian seniors, that rate climbs to over 70%.

In the wake of the Federal Executive Order 14224, issued on March 1, 2025, which declared English as the nation's "official language" and directed federal agencies to withdraw multilingual supports, New York City must reaffirm its commitment to language access, and the importance of accessibility, even for immigrants. At a time when federal policy threatens to erase language access, New York must lead.

As many Asian New Yorkers may not fully understand English-language posters or outreach materials about GBV service, without multilingual communication, the very people this bill aims to help may remain unaware that assistance is available.

Recommendation:

- We recommend that the posters required under Int. 1216 be produced and distributed in multiple languages to reflect the linguistic diversity of our city, especially in languages spoken by communities with high rates of gender-based violence (GBV) and limited English proficiency. While we are pleased that these posters will be available in Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Bengali, Haitian Creole, Korean, Arabic, Urdu, French, and Polish, we encourage END GBV to include additional Asian languages such as Hindi, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Many members of New York's Asian communities not only seek services at these salons but are also employed there. Ensuring language accessibility and visibility sends a strong message that these resources are important for all New Yorkers.

For our communities, Language access is not simply a service delivery issue—it is a matter of equity, dignity, and civil rights. Ensuring that GBV outreach materials are multilingual is not just a local necessity—it is an act of prevention, public safety, and awareness for all survivors, but especially those who are most isolated and vulnerable. Intro. 1216 is a cost-effective, culturally responsive, and lifesaving measure.

We urge the Council to pass it and to include strong language accessibility provisions so that no survivor is left behind.

Thank you, Chair Louis, and these committees for addressing this critical issue.



Written Testimony of

**Kathryn Robb, Esq.**  
**National Director**  
**The Children's Justice Campaign**  
**At ENOUGH ABUSE®**

Hearing on Int. 1297-2025  
Before the Committee on Women and Gender Equity  
of the New York City Council

October 16, 2025

## **Testimony in Support of Int. No. 1297: Reopening the Lookback Window Under the Gender-Motivated Violence Protection Law**

Good morning, esteemed members of the committee. I am Kathryn Robb, National Director of the Children's Justice Campaign at Enough Abuse. As a lawyer, legislative advocate, national expert, and survivor of childhood sexual abuse, I am submitting this testimony to express our organization's strong support for New York City Int. No. 1297.

This legislation extends the lookback window under the Gender Motivated Violence Act ("GMVA") for one more year, giving survivors—including those with claims from before 2022 or before the original 2000 law—more time to file previously time-barred civil actions. Int. 1297 clarifies that all such survivors are included, empowering them to seek justice and reinforcing New York City's leadership in the fight against sexual abuse.

### **How This Legislation Benefits the Common Good**

A *statute of limitations* ("SOL") is a law that sets a time limit for filing a lawsuit; they are arbitrary time limits established by legislative bodies. They make sense for most civil wrongs; however, they are not appropriate for sexual abuse claims, especially where a young victim is silenced by the perpetrator, often for decades after the victim reaches the age of majority. Statutes of limitations for sexual abuse claims do not serve the well-being of our communities. These limits can be deeply unfair to survivors, as the trauma they experience often delays their ability to come forward. Once the SOL has passed, a person can no longer sue, regardless of the merits of their claim, effectively silencing survivors and allowing abusers to escape accountability. *Revival laws* like Int. 1297 are designed to allow survivors whose claims were previously time-barred to pursue justice. Reopening the GMVA window provides the following significant benefits to society:

- 1. Protects Survivors and Communities Now:** By identifying hidden predators and bad actors, we can prevent future abuse.



- 2. Transfers the Cost of Abuse:** It shifts the financial burden from victims and taxpayers to the responsible parties.
- 3. Educates Communities:** It raises awareness about the extent of sexual violence, empowering communities to better prevent and respond.
- 4. Prevents Future Abuse:** By forcing institutions to adopt stronger protection policies, procedures, and training, we create safer environments for all.

## Sexual Abuse is Widespread

Gender-motivated violence is not a rare occurrence; it is a pervasive crisis in our communities that demands immediate attention. Approximately **1 in 8 children will experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday**.<sup>1</sup> These are not just numbers; they are real children, our children, whose lives are forever altered by this trauma.<sup>2</sup>



## The Long-Term Impacts of Abuse

The effects of childhood sexual abuse (“CSA”), in particular, are severe and long-lasting, impacting survivors physically, psychologically, and socially. Studies have revealed statistically significant correlations between CSA and various **medical issues**, including gynecological problems, chronic pain, sleeping disorders, and obesity. The **sexual health** of survivors is also compromised, with increased risks of adult sexual revictimization, adolescent pregnancy, and higher rates of HIV positivity among men who have sex with men. Furthermore, the **psychological** toll is profound, with survivors reporting higher levels of anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation and behavior, suicide attempts, eating disorders, non-epileptic seizures, fear, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).<sup>3</sup> These devastating impacts underscore the urgent need to reopen access to justice and healing.

<sup>1</sup> Center for Violence Prevention Research, (2024, Nov. 15). “Literature review on prevention of child sexual abuse”, [www.scienceofviolence.org](http://www.scienceofviolence.org).

<sup>2</sup> Stoltenborgh, Marije et al. “A global perspective on child sexual abuse: meta-analysis of prevalence around the world.” *Child maltreatment* vol. 16,2 (2011): 79-101. doi:10.1177/1077559511403920.

<sup>3</sup> Nagtegaal, Maria H, and Cyril Boonmann. “Child Sexual Abuse and Problems Reported by Survivors of CSA: A Meta-Review.” *Journal of child sexual abuse* vol. 31,2 (2022): 147-176. doi:10.1080/10538712.2021.1985673.



## Effects of Gender-Based Violence on the Health and Well-Being of Children

Furthermore, gender-based violence, which is typically enacted against women, can significantly impact the health and well-being of children. **1 in 6 U.S. women** has experienced attempted or completed rape in her lifetime.<sup>4</sup> The leading causes of adult morbidity and mortality are linked to **adverse childhood experiences**, including child abuse and family dysfunction.<sup>5</sup> The short-term effects of domestic violence or abuse on children vary by age and can include symptoms of age regression, self-esteem issues, increased engagement in risky behaviors, and depression.<sup>6</sup> Long-term effects include an increased likelihood of these children repeating the cycle of abusive behaviors as adults<sup>7</sup>, as well as a higher risk of health issues, including diabetes and heart disease.<sup>8</sup>

Children who have been exposed to gender-based violence between partners or family members are considered to have experienced a form of **child maltreatment**. Community studies in the United States indicate that **10 to 20% of children** are exposed to intimate partner violence each year<sup>9</sup>, which is **especially problematic** regarding both the short-term and long-term health effects on children.

**1 in 6 U.S. women  
has experienced  
attempted or  
completed rape  
in her lifetime.**<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> National Institute of Justice & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women Survey (1998), RAINN.

<sup>5</sup> Gilbert, L.K., Breiding, M.J., Merrick, M.T., Parks, S.E., Thompson, W.W., Dhingra, S.S., Ford, D.C. (2015). Childhood Adversity and Adult Chronic Disease: An update from ten states and the District of Columbia, 2010. American Journal of Preventive Medicine; 48(3): 345-349.

<sup>6</sup> "Effects of Domestic Violence on Children: Office on Women's Health." OASH | Office on Women's Health.

<https://womenshealth.gov/relationships-and-safety/domestic-violence/effects-domestic-violence-children#references>.

<sup>7</sup> Vargas, L. Cataldo, J., Dickson, S. (2005). Domestic Violence and Children. In G.R. Walz & R.K. Yep (Eds.), VISTAS: Compelling Perspectives on Counseling. Alexandria, VA: American Counseling Association; 67-69.

<sup>8</sup> Monnat, S.M., Chandler, R.F. (2015), Long Term Physical Health Consequences of Adverse Childhood Experiences. The Sociologist Quarterly; 56(4): 723-752.

<sup>9</sup> Wathen, C Nadine, and Harriet L Macmillan. "Children's exposure to intimate partner violence: Impacts and interventions." *Paediatrics & child health* vol. 18,8 (2013): 419-22.



## Why Survivors Stay Silent

The trauma associated with childhood sexual abuse creates significant barriers to reporting. Tragically, studies show that around 44.9% of male child sex abuse victims and 25.4% of female CSA victims who eventually **disclose their abuse**, do so **more than twenty years after** it occurred.<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, it is estimated that a staggering 70–95% of child sexual abuse victims never report their abuse to the police.<sup>11</sup>

This silence is not a reflection of a lack of courage or evidence but rather the profound psychological impact of abuse, including the deep-seated fear, shame, and manipulation tactics employed by perpetrators and their enablers. New York City's 2022 GMVA window was an extraordinary step forward, but its cutoff dates meant that some survivors were left behind. Int. 1297 ensures that those survivors also have a meaningful opportunity to come forward.

## Justice Through Revival

By reopening the GMVA lookback window, Int. 1297 empowers survivors of gender-motivated violence to come forward when they are ready, on their own terms, regardless of how much time has passed. This reform ensures that decades after the abuse, survivors retain the right to tell their stories, name their abusers, and expose patterns of violence that may still be unfolding.

The knowledge that past actions can be brought to light and result in liability—even years later—challenges the sense of impunity that enables some offenders to continue their destructive behavior.

This critical change enables the pursuit of justice, holds offenders accountable, and helps prevent further harm.

## New York City's Leadership in the National Landscape

New York City has been a national leader in justice for survivors. By passing the 2022 GMVA amendment, the City became one of the first jurisdictions in the nation to create a local civil revival window for survivors of gender-motivated violence. That historic action was part of a broader national movement toward SOL reform:

- **Revival Windows:** Thirty states and three territories have passed revival/window laws for expired civil abuse claims, including Vermont, Maryland, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands, which have permanently opened revival windows.

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<sup>10</sup> O'Leary, Patrick J, and James Barber. "Gender differences in silencing following childhood sexual abuse." *Journal of child sexual abuse* vol. 17,2 (2008): 133-43. doi:10.1080/10538710801916416.

<sup>11</sup> Finkelhor, David, et al. "Sexually Assaulted Children: National Estimates and Characteristics." *National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children*, Office of Justice Programs, Aug. 2008, [www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/214383.pdf](http://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/214383.pdf).



- **Eliminating SOLs:** Twenty states, two territories, and the federal government have eliminated civil SOLs for some or all child sexual abuse claims. For example, the Federal Government recognized the importance of addressing this issue with The Eliminating Limits to Justice for Child Sex Abuse Victims Act of 2022, which removed the civil SOL for over a dozen federal CSA claims.

With Int. 1297, New York City continues to lead by example—ensuring its own revival law reaches every survivor it was designed to protect.

**20 states, 2 territories,  
and the federal gov.  
have eliminated the civil  
SOL for some or all CSA  
claims**

AR, AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, IL,  
LA, ME, MD, MN, NE, NV, NH, OR, UT,  
VT, WA, Fed., NMI, & Guam

**23**  
JURISDICTIONS

**30 states and 3  
territories have passed  
revival/window  
legislation for expired  
civil CSA claims**

AL, AZ, AR, CA, CO\*, CT, DE, GA, HI, IN, IA, KS,  
KY, LA, ME\*, MD, MA, MI, MN, MT, NV, NJ, NY,  
NC, OH, OR, RI, UT\*, VT, WV, DC, NMI, & Guam

**33**  
JURISDICTIONS



## Conclusion

In conclusion, I urge this Committee and the full Council to support **Int. No. 1297**. By reopening the GMVA lookback window for one additional year, New York City can help survivors of gender-motivated violence heal by removing legal barriers and time constraints that silenced them.

This amendment acknowledges the realities of delayed disclosure and the long-term impacts of trauma, fostering an environment where survivors can heal and hold perpetrators accountable. Critically, Int. 1297 sends a strong message that New York City stands with all survivors of gender-motivated violence—those of the past and the present—and remains committed to ensuring justice and safety for all.

Let us prioritize the well-being of survivors, take another step toward breaking the cycle of violence, and protect all New Yorkers now and in the future.





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**Testimony in Support of Better Data Collection, Data Analysis, and  
Dissemination of Information and Resource Materials Relating to Gender-Based and  
Domestic Violence in New York City**

October 17, 2025

To the Committee on Women and Gender Equity:

My name is Molly Senack, and I am testifying today on behalf of the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY) as their Education and Employment Community Organizer. This testimony is supported by Sharon McLennon Wier, Ph.D., MEd., CRC, LMHC, Executive Director of CIDNY.

According to the NYS Department of Health, nearly 2 million people in New York City have some form of disability— impaired mobility, or ADHD, or an anxiety disorder, or any number of other issues that constitute disability. It is not unreasonable for them to expect to experience some form of gender-based or domestic violence in their lifetimes. That is simply a basic statistical fact.

In 2021, the United States Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that a disabled person is four times more likely to be sexually assaulted or raped than someone who is not disabled. In 2018 NPR found that people who had an intellectual disability were seven times more likely to be sexually assaulted; and for a woman with an intellectual disability the likelihood was twelve-fold. In the same year a University of Michigan study found that in the United States, 40% of women with disabilities (almost half of all women with disabilities) experience sexual assault or physical violence in their lifetime. This finding is consistent with a 2015 study by Wilczynski et al., which found that anywhere between 40% and 70% of girls with disabilities will experience sexual abuse before they turn 18, as will 30% of boys with disabilities. If that comparison makes 30% sound low, it is all the more reason to be alarmed. That, and the likelihood that this consistently documented data most likely represents an undercount.

According to a 2018 Department of Justice report, approximately only 40% of all sexual assaults are reported. In 2021, the National Crime Victimization Survey put that number even lower, approximating that only 21.5% of sexual assaults are reported. However, studies consistently show that people with disabilities are about half as likely to report a sexual assault as people without disabilities. The same 2021 Bureau of Justice Statistics Report showed that between 2017 and 2019, 36% of people without disabilities who had experienced sexual assault reported it to the police, while only 19% of people with disabilities who had experienced sexual assault reported it to the police.

The absence of reliable data regarding the correlation between disability and domestic violence is, unfortunately, even starker. Although a 2015 analysis of the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that 23.8% of women who had experienced intimate partner violence had a disability, as did 20.1% of men who had experienced intimate partner violence,

and although multiple other studies suggest that people with disabilities are approximately twice as likely as people without disabilities to experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime, the quantitative analysis on this subject is extremely limited. This gap between available qualitative analysis and available statistics is acknowledged by both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Domestic Violence Services Network.

**Given the prevalence of gender-based and domestic violence in the disabled community, CIDNY strongly supports the passage of Int 0459, Int 1188, Int 1216, Int 1297, and Int 1416,** and asks that disability be given very serious consideration as information is collected, analyzed, and disseminated through this legislation. **We ask that disability status be included in the demographic data collected, that all materials and resources are accessible** (including availability in Plain Language), and that the Mayor's Office to End Gender-Based Violence and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene **specifically include training on disability and the impact of intersectional trauma in the information they provide** to healthcare providers on integrating trauma-informed practice to gender-based violence screenings.

We thank the Council for their time and effort, and hope that through the passage of this legislation, NYC will be able to identify, address, and prevent the violence too often perpetrated on the disabled community.

Sincerely,

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**Testimony:** Rachel L. Braunstein, Director of Policy  
**Hearing:** Oversight – Examining the Adequacy of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Data in NYC  
**Host:** Committee on Women and Gender Equity  
**Date:** October 16, 2025

Thank you, Chair Louis and the Committee on Women and Gender Equity for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this critical matter. I am Rachel Braunstein, the Director of Policy at Her Justice, a nonprofit organization that has advocated with and for women living in poverty in New York City for more than 30 years. Her Justice provides free legal assistance to women living in poverty in New York City through a “pro bono first” approach in the areas of family, matrimonial and immigration law. We train, mentor, and support volunteer attorneys to address the individual and systemic legal needs facing our clients. Since our founding in 1993, Her Justice has assisted tens of thousands of New Yorkers. Among the clients we served in 2024, 92% are women of color and 85% are survivors of domestic violence. Three-fourths of our clients were born outside the U.S., coming from 103 countries across the world.

Her Justice is grateful for funding from citywide initiatives like the Domestic Violence and Empowerment Initiative (DoVE). DoVE funding, including both citywide and individual funding from Council Members, supports the critical legal services Her Justice provides to women living in poverty in New York City. It has helped Her Justice enhance the quantity and quality of direct representation and successful outcomes in court for many women who are survivors of domestic violence. In FY25, we provided legal services to 1,038 victims of domestic violence throughout all five boroughs of New York City. In addition, we conducted 39 outreach events, reaching 1,072 community members including legal education trainings to 833 attorneys and law students.

### **The Power of Data to Support Policy**

Her Justice applauds the Council for recognizing, through this hearing, the critical importance of reassessing how data is used to measure the extent of need and allocate resources for domestic violence survivors in New York City. It would be valuable to collect synchronized data to inform Council funding priorities, such as the DoVE initiative, in a way that accurately reflects community need. Nonprofits like ours often know where the need exists because we are on the ground with clients every day. Reliable data – including as to the civil justice dimensions of domestic violence – is foundational to understanding where survivors live, what barriers they face, and how City resources can most effectively meet their needs.

The Council has long supported Her Justice in our work on behalf of women living in poverty and immigrant survivors of domestic violence, and we thank the Council for elevating this issue as part of its commitment to equity and safety. We are grateful for the opportunity to share additional considerations for ensuring that the Council’s decisions around addressing the needs of domestic violence survivors are based on assessment of data that recognizes the realities of underreporting in many New York City communities and an effort to collect consistent, synchronized, and disaggregated data across systems.

In addition to serving individual legal needs, Her Justice engages in policy reform, advocacy, and research to address systemic barriers facing our clients. Her Justice’s policy work is informed by the lived experience of our clients — women living in poverty whose livelihood and well-being are often determined by the civil justice system. We work to reform this



system such that it produces the most favorable outcomes for women like our clients, through processes that are as equitable, empowering, and as efficient as possible. Her Justice is deeply committed to exploring the power of data to inform and support policy change. We have developed expertise in conducting original research to build civil justice data collections and leverage these to support reform.

- In 2021, Her Justice released our first policy research report, [Towards Justice for Parents in Child Support Courts](#), which presented an analysis of 800 court observations in New York City child support cases and recommendations for Family Court reform. Her Justice leveraged this research to support a legislative campaign focused on reforming the New York child support courts.
- In November 2024, Her Justice launched our newest policy research project, [Report From Court](#), which surveys pro bono attorneys representing Her Justice clients in New York City Family Court about their experiences and case outcomes and presents survey data in real time on a website. By making visible the Family Court experience and the perspectives of pro bono attorneys, *Report From Court* aims to fill a critical gap in Family Court data and support meaningful reform.
- Her Justice has also conducted research on the legal needs of immigrants in our community to support policy reform. Our 2023 report, [Stories from Immigrant Survivors of Gender-Based Violence: The Impact of Work Authorization](#), features findings from qualitative interviews with 31 undocumented immigrant survivors about the impact of employment authorization on their employment, income, housing, access to government services, interactions with the criminal justice system, and mental health. Her Justice continues to highlight this research in local and federal advocacy around rights and benefits for immigrants.

We are eager to partner with the Council in all of our policy and research work and act as a resource wherever needed.

### **Expanding Data for City Domestic Violence Funding Initiatives**

**Law enforcement data tells part of the story.** Her Justice is committed to continuing to serve the needs of survivors of domestic violence in New York City as we have since our founding. It is our understanding that data on the number of Domestic Incident Reports (“DIRs”) made to the NYPD historically played a significant role in the Council’s decisions around funding for domestic violence services. Reports of abuse to law enforcement are an important measure of need; such reports can shed critical light on the need for immediate help to stop violence and are key evidence in Family or criminal court matters. At the same time, research shows that a significant number of domestic violence survivors do not report their abuse. According to the [2024 National Crime Victimization Survey](#), a national study conducted by the Department of Justice, only 61% of intimate partner violence victims reported their abuse to law enforcement. Among other things, evidence shows that certain populations may be less willing to call law enforcement for assistance due to historical mistrust or fear of legal repercussions given additional vulnerabilities like immigration status.

**Immigrant survivors may not report abuse to law enforcement.** In times of increased enforcement, immigrants and undocumented immigrants may be reluctant to rely on law enforcement. In our policy research project around employment authorization documentation, Her Justice conducted interviews with immigration clients to understand, among other things, survivors’ willingness to seek help from law enforcement as it related to their immigration status and work authorization. Of the participants who had obtained work permits, **only 40% said they would have called the police for help before having work authorization.** These interviews also revealed that Black immigrant survivors reported



additional fear of the police not just for being undocumented, but also for being Black in America. Their abusers wielded instances of biased policing practices against them, threatening that the police would not help them if they called for assistance. An example from one of the interviews for the project follows.

***Imam’s Story.*** Her Justice client Imam described an abusive episode in which she experienced microaggressions from responding officers. She told Her Justice that “America has an issue with colorism,” and the officers were speaking to her in an aggressive manner while they treated her abusive husband with respect. Imam discussed the only time she called the police after years of abuse: “It just got to the point where I’d rather be arrested than dead. ‘Cause that man, his mission was to kill me.” Imam never called the police during past abuse because “I was afraid they were going to arrest me instead, because he was the American citizen.”

Increased immigration enforcement and deportation this year, along with unpredictable threats of policy change, have created fear in immigrant communities that deters undocumented immigrants from reporting domestic violence. In spring 2025, [Alliance for Immigrant Survivors](#) conducted a nationwide survey of advocates and attorneys in which more than 75% of advocates reported that immigrant survivors are hesitant to call law enforcement. Seventy percent of advocates stated that their immigrant survivor clients are fearful of going to court for a matter related to their abuser.

Her Justice sought to assess the completeness of NYPD DIR data given the needs of some of the communities we serve. We analyzed data from our client base and found that many of our undocumented immigrant clients who are survivors of domestic violence resided in areas with *lower* rates of domestic violence reporting to the NYPD. For example, according to [2024 NYPD data](#), police precincts in Brooklyn neighborhoods such as Cypress Hills and East Flatbush, along with neighborhoods in the Bronx such as Mott Haven and southeast Bronx, had the highest number of domestic violence reports. According to Her Justice data, many clients who identify as victims of domestic violence and are undocumented immigrants live in neighborhoods that do not have a high number of domestic violence police reports.

- For example, the NYPD precinct that serves Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights in Brooklyn reported 754 domestic violence incidents in 2024 (compared to over 3,500 in other areas). Her Justice data on clients in this area shows a high percentage – forty percent (40%) – of undocumented immigrant survivors.
- Similarly, the NYPD precinct that serves Jackson Heights, East Elmhurst, and North Corona in Queens reported 1,859 domestic violence incidents in 2024. Her Justice data on clients in this area shows a high percentage – forty-eight percent (48%) – of undocumented immigrant survivors.

Simply put, a large percentage of Her Justice clients who are undocumented domestic violence survivors live in New York City neighborhoods that have lower numbers of domestic violence police reports. The examples show the value of considering multiple sources of information in assessing responses to the needs of domestic violence survivors.

Her Justice’s understanding of high needs for immigrant survivors and barriers to reporting domestic violence is deepened through partnerships with community organizations that also serve our client populations. Her Justice collaborates with 250+ community-based organizations in high-need areas in the City. Among our key partners are the Korean American Family Service Center and Garden of Hope in Queens, VIP Mujeres in the South Bronx, and Sakhi for South Asian Survivors, which provide a hotline to immigrant survivors. Through these collaborations, Her Justice strengthens referral pathways



between legal and social service providers, ensuring that women navigating family, matrimonial, and immigration legal matters receive trauma-informed, survivor-centered support in their own communities. Our work with partner organizations reinforces our understanding that community need is great and that those with the greatest need may be reluctant to seek help in traditional ways, necessitating a nuanced strategy to assessing and investing in service providers.

**Challenges exist across data sources.** Even beyond its limitations to fully account for the needs of immigrant communities, NYPD data itself shows disproportionately low incident reporting rates for certain precincts despite known community demographics and service referral levels. According to Her Justice’s analysis, it is extremely difficult to calculate reliable, neighborhood-level measures of need whether by police precinct, community district, or community board. Each system uses different boundaries and reporting methods, and data from city agencies are often siloed and incompatible. Of significance is the fact that geographic levels for various data sets are not aligned. For example, the NYPD reports domestic violence incidents at the precinct level. These precincts do not correspond fully to other geographic levels such as zip code or borough community boards. Therefore, it is difficult to make calculations such as the domestic violence report rate per 1,000 inhabitants or analyze neighborhood demographic factors. Overlaying all these geographic layers can be time consuming and requires specialized mapping skills that many organizations and advocates do not have. Any discussion about the accuracy of domestic violence data should also include how to contextualize the data within the communities where it occurs.

### **An Opportunity to Collect Data on Domestic Violence and Divorce**

As the Council knows, a fair divorce can be especially critical for victims of domestic violence, for whom financial stability is key to remaining free from abuse. **Among Her Justice matrimonial clients whose cases were resolved in 2023-2024, 69% reported experiencing domestic violence in their marriage.** Divorce can be especially complex for survivors of domestic violence. In determining child custody and visitation, the divorce court considers a family’s history of domestic violence in making safe parenting access arrangements. A survivor may also seek an order of protection in a divorce, including an order seeking exclusion of the abusive spouse from the marital home. In addition to the physical, sexual, and psychological health consequences of domestic violence it is well documented that partner violence frequently involves financial abuse that threatens the survivor’s economic security and potential for self-sufficiency. Economic abuse is prevalent among survivors of domestic violence, with research showing that almost all have suffered some form of it. Survivors in divorce proceedings seek legal help to address the consequences of economic abuse, including in terms of damaged credit and unintended or coerced debt. Addressing these legal needs frequently requires expertly competent legal counsel along with social services support.

We applaud the Council for its recognition of the importance of legal representation in divorce through Int. 1175. This measure – passed as a pilot – creates an opportunity to assess the extent of need and resources for scaling a program to provide divorce representation for domestic violence survivors in New York City. In addition to the metrics outlined in Int. 1175, it would be valuable to collect court data to inform implementation of the pilot. Even with the substantial numbers of divorce filings in New York State and City each year, there is a **data gap around domestic violence in divorce**, including the prevalence of domestic violence in divorce cases and experiences and outcomes for survivors in divorce. Inadequate investment in collecting and reporting on court data to illustrate the nature and extent of civil justice problems makes it



more challenging to enact policy to improve the court experience and outcomes, and to optimize the functionality of the courts. To address the data gap on domestic violence and divorce and to learn more for scaling the pilot, we propose that the City undertake an effort to collect data from the Office of Court Administration to more broadly illustrate the needs of survivors in divorce in New York City. This could be paired with an investment in legal services organizations with expertise in divorce given their rich data around the services they provide illustrating the strong need for more resources for survivors in divorce. This data will be critical to assess program success, determine which communities are and are not participating in the pilot, and target additional needs of this population.

### **Policy Recommendations**

Based on the above, we urge the Council to **expand its consideration of data sources on domestic violence to support Council initiatives**. To the extent current collection methods are based on police precinct reporting, they do not capture the full scope of violence experienced by undocumented or marginalized survivors who are less likely to engage with law enforcement. To address these challenges, we recommend that the Council:

- **utilize DIR data but recognize its shortcomings** given barriers to reporting for vulnerable communities. The Council should further use data based on zip codes, including immigration data, to ensure it is targeting high areas of need while also achieving the appropriate level of anonymity for survivors.
- **collect data on domestic violence survivors who are seeking divorce in the courts** to break the cycle of abuse through Int. 1175 and make this disaggregated data public to inform survivors and advocates about the pilot.

Her Justice also **supports the passage of Int. 1126**, which would require the Office to End Gender-Based Violence to create informational posters about available services and how to recognize signs of abuse. The Office would then provide these posters, free of charge, to hair, nail, and skincare salons across New York City. This bill follows the precedent of many other requirements for businesses to display various important information for the public, including NYC's law to display choking hazard posters in restaurants. Int. 1216 is a proactive step toward fostering safer environments, enhancing public education, and ensuring that survivors of gender-based violence know that help is available.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for your longstanding support of Her Justice and our commitment to serving women living in poverty, including survivors of domestic violence. We appreciate the Council's recognition of the need to reevaluate how data shapes funding priorities, such as the DoVE initiative, and domestic violence policy, and we are grateful for the opportunity to submit this testimony. We look forward to continuing to partner with the Council on this issue and to improving services and outcomes for our clients and all New Yorkers in need.

Respectfully,

Rachel L. Braunstein, Esq.  
rbraunstein@herjustice.org



Good afternoon Chair Louis and Council Members,

My name is Jeehae Fischer, and I am the Executive Director at the Korean American Family Service Center (KAFSC). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and for your leadership in addressing the urgent needs of survivors of gender-based violence in New York City.

For over 35 years, KAFSC has walked alongside survivors—many of them immigrant women and children—helping them rebuild their lives after abuse. Our team provides counseling, legal and housing assistance, financial support, workforce development, youth programs, and operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline. We are also a proud member of The Collective, a coalition of community-based organizations that serve survivors of color and immigrant survivors across New York City.

Every day, KAFSC meets clients who come to us as a last resort—after months or even years of suffering in silence. In 2024, our hotline responded to 4,893 calls, and our advocates supported nearly 3,000 survivors and family members. Yet these numbers don't tell the full story. So many survivors in our community remain unseen and uncounted. Many are hesitant to report violence to the police or city agencies because of language barriers, fear of deportation, or mistrust of systems.

In today's political climate—where rhetoric around immigration and gender justice has become increasingly polarized—many immigrant survivors feel even more isolated and fearful of seeking help. This makes the role of trusted, culturally specific community organizations like KAFSC even more critical.

When survivors come to KAFSC, they find staff who speak their language, understand their culture, and most importantly, listen without judgment. It's often through this trust that they gain the courage to take next steps—to go to the hospital, file an order of protection, or move into safe housing. But these stories rarely appear in official city data, which still relies heavily on police reports. That's why KAFSC strongly supports Int.1416 by Council Member Louis, which would help the City better understand where survivors are seeking help and where resources are most needed. Collecting data from hospitals, shelters, and community-based providers will create a fuller picture and allow the City to respond more effectively.

I also want to express our strong support for Int. 1216 by Council Member Linda Lee, which would require the City to provide gender-based violence resource posters in hair and nail salons. For many immigrant women, salons are safe, trusted spaces. I've met clients who told me they first learned about KAFSC through a poster in a local business. That one piece of information gave them the courage to reach out for help—and it changed the trajectory of their lives.

As someone who sees survivors' pain and resilience every day, I know how powerful access to the right information and support can be. On behalf of KAFSC and the survivors we serve, thank you for your leadership and commitment to making New York City safer and more inclusive for all. Thank you.

**P.O. Box 541429 Flushing, NY 11354 | Office 718.460.3801 | 24-Hour Hotline 718.460.3800  
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## **New York City Council Oversight Hearing of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity Examining the Adequacy of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Data in NYC**

Chair Louis and fellow members of the New York City Council Committee on Women and Gender Equity.

Thank you for holding this important oversight hearing to explore how we can better support New Yorkers impacted by domestic and gender-based violence. For more than 50 years, the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty (Met Council) has been committed to fighting poverty and supporting vulnerable New Yorkers. Met Council operates ten departments, spanning from 100 percent affordable housing to our award-winning Family Violence Services program, comprehensive Holocaust survivor assistance, senior programming, Benefits Access and Crisis Intervention, and the country's largest kosher and halal emergency food network. Together, these programs provide critical resources and support to more than 320,000 New Yorkers each year, including thousands of survivors of domestic violence seeking safety, stability, and healing.

Family and gender-based violence impacts New Yorkers of all walks of life. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an average of 24 people per minute are victims of intimate partner violence, and 30% to 60% of intimate partner violence perpetrators also abuse children in the household. In a diverse and densely populated city like New York, addressing this issue is a public health and social justice imperative. Education, timely intervention, and meaningful support within the legal and social service systems are essential to disrupting these cycles and supporting survivors in rebuilding their lives.

When working to protect survivors of gender-based and domestic violence, it is essential to make resources readily available in settings where survivors can access them inconspicuously. **Int. 1216** does just that. This bill helps survivors access information on recognizing abuse and where to seek help where they are comfortable. It is vital that this information is in spaces where survivors feel safe. Posting these materials in everyday community spaces normalizes conversations about gender-based violence, helps reduce shame and stigma for those seeking support, and lets them know they're not alone. This also empowers salon workers and other peers to recognize the signs of abuse and potentially connect survivors with lifesaving resources. The availability and accessibility of these resources are essential to combating gender-based violence. Requiring multilingual posters ensures that critical safety information is accessible to immigrant and limited-English-speaking communities, many of whom Met Council serves, who are often underrepresented in outreach efforts.

Similarly, **Int. 1188** would improve access to information about intimate partner violence and individual rights, allowing married individuals to better understand their rights and protections. It is crucial that all New Yorkers understand the resources available to them, and their legal standing should they ever need support. By making this information a standard part of the process for newly married couples, the city helps normalize conversations about domestic violence, reduce stigma, and encourage survivors to seek help.

The Gender-Motivated Violence Protection Act (GMVPA) created a meaningful opportunity for survivors of intimate partner and gender-based violence to pursue justice. **Int. 1297** reopens the lookback window created by the GMVPA and acknowledges that healing and disclosure don't follow a legal timeline. GMVPA ensures that the system doesn't hurt or punish survivors who need more time before coming forward. A one-year window strikes a balance between survivor access and legal clarity, ensuring fairness for all parties and reinforces the City's commitment to holding perpetrators and

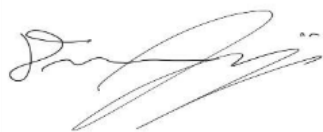
institutions accountable. Prioritizing the reopening of the lookback window sends a powerful message that gender-based violence will not be ignored or excused by time, which is a vital message to send to survivors who already often feel like the system is failing them. For providers, like Met Council's Family Violence Team, this change would mean that more of our clients and more survivors in general can seek accountability, closure, and resources to rebuild their lives.

When domestic violence survivors do reach out for help, it is important that they can access accurate and comprehensive information. **Int. 459** ensures that any domestic violence related 311 calls will automatically be directed to the New York City Domestic Violence Hotline (DV Hotline). 311 operators are not experts on domestic violence; this is why the DV Hotline is such a valuable tool. This change would put reporting survivors on track to access the resources that are available, find safety, and pursue justice. This change can only have the intended impact if adequate funding is also provided to meet the influx of calls to the DV Hotline. Without appropriate funding, this change will simply flood the current DV Hotline without any ability to provide more resources. Increased access to resources can only be achieved with increased funding to meet that need.

Accurate, accessible data is essential for understanding the true scope of gender-based violence in New York City. This helps to identify service gaps and ensure resources reach the communities that need them most. For providers like Met Council, a robust and reliable source of data on intimate partner violence enables us to advocate for funding, engage in targeted prevention, and improve coordination between agencies. Met Council supports **Int. 1416** because, by requiring agencies like DSS and ACS to report on their screening and referral practices, we can improve accountability and help to ensure that survivors of intimate partner violence are not falling through the cracks. By creating a public-facing data dashboard, the City sends a clear message that gender-based violence is not only a public health and equity issue, but one that deserves visibility, transparency, and sustained attention. While this improvement in data reporting is a step in the right direction, it is important to acknowledge that some survivors of intimate partner and domestic violence choose not to reach out to NYPD for a variety of reasons. Therefore, that data may not be included in a public-facing data dashboard. It is essential that the city continue to build more comprehensive ways of obtaining data on gender-based violence that are safe for clients, more accurately represent the scope of the issue and inform providers of the true need for services.

This package of legislation will undoubtedly create a positive impact on our clients and the survivors of family and gender-based violence throughout our City. We thank the committee for their proactive work supporting some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers we serve. Thank you for taking the time to review our testimony, and we hope to continue to work with this committee and the City Council to better meet the needs of all New Yorkers.

Thank you,



Dickran Jebejian  
Director of Policy  
Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty





October 16, 2025

New York City Council

Committee on Women and Gender Equity  
Hon. Farah N. Louis, Chair

**Testimony of Elizabeth Ebright, Director, Research & Evaluation  
Safe Horizon**

**On Examining the Adequacy of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Data in NYC**

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee on Women and Gender Equity. My name is Elizabeth Ebright, and I am Director of Research and Evaluation at Safe Horizon, the largest victim service organization in the country. Every year, 250,000 people seek safety through our services. Clients come to us following experiences of physical violence, sexual violence, community violence, emotional abuse, and exploitation. We use a lens of racial equity and justice to guide our work with clients, with each other, and in developing the positions we hold.

Our mission is to stand with those who have experienced violence, abuse, and exploitation. We offer unwavering support and advocate for systemic change. We envision a world where safety is a universal human right.

Safe Horizon is grateful for the City Council's continued partnership in ensuring that we collectively do all that we can to support survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. And we appreciate the topic of today's hearing.

We believe that data is important. Data helps us identify gaps in services. Data helps us to better understand where and how we connect survivors to supports and invest our resources. And data informs policy and practice. We also know, however, that data is deeply context-dependent and should not be the sole driver of our actions. Numbers so often hide the human stories that we hear every day.

There is already a lot of data out there, but we too often don't know where to look. We support efforts to survey and analyze what data is currently collected by city agencies to better inform where we are directing our dollars so all survivors can receive the assistance they need.

Safe Horizon administers the Domestic Violence and Empowerment (DoVE) Initiative on behalf of the City Council. We are deeply proud of our role and of the collective work of the 170 DoVE organizations to address DV in every corner of our city. The City Council uses data to direct dollars into communities and districts through DoVE and through other initiatives. To our knowledge, the City Council mainly uses data gathered by NYPD, namely domestic incident reports (DIRs), when



deciding how much DoVE money each of the 51 Council Districts should be allotted. We know that many survivors choose not to report their harm to law enforcement for a variety of reasons, including fear of retaliation, fear of arrest, and mistrust in law enforcement. There is a palpable fear of law enforcement, and frankly of government agencies, given the treatment of immigrants (including people who have legal status), people of color, trans and queer people, and other people with marginalized identities, by this federal government and even by local leaders. We agree that our government should look beyond law enforcement data to ensure that all districts are resourced with services and supports.

Safe Horizon is generally in support of legislation and approaches that increase access to data around domestic and gender-based violence. But we do want to share some of our thoughts to inform how and why data is collected:

- Legislation that mandates additional data collection and reporting from City agencies often trickles down to the nonprofit organizations that those agencies contract with. Added reports force providers to take time away from helping clients and focusing on their immediate needs. These new reporting requirements very rarely come with increased funding. That means unfunded mandates, administrative burden, and an even further drain on time, energy, and resources.
- Data collection can cause providers to veer away from survivor-centered and trauma-informed practice and service delivery. At Safe Horizon, we are constantly balancing the need to gather important information from clients and focusing on their immediate safety concerns and needs.
- Guardrails for the safety and security of our clients are paramount. Even within Safe Horizon, not everybody has access to data across the organization, and that is purposeful. We want to ensure the privacy, anonymity, and confidentiality of survivors.
- We have concerns about data being too specific and being exportable, especially when that information can be weaponized by malicious actors, including this federal government. Even though demographic information is important, we are especially concerned that demographic information can be used to hurt our clients.
- We do fear a potential chilling effect on survivors when and if the City tries to extract more information from them and from us. We don't want survivors to stop reaching out for help because they are concerned about their information being collected and used in potentially harmful ways.
- ENDGBV and other City agencies must work with stakeholders, including and especially survivors, people with lived experience, and community-based organizations when making recommendations regarding collecting data from survivors.
- Although we appreciate how helpful intra-agency data sharing can be, we also recognize that agencies and organizations have very different mandates. Often, we do very different work with the same person, people, or community. How can we gather important and relevant data while holding onto that complexity?
- When we standardize reporting, we sometimes lose context. Regarding DoVE Initiative reports, for example, one organization may use \$50,000 to provide deep case management to





dozens of survivors. Another organization may use \$50,000 to conduct outreach across a district or a borough, reaching hundreds or thousands of New Yorkers. We want organizations to receive the funding they need to do the work they excel at and/or want to get better at. Additionally, the impact of funding depends on the level of funding. What can a community-based organization meaningfully do with \$5,000, especially when that CBO has to complete all the same paperwork and reporting as a CBO that receives \$500,000.

Ultimately, there is information about systems that we wish we knew, and we'd like the Council to work with us.

- What does an individual survivor's journey across systems look like? What systems did they interact with, what went well, and what went wrong?
- In aggregate, how do survivors flow through systems, and where are the points they may have been denied safety?
- What is the City's total expenditures on domestic violence-related services, given that so many agencies impact survivors and have been tasked by mayoral administrations to respond to domestic violence?

We look forward to continuing this conversation so the City can collect data with care.

### **Legislation:**

We are still reviewing the bills on today's agenda and are happy to talk further with the Committee, but we enthusiastically support Int. 1297-2025.

### **Int. 1297-2025:**

At Safe Horizon, we know that safety looks different for every survivor, healing looks different for every survivor, and justice looks different for every survivor. That's why Safe Horizon advocates to build out options for survivors to pursue safety, healing, and justice in ways that feel right for them. That's why we advocated for the Child Victims Act and the Adult Survivors Act, two state laws that opened the doors to our courts to survivors who had been ignored and silenced for too long. And that's why we supported the opening of the lookback window to New York City's Gender-Motivated Violence Act.

Unfortunately, a judge's recent interpretation of the GMVA is again denying survivors their ability to pursue justice in the courts. The recent court ruling (*S.S. v. Rockefeller University Hospital*) said the GMVA revival window doesn't apply to institutions, only to individual abusers. The court also stated that the law does not apply retroactively for abuse that occurred before 2022. This resulted in the dismissal of hundreds of civil cases; hundreds of survivors were denied justice.

Once again, we are asking the City Council to right these injustices and pass Int. 1297. This legislation would clarify that survivors of sexual violence *can* pursue civil actions against



institutions and for abuse that occurred before 2022. This legislation would also give survivors an additional 1-year lookback window.

Trauma takes time. We know that it can take survivors of sexual abuse many years, and sometimes decades, to process their trauma and to disclose what happened to them. As a provider of services to survivors of sexual assault and other crimes, we also know that individuals who have been sexually assaulted often experience significant trauma that can delay disclosure. Our laws and our statute of limitations must align with the realities of trauma. We need laws and policies that allow survivors of sexual violence and abuse to hold accountable the people who caused them harm and the institutions that allowed that abuse to happen. We urge the City Council to pass this legislation. Survivors cannot wait one more day.

Thank you.

## **TESTIMONY OF KAVITA MEHRA**

**Executive Director, Sakhi for South Asian Survivors**

**Before the New York City Council Committee on Women and Gender Equity**

**Hearing on Gender-Based Violence and Related Legislation**

**October 16, 2025**

Chair Louis and Council Members,

My name is Kavita Mehra, and I'm the Executive Director of Sakhi for South Asian Survivors. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony, and for dedicating this hearing to the needs of survivors of gender-based violence in New York City.

Sakhi has been working with survivors in the South Asian and Indo-Caribbean diaspora since 1989. Sakhi believes that transformational impact in our community can happen by three elements working together: advocacy and systems change, community mobilization and direct work with survivors. Through our direct services program, Sakhi provides a holistic continuum of care including but not limited to crisis intervention, counseling, legal and housing assistance, financial support, food security, and economic empowerment to over 600 survivors each year. Our helpline, which provides services in multiple South Asian languages receives over 1,800 calls annually.

Sakhi is also a founding member of The Collective, a group of five culturally specific gender-based violence organizations serving New Yorkers across all five boroughs. Together, we share the goal of ensuring that the City's systems, data, and funding reflect the full reality of survivors' lives.

Our clients come from every walk of life: recent immigrants, long-time New Yorkers, survivors navigating family court, families seeking safe housing. Yet every day, we hear from and work with survivors who would never appear in city data because they are reluctant—or simply unable—to engage with law enforcement or other city agencies. Fear of deportation, language barriers, and distrust of institutions all contribute to significant underreporting.

The communities we serve represent one of New York City's fastest-growing immigrant populations. South Asian and Indo-Caribbean New Yorkers are concentrated in neighborhoods like Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, Jamaica, Jackson Heights, and Kensington—areas where city-funded gender-based violence services remain limited or nonexistent. Survivors in these communities face layered barriers, including immigration status concerns, economic dependence, cultural stigma, and fear of community ostracism. Many live in multigenerational households where privacy is limited, making disclosure and seeking help even harder. These realities mean that survivors from our communities are often invisible in city data, despite living in neighborhoods with high need.

Right now, the City's most widely cited data on domestic violence comes almost entirely from police reports. In 2024, more than 110,000 domestic violence complaints were filed citywide—over 300 every day.

But those numbers, as alarming as they are, still leave out the survivors who never make that call. They don't include the survivors who quietly reach out to us through our dedicated text line because they can't safely make a phone call. They don't include those who turn to a trusted friend or faith leader before ever approaching a government office. And they don't include those who stay silent because a deeply broken system has failed them before.

Another critical gap lies in how the City categorizes and reports data about Asian communities. Current data systems rarely disaggregate between East Asian, South Asian, and Indo-Caribbean identities, which obscures the specific experiences of survivors in our communities. Without that disaggregation, the particular needs of South Asian and Indo-Caribbean survivors remain hidden in compiled statistics.

If we want to address gender-based violence in a meaningful way, we need better data. Data that reflects all survivors. At present, there is no standardized or publicly available data capturing how many individuals identify as survivors of violence across most city systems. Even for data ostensibly being collected in hospital and shelter settings, the information is not publicly accessible.

To build a more accurate picture, the City of New York must establish consistent and confidential survivor-identification tracking across key points of service such as hospital and community health intake, HRA and housing voucher applications, Family Justice Centers, and city-funded human service programs. Collecting this information confidentially and sensitively and ensuring it is publicly published will help identify where the greatest needs exist and ensure that culturally specific programs like ours are properly represented.

That's why Sakhi strongly supports Int. 1416 introduced by Council Member Farah Louis, which would examine how the City currently collects data on gender-based violence and identify opportunities to make that data more complete, accurate, and equitable.

We also strongly support Int. 1216, introduced by Council Member Linda Lee. This bill would require the City to distribute posters about gender-based violence resources to hair and beauty salons in the most commonly spoken languages across New York City. It would also allow salons and organizations to create custom posters in additional languages that contain a required set of information.

For many survivors, salons are trusted and familiar spaces—places they visit regularly, without their family members or partners, often long before they ever consider reaching out for help. That privacy and function as a community hub makes them an ideal place to encounter life-saving information. When survivors see a resource in their own language, in a space that feels safe, it can shift what they believe is possible. It's a simple but powerful act of visibility.

Survivors of gender-based violence are often overlooked, and too many remain unseen in the data that shapes city priorities. The legislation before you today represents a significant step toward changing that reality. A step toward building systems that reflect every survivor's experience and ensuring that culturally specific organizations like Sakhi can continue to meet their needs.

On behalf of Sakhi, the Collective, and the communities we work with, thank you for your leadership, your partnership, and your commitment to ensuring that New York City is a place where all survivors can be seen, supported, and safe.

## **Testimony of Zeinab Eyega, Executive Director, Sauti Yetu Center for African Women**

Before the New York City Council Committee on Women and Gender Equity  
Regarding Int. 1216 (Louis) and Int. 1216 (Lee)

Good afternoon Chair Louis and Council Members,

My name is Zeinab Eyega, and I serve as Executive Director of the Sauti Yetu Center for African Women. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your continued leadership in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in New York City.

Sauti Yetu is a Bronx-based nonprofit providing holistic, culturally responsive services for immigrant women and families affected by GBV. Our programs include multilingual crisis intervention, case management, counseling, legal representation, and community engagement. We are also a proud member of The Collective, a coalition of culturally specific organizations serving survivors of color across all five boroughs. While we maintain our own client data—such as over **350** helpline calls answered and over 360 survivors served annually—these figures represent only a fraction of the need citywide. Many survivors, particularly immigrants, do not appear in city datasets due to language barriers, fear of institutions, or concerns about immigration enforcement. Without comprehensive data, the City cannot fully assess where survivors are located, what services they access, or how best to allocate resources for housing, shelter, and legal aid.

According to NYPD data, more than **110,000** domestic violence complaints were reported citywide in 2024. The **43rd** and **46th** precincts in the Bronx are among those with the highest numbers, reflecting both high prevalence and deep underreporting. Yet, these figures largely capture only cases reported to police. Many survivors—especially those we serve—seek help first from trusted community organizations rather than law enforcement or hospitals. To strengthen GBV response systems, Sauti Yetu recommends collecting and integrating data across key public touchpoints, including: Hospitals, and community health clinics, DSS/HRA and housing application systems, Family, civil, and criminal courts, and DV prevention units and Domestic violence and general shelter intake systems

Publishing this data annually—while ensuring survivor privacy—would provide the holistic picture needed to design equitable and effective interventions. For this reason, Sauti Yetu strongly supports Int. 1416 (Louis), which seeks to evaluate existing GBV data and identify additional points for improvement.

Sauti Yetu also supports Int. 1216 (Lee), requiring the City to provide multilingual GBV awareness posters in hair and skin salons. For many immigrant women, salons are trusted community spaces. Accessible information displayed in familiar settings—and in their own language—can literally be life-saving. One of our clients once shared that a poster in her neighborhood salon was the first time she realized help was available. Immigrant survivors of gender-based violence are often invisible in traditional data and service systems. These proposals are vital steps toward ensuring all survivors are seen, supported, and safe. **Thank you for your time and commitment to this critical issue.**





New York City  
Alliance Against  
Sexual Assault

**Testimony of Emily Miles, Executive Director  
New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault  
Before the Committee on Women and Gender Equity  
October 16, 2025**

Good afternoon, Chair Louis and members of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity. My name is Emily Miles, and I serve as the Executive Director of the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault where we work to end sexual violence through education, training and technical assistance, prevention programming, research, and advocacy for policy change. In the last year, we benefited 3,500+ community members who impact thousands of survivors annually across all five boroughs.

On behalf of the Alliance and our network of rape crisis programs across the five boroughs, I want to thank the Council for its continued leadership in advancing survivor-centered, trauma-informed policy. Today, I am proud to testify in strong support of Int. 1297 and Int. 1216, two pieces of legislation that represent meaningful steps toward justice, prevention, and healing for survivors of gender-based violence.

**Support for Int. 1297 – Reopening the Window for Justice**

We stand firmly in support of Intro 1297, which would reopen a one-year lookback window allowing survivors of gender-motivated violence to bring civil claims against not only their abusers but also the institutions that allowed or enabled abuse.

For too long, survivors—especially those harmed in institutional settings—have been silenced, disbelieved, and barred from justice by arbitrary statutes of limitations. Many experienced trauma that delayed disclosure for years or even decades. By the time they were ready to come forward, the legal system told them it was “too late.”

This bill is not about reopening wounds; it is about reopening the doors to accountability. It recognizes that healing and justice cannot be rushed by legal deadlines and that institutions that knowingly turned a blind eye must finally be held responsible.

Recent court dismissals—such as the decision in the Bronx that threw out hundreds of lawsuits filed by survivors of abuse in juvenile detention centers—illustrate the urgent need for this legislation. These were not abstract claims. They were people—mostly young people—who did everything the system told them to do: they came forward, they filed, and still, they were denied.

Every day we delay passing this bill, more survivors are retraumatized by a justice system that seems designed to exclude them.

Intro 1297 is not about “floodgates”—it is about fairness, compassion, and the moral clarity to say: *“We will not protect those who enabled abuse.”*

On behalf of survivors citywide, I urge you to pass Intro 1297 swiftly and unequivocally.

### **Support for Int. 1216 – Expanding Awareness and Access to Support**

We also offer strong support for Intro 1216, which would require cosmetology establishments, such as hair and nail salons, to display multilingual posters with information about gender-based violence, signs of abuse, and available city resources.

At first glance, this may appear to be a modest intervention—but in practice, it is potentially life-saving.

Salons are trusted community spaces. For many people—particularly women, LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and communities of color—a salon chair is one of the few places they feel safe, heard, and seen.

Stylists and technicians often build lasting, personal relationships with their clients. These are conversations where real trust exists—and where subtle signs of distress may be noticed long before formal help is sought.

By equipping these spaces with visible, culturally responsive, and multilingual resources, this bill ensures that survivors can access information where they are, not just through police or hospitals.

It affirms that the fight against gender-based violence must extend beyond institutions and into the very heart of our communities.

Every poster, every conversation, and every connection is a step toward awareness, prevention, and early intervention.

The Alliance enthusiastically supports Intro 1216 because it is practical, trauma-informed, and rooted in equity—meeting survivors where they are, in the language they speak, and in the spaces they trust.

### **The Role of Data in Addressing Gender-Based Violence**

As we strengthen laws and expand community outreach, we must also strengthen our data infrastructure to ensure these efforts are effective and equitable.

Despite decades of advocacy, comprehensive and disaggregated data on gender-based violence in New York City remains limited. We cannot fully address what we cannot measure.

Data collection—when done ethically and with survivor safety in mind—helps us:

- Identify patterns and disparities in who experiences violence and how they access help.
- Evaluate whether public awareness campaigns and community-based interventions, like those envisioned in Intro 1216, are actually reaching survivors.
- Track institutional accountability—especially relevant to Intro 1297, where we must understand how systemic failures contributed to harm.
- Inform resource allocation, ensuring that prevention and support services are adequately funded and equitably distributed across boroughs and communities.

The Alliance has long advocated for improved citywide coordination in collecting and sharing gender-based violence data. We urge the Council to pair legislative action with robust investment in research, data transparency, and survivor-informed evaluation. Reliable data not only drives smarter policy—it honors survivors' experiences by ensuring their stories translate into systemic change.

### **Conclusion**

Together, Intro 1297 and Intro 1216 send a powerful message: New York City stands with survivors—not only in words but in law, policy, and action. By reopening paths to justice and embedding awareness in everyday spaces, these bills reflect a comprehensive approach to prevention and accountability.

Justice delayed is justice denied—but with your leadership, New York can once again be a national model for survivor-centered, trauma-informed governance.

On behalf of the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault, I thank you for your commitment to survivors and urge you to pass both measures without delay.



**Committee on Women and Gender Equity**

*Oversight Hearing - Examining the Adequacy of Domestic Violence & Gender-Based Violence*

*Data in New York City*

October 16, 2025

**Testimony of**

**The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center**

*New York, NY*

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Good afternoon, Chair Louis, members of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity, Council Members, and fellow advocates.

My name is Dr. Carla Smith, and I have the privilege of serving as Chief Executive Officer of The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, known to most New Yorkers simply as The Center. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the adequacy and the impact of data on domestic and gender-based violence in New York City. I will submit our complete testimony for inclusion in the hearing's record.

We welcome the opportunity for this broad-based discussion on the important connections between data and policy/funding decisions. The Council's focus on this matter is essential because it impacts (a) the way that we count and categorize survivors, (b) what information we know about how domestic and intimate-partner violence occurs, and (3) who receives care vs. who is left behind.

## **The Center's Role**

For over four decades, The Center has served as a trusted home for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers. We welcome more than 300,000 visits each year, offering mental health counseling, recovery programs, youth services, community-building, and advocacy. Increasingly, we also serve as a lifeline for LGBTQ+ survivors of intimate partner and gender-based violence—people who often experience additional barriers to safety and support.

Through our services, we see clearly how data gaps translate into service gaps. When LGBTQ+ people are not represented in data, resources, and systems are built as if we do not exist.

## **The Challenge of Invisibility in Data**

Despite progress by the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) and its partners, the systems that collect and report data too often fail to capture the experiences of LGBTQ+ survivors, especially transgender, gender-nonconforming, immigrant, youth, disabled, and Black and Brown New Yorkers.

Many intake and reporting tools still rely on binary gender fields or make sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data optional. The result is predictable and devastating: underreporting, misclassification, and systemic invisibility.

This invisibility doesn't just distort our understanding—it shapes how the City allocates resources.

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## Data and Funding: Lessons from the DoVE Initiative

The City Council has a long and proud history of supporting survivors of domestic and gender-based violence through its annual budget, through impactful legislation, and through ongoing oversight of relevant city agencies. The Domestic Violence and Empowerment Initiative (DoVE) is a powerful example—a vital source of funding for community-based organizations that work directly with survivors.

However, the distribution of DoVE funding has historically overrelied on police precinct data to determine how much funding each of the 51 Council Districts receives.

That approach, though well-intentioned, has created and perpetuated deep inequities that reinforce troubling dynamics in the DV space. Because incidents of domestic violence are significantly underreported, particularly among low-income communities, immigrant communities, and LGBTQ+ survivors, Council Districts in higher-income neighborhoods where reporting rates are higher ended up with more funding, while districts serving at-risk populations had less.

We recognize the work the City Council has undertaken to rightsize some of its funding streams to focus on equity, and avoid further entrenching an inequitable system. Similar to the City Council, we know that reporting data often informs how funding decisions are made. This underscores a fundamental point: when our data systems are incomplete or unreliable, they perpetuate inequity. They shape policy and budget decisions that fail to match the lived realities of survivors, especially those least likely to be captured in official reports.

This same invisibility extends to philanthropic giving. Private and institutional funders rely heavily on publicly available data to set their priorities, measure need, and evaluate impact. When data on LGBTQ+ survivors are absent or underreported, philanthropic strategies mirror those same gaps, resulting in limited investment in programs that serve LGBTQ+, transgender, and gender-nonconforming survivors.

Funders often look to “evidence-based” models, but when the evidence doesn’t exist because the data were never collected, the cycle of invisibility and underinvestment deepens.

Improving data collection is not only a matter of public accountability, it is also a catalyst for directing private capital toward the communities most in need.

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## The Human Impact Behind the Numbers

At The Center, we see the human faces behind those missing data points on an almost daily basis. Some examples include:

- Ongoing issues of service accessibility for trans & gender non-conforming New Yorkers, particularly Black trans women (Causing community members to underreport violence, and not engage with existing, city-funded support structures)
- Cultural competency issues at the point of service for trans & gender non-conforming New Yorkers, particularly Black trans women (Causing community members to underreport violence, and not engage with existing, city-funded support structures)
- Immigrant survivors who fear that reporting violence could endanger their safety or immigration status.

Each of these realities, as well as others, contributes to the existing data gap—and each data gap contributes to policy and funding blind spots that limit who gets served.

Moreover, while New York State has issued administrative directives requiring that all domestic violence shelters be accessible to LGBTQ-identified individuals, there is currently no mechanism to evaluate or enforce compliance with these mandates. There is no standardized process for assessing whether shelters are providing affirming, safe, and appropriate accommodations for LGBTQ+ survivors—or for tracking complaints when they do not.

While training has been made available, this lack of data oversight means that state-level directives, while well-intentioned, often exist on paper only, leaving many LGBTQ+ survivors without meaningful access to emergency shelter. The absence of compliance data further compounds underreporting, erasing both the need and the urgency for reform in public systems.

## Why This Moment Matters

This conversation is also taking place in a highly consequential political moment—one in which New York City's leadership carries national weight. Across the country, we are witnessing an escalation in political attacks on LGBTQ+ rights, rollbacks of gender-affirming care, and increasing restrictions on reproductive autonomy and survivor protections.

In this climate, New York City's example matters more than ever. What we do here—in our policies, our funding structures, and our data practices—often shapes the national conversation. Our ability to ensure accurate, inclusive, and intersectional data about survivors is not simply a bureaucratic concern; it is a declaration of who we see, who we value, and who we

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will fight to protect. The Center's voice, as the largest LGBTQ Center on the East Coast and administrator of the HHS LGBT Network also matters.

By elevating visibility issues, and strengthening our systems to reflect the full reality of LGBTQ+ and marginalized survivors, New York can again lead the nation—not just as a city of inclusion in name, but as a model of what equitable, evidence-informed policy looks like in practice.

## Recommendations

To build a truly equitable system, The Center recommends that the City Council and its local and state partners:

1. **Mandate consistent collection of sexual orientation & gender identity (SOGI) data** across all City agencies and contracted providers serving survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, using trauma-informed, culturally competent approaches.
2. **Disaggregate data** by race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, and immigration status to capture intersectional experiences.
3. **Reevaluate how data are used to allocate funding**, ensuring that all City Council-funded initiatives are grounded not only in reported incidents but also in community-validated indicators of need.
4. **Invest in community-based organizations**, particularly those led by and serving LGBTQ+, TGNC, immigrant, and BIPOC communities, to ethically collect, analyze, and interpret data that better reflect reality.
5. **Include LGBTQ+ experts and survivors** in the design and governance of city data systems to ensure inclusivity and accountability.
6. **Establish oversight mechanisms** to ensure compliance with state administrative directives on LGBTQ-accessible shelters, including transparent reporting, accountability measures, and survivor feedback systems.

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## Meeting the Moment

This hearing, and the Council's ongoing commitment to expanding equity, present opportunities to better align data, policy, and values.

Data are not neutral. The ways we collect, report, and use them either expand access and justice or reinforce inequity.

As The Center continues to serve as a home and a haven for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers, we stand ready to work with the Council, ENDGBV, and our partners across the city to ensure that every survivor is counted, every experience is valued, and every policy is informed by the full truth of who we are as New Yorkers.

Thank you for your time and leadership, and for centering this essential conversation. I welcome your questions.

## The Center's History

New York City's LGBT community formed The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center (The Center) in 1983, in response to the AIDS epidemic, ensuring a place for LGBTQ people to access information, care and support they were not receiving elsewhere. Now, we are the largest LGBT multi-service organization on the East Coast, The Center sees more than 6,000 weekly visitors and hosts over 400 community group meetings each month. The Center has a solid track record of working for and with the community to increase access to a diverse range of high-quality services and resources, including our substance use recovery programming for adults and youth; HIV/AIDS programming; youth programs; and our families and opportunities work.

## The Center's Services

The Center fosters a welcoming environment where everyone is celebrated for who they are. We offer the LGBTQ communities of NYC advocacy, health and wellness programs; arts, entertainment, and cultural events; recovery, parenthood, and family support services. In addition, The Center has made racial equity a keystone element of our approach to community building.

- **Counseling and support groups:** The Center provides short-term individual counseling and referral services, as well as hosts a range of support groups for our transgender and gender nonconforming communities. Both individual counseling and groups offer

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support around a variety of topics, including gender identity and expression, emotional challenges, substance use and recovery, and aim to build peer support networks.

- **Employment support:** Despite legal protections in New York State, the effects of discrimination continue to place trans and gender nonconforming communities at extremely high rates of poverty, unemployment, underemployment and homelessness. The Center provides services to directly combat this inequality, including individual career coaching support, case management, events focused on career exploration, legal workshops and networking opportunities.
- **Health insurance enrollment and linkage to care:** The Center is a designated navigator agency for the NY State of Health, the health insurance marketplace for New York through the Affordable Care Act. We provide information and education on the options available, and help individuals, families, small businesses and their employees enroll in New York State Medicaid, The NY Essential Plan, Child Health Plus and Qualified Health plans. We also help connect individuals to TGNCNB affirming medical and behavioral healthcare as needed.
- **HIV prevention, testing, and linkage to care:** We offer counseling for individuals, groups, couples and families, plus a variety of events, speakers and informal social gatherings for positive people and their loved ones. This includes HIV & AIDS education, anonymous testing, counseling and support, partner notification, and linkage to medical treatment including PEP, PrEP, and antiretroviral medications.
- **Legal services:** The Center partners with community-based legal providers to provide TGNCNB community members with drop-in assistance around gender-affirming access to healthcare, insurance, employment issues, housing, name and gender marker changes, public benefits and more.

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# Violence Intervention Program

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**New York City Council Public Hearing  
Committee on Women and Gender Equity  
Testimony Submitted by: Margarita Guzmán, Executive Director,  
Violence Intervention Program  
Thursday, October 16, 2025, 1:00 PM**

Good afternoon, Chair Louis and Council Members. Thank you for scheduling today's hearing to identify solid steps that City government can take to be more accountable to survivors of domestic and gender-based violence.

My name is Margarita Guzman, and I am the Executive Director of the Violence Intervention Program (VIP). VIP is New York City's only nonprofit led by and for Latine survivors of domestic and sexual violence. For 41 years, we have served primarily Spanish speaking and immigrant survivors with housing and social services programs. In recent years, we have innovated new programming tailored to the unique needs of our communities, including culturally responsive mental health care to address trauma in adults and children, a restorative justice practice for survivors who do not want to go to police, and microgrants and support to survivor-entrepreneurs who want to start or grow their small businesses. Last year, we served over 1650+ survivors and fielded over 5,000 calls to our helpline.

VIP is also a member of The Collective, a culturally specific gender justice organizations providing services to immigrants and communities of color throughout all five boroughs of NYC.

Among the many bills up for discussion today is one focused on data collection by city agencies, in particular DOHMH, DSS and ACS. I remember working with a funder once who said that if we didn't measure the output and impact of our services, it's like they didn't happen. That is both true and untrue. It is untrue because survivors get real benefits from DV services, regardless of what reports come from it. But it is true that data helps us to see our impact, identify trends and learn about issues impacting our communities on larger scales. The same is true for city agencies. That they are not screened and counted does not mean that survivors did not go to city agencies for help. And if they are not counted, then how can the City possibly reduce, much less eliminate violence? It is necessary to hold agencies accountable for data collection and analysis – without it, the City's strategies will be riddled with blind spots and tragically ineffective.

How many survivors reported DV to their child's pediatrician, or their OB/GYN? How many founded complaints did ACS receive connected to violence in the home? How effective are HRA's DV screening methods for families in shelter or applying for benefits? These are blind spots that not only leave survivors without referrals to necessary services, they also decrease the likelihood that community based services would exist at all. At this time, NYPD data is the sole basis for allocating DoVE discretionary funding – the biggest resource provided by City Council to address DV in their districts. This negatively impacts immigrants, people of color, LGBTQIA+ survivors, youth, and anyone who doesn't want to go to the police. This Council has the power to do something to change that. To make sure that all experiences of violence are counted and count in the formation of policy and resource allocation.

Our community members are most likely to find services in trusted locations, which is why VIP also supports Int. 1216 by CM Lee, which would help to provide information about gender-based violence resources in some of the places where survivors feel most comfortable visiting – hair and nail salons. This bill would require the city to provide posters with info and resources on gender-based violence to these salons in the most commonly spoken languages in NYC and would also allow for salons and organizations to create custom posters in additional languages that contain a required set of information. For survivors who don't know where to turn, this could be life-saving information provided in a safe setting.

When I think of this bill, I think of Carmen Iris Santiago, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic and monolingual Spanish Speaker. She was also a mother of two boys who were 11 and 17 years old when their father walked into the hair salon in Jackson Heights where Carmen worked and brutally stabbed her to death. I don't know if it would have saved her life if there was information about where to get help posted in that salon, but I know that she deserved the chance to get help. Every survivor who will be reached through this poster campaign deserves the chance to access resources that can change or even save their lives.

I've highlighted two of the bills, up for discussion today, but every single one of them is an important step towards strengthening the city's response to gender-based violence, ensuring that every survivor is counted, and providing critical data to help guide policy and strategies to eliminate and prevent this violence in our communities. I commend the Councilmembers who have sponsored these bills and stand ready to assist in getting them across the finish line.

Thank you for standing with survivors and for using your power to protect and uplift all survivors in NYC.



Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness  
for Women and their Children

**Testimony of Win**  
**Submitted to the Committee on Women and Gender Equity**  
**Examining the Adequacy of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Data in NYC**  
**Oversight Hearing on October 16, 2025**

Thank you, Chair Louis and esteemed members of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity, for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Win. My name is Chris Mann, and I am the Assistant Vice President of Policy and Advocacy at Win, the largest provider of shelter and services to families with children experiencing homelessness in New York City. We operate 16 shelters and over 450 supportive housing units located across the five boroughs. Each night, nearly 7,000 people call Win “home,” including 3,600 children.

Thank you for bringing attention to an issue that, unfortunately, is central to our work and to the lives of many of the families in our shelters. At Win, we operate Tier II shelters for families with children. These are not domestic violence shelters, yet domestic violence is the leading reason that families come into our shelters.

Last year, over 27 percent of the families at Win were eligible for shelter due to domestic violence. We know that the 728 families, which includes over 1,800 children, who are captured in this data point represent only a portion of the families impacted by violence or abuse at the hands of a family member or partner. Thanks to the skilled work of our staff to build safety and trust, we can confirm that at least 1,000 (nearly a third) of the families in our shelters last year had experienced domestic violence. That’s 38 percent more than the DHS shelter eligibility data captures. And we know, with near certainty, that even this number is an undercount of the full extent of experience of domestic violence because the fear, the shame, the betrayal, and the trauma that make domestic violence so damaging can make it impossible for survivors to come forward and be counted.

Current resources for addressing the housing and healing needs of families dealing with domestic violence fall far short of the need. The New York rental assistance voucher dedicated to helping domestic violence survivors leave shelter – FHEPS B – has been nearly defunded by the state. This shifts administrative and financial pressure onto the City FHEPS program that survivors, along with tens of thousands of others, turn to in search of a path into a safe, permanent home. In 2024, 54 percent of households that left a domestic violence shelter with a



Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness  
for Women and their Children

housing subsidy did so with CityFHEPS, compared to the 34 percent that left with a FHEPS B subsidy.<sup>i</sup>

While in shelter, domestic violence survivors may or may not receive services that respond to their sensitive circumstances and needs. Of the families who left a specialized, emergency domestic violence shelter in 2024, 32 percent went to a Domestic Violence Tier II shelter and 23 percent went to a regular Tier II shelter like ours.<sup>ii</sup> Despite progress in recent years, far too many families who recently fled domestic violence continue to be routed into the mainstream family shelter system.

At Win, we are able to provide trauma-informed shelter thanks to the work of Win Academy, our in-house team of social workers who train and coach every staff member in the use of evidence-based, trauma-informed practices, and who help shape Win programs and policies to ensure that we go beyond basic needs to ensure the social and emotional safety, healing, and well-being of the families who stay with us. Win Academy was launched and has been possible thanks to funding and support from the City Council, which has helped tens of thousands of families on their journey to housing stability.

Given that so many families arrive at shelters like ours with both recent and a history of domestic violence, Win's model of trauma-informed shelter should be the standard. Every family who needs to turn to a New York City shelter should receive services that ensure their safety and that foster their healing. However, the City's shelter contracts do not include resources for providers to access training, professional development, or support for providing trauma-informed care. This needs to change with investment from the City and State in our human services workforce and in initiatives like Win Academy.

Investment follows data. Complete, accurate data on domestic violence is necessary to properly direct resources to address the housing and healing needs of survivors, both to provide trauma-informed shelter and for access to dedicated subsidies for permanent housing. This is why Win supports the intent of T2025-4233 to increase access to data around gender-based violence. Further, Win commends Council Members Louis, Menin, and Farías for including in this bill the integration of trauma-informed practices into screenings.

Win supports Intro. 1297-2025 to reopen the lookback window to the Gender-Motivated Violence Act because a legal technicality should not preclude survivors from seeking justice and



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remedies. In the last 30 years, we have made great legal strides in acknowledging domestic violence and in protecting and supporting those who are victimized. In 2022, New York City furthered survivors' rights by extending the statute of limitations for civil action, codifying the recognition that there is no standard blueprint of timeline for healing. Intro. 1297-2025 ensures that survivors won't be deprived of the right to seek remedies because their abuse took place before legislation had been passed to help them.

Thank you again for bringing public attention to domestic violence, an issue too often suffered and held in private. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the City and with the Council to ensure that survivors of domestic violence can access the shelter services and the safe, permanent housing they need to rebuild their lives.

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<sup>i</sup> NYC Department of Social Services. Office of Domestic Violence Services. *Local Law 83 of 2018. 2024 Annual Report on Exits from NYC Domestic Violence Emergency Shelters*. Available at: <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/hra/downloads/pdf/local-law-83-dv-exit-report-2024.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid



Good afternoon, Chair Louis and Council Members,

I am Yasmeen Hamza, CEO of Womankind. Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify today, and for bringing attention to these important issues impacting survivors of gender-based violence in New York City, and nonprofits like Womankind, a culturally specific organization that provides a wide range of services including emergency shelter, counseling, legal assistance, wellness support, housing assistance, and economic empowerment. Womankind is also a member of The Collective, a coalition of nonprofit service organizations which provide a range of Gender Based Violence services to communities of color and immigrant communities throughout the five boroughs of NYC.

While Womankind tries to compile as much of our own client data as possible, our survivors are only a portion of the survivors in NYC. Some examples of our data include **4,077** calls answered on our 24/7 multilingual helpline in 2024 and providing services to **2,616** clients per year. We recognize that many survivors of gender-based violence, especially those from immigrant communities, communities of color, and other marginalized groups, may not be reflected in the data collected by the City. This is often due to deep-rooted fears of engaging with authorities and institutions, including concerns about immigration enforcement, even among U.S. citizens. These fears create significant barriers to accessing support and safety. To truly meet the needs of survivors, the City must commit to a complete and holistic understanding of who is seeking help. Without inclusive and representative data, planning and funding for critical services, such as housing vouchers, shelter access, and trauma-informed care, will fall short of what our communities actually need.

Currently, the data available is limited and largely shaped by interactions with law enforcement. The primary source of gender-based violence data in NYC is police reports, broken down by precinct. This reliance on police data excludes many survivors who do not feel safe reporting to law enforcement. To advance equity and justice, we must invest in community-based data collection methods that center survivors' voices and experiences, especially those who are systematically left out of traditional reporting channels.

As a provider of services to immigrant communities and communities of color, we know firsthand that survivors often turn to trusted community-based organizations before approaching police, hospitals, shelter intake centers, or other government agencies. This is not incidental; it reflects a deep mistrust of institutions that have historically failed to protect or serve marginalized communities. Our programs are tailored to work to meet the needs of our communities and our multilingual staff and culturally responsive practices help bridge communication gaps and reduce barriers that many survivors face.





Once we begin working with survivors, we can support them in accessing critical services, such as medical care, orders of protection, access to our shelter and others around the city, housing, and other benefits. However, even when survivors engage with these systems, they may be reluctant to disclose their experiences due to fear, stigma, or concerns about immigration status. And even when data is collected, it is often siloed, incomplete, or not publicly available.

There are many points of contact, hospital intake, shelter screenings and intake, child welfare cases and housing voucher requests—where survivor experiences could be documented. Yet the City has not published this data, leaving a gap in our collective understanding of the true scope of gender-based violence in New York City. To address this, Womankind recommends that the city begin collecting and publishing anonymized, survivor-related data at key service access points, including: Hospital emergency rooms and clinics, shelter intake centers, child welfare cases and data collected by HRA.

We also encourage the inclusion of additional data sources that reflect survivor experiences outside of law enforcement interactions. Publishing this data annually will be essential to ensuring transparency, accountability, and equitable resource allocation.

For this reason, Int. 1416, introduced by Council Member Farah Louis, is a critical step forward. It will help identify existing data gaps and guide the development of more inclusive data practices that reflect the lived realities of survivors, especially those from communities historically excluded from public policy conversations.

As a trusted provider of services to immigrant communities and communities of color, Womankind knows that survivors often seek help in spaces where they feel safe, seen, and respected. These spaces are rarely government offices or police stations, they are community-rooted places like hair and skin salons, where relationships are built on trust and cultural familiarity. That's why Womankind strongly supports **Int. 1216**, introduced by Council Member Lee. This bill would require the City to distribute gender-based violence awareness posters to salons in the most commonly spoken languages in New York City. It also allows salons and community organizations to create customized posters in additional languages, ensuring that information is linguistically and culturally accessible.

For many survivors, especially those who are undocumented or from communities historically underserved by public systems, this could be life changing. Imagine a survivor sitting in a salon chair, unsure of where to turn, and seeing a poster in their native language that tells them they are not alone, and that help is available. That moment of recognition and empowerment could be the first step toward safety and healing.



Gender-based violence survivors are often overlooked, silenced, and afraid to speak up. The proposals discussed today are critical steps toward ensuring survivors have access to the resources they need to heal and rebuild their lives. These bills reflect a commitment to equity, dignity, and survivor-centered care.

Thank you for your leadership and for centering the voices of survivors in this work.

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My name is Ali Cissé, I'm 30 years old, and I live in the Bronx. When I was 14 and 15 years old, I was in and out of three different juvenile detention centers around New York City. I was sexually abused at every single one of them. Three different staff members—grown women, all of them— took advantage of their power over me. They said if I did what they asked, they'd give me anything I wanted. Chinese food, Popeyes, candy. The type of things a kid wants when he's scared and alone. When I said no, I was beaten, starved, told I wouldn't go home. They manipulated me, made me feel like their sexual abuse was normal. Not just normal, but a privilege. But their "privilege" has messed me up to this day.

I can't get the justice I deserve without your help. With Int 1927, the city can right the wrongs that I went through at those detention centers. It's hard for me to trust anyone because of what I went through, but now I put my trust in this council. Please, survivors like me need all the hope and protection of our rights that we can get. I am counting on you to pass Int 1927. Thank you.

*Testimony of:*

*Anthony T. DiPietro  
Patient Safety Attorney  
Law Office of Anthony T. DiPietro, P.C.*

*before the*

*New York City Council  
Committee on Women and Gender Equity*

*On*

*Thursday, October 16, 2025  
Written Testimony*



Good morning, Chairperson Louis, and Members of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity.

I am Anthony T. DiPietro, patient safety and medical malpractice trial attorney. I am grateful for the opportunity to be here today, and share why I support the reopening of the Gender-Motivated Violence Act (GMVA) (Int 1297-2025).

Intro 1297 would commence on March 1, 2026, and close on March 1, 2027, thereby extending and reviving the statute of limitations in actions involving gender-motivated violence, in order to provide an opportunity for victims and survivors to file civil actions, if they choose to do so.

In addition to allowing for claim revivals under the existing GMVA against individual wrongdoers, the bill specifically contemplates, and provides for, the retroactivity of filing claims against an institution, or other entity, that enabled, aided, or abetted in the act or commission of gender-motivated violence.

I have successfully represented over 800 women and girls who were sexually exploited and abused under the guise of medical care by the convicted serial, sexual predator, OBGYN Robert Hadden at Columbia University.

I am currently representing over 450 men and boys who were similarly sexually exploited and abused under the guise of medical care by another convicted, serial, sexual predator, a Urologist named Darius Paduch at the Weill Cornell Medical Center.

My work in this space has offered me a unique opportunity to see how our civil justice system is truly the last remaining safety net that our community has.

Corporations and institutions, like hospitals and universities, have repeatedly proven themselves either incapable, or just completely unwilling, to police themselves. **The one thing every single case that I have handled has in common, is the fact that the institutions always know the abuse is happening, but never take any action to protect their patients.**

Make no mistake, providing access to the courts through legislation like we're talking about today doesn't merely help compensate victims for what they've endured. Most importantly, it also sends a powerful message to corporations by reminding them that the community is watching, and that they will be held accountable when they violate their oaths and betray the community's trust.

Finally, it is important to note that the legislature is not being asked to weigh-in on the merits of these cases. Victims and survivors are still required to file their cases in court, and prove that their case has merit. All we are asking the legislature to do is simply ensure that the Courtroom doors aren't locked on victims and survivors once they've had the time to process, heal, and come forward to hold their abusers accountable. For someone who has been carrying around the weight of their abuse for so long, the opportunity to seek Justice once they're ready, means so much.

I urge City Council to pass Intro 1297, and give victims and survivors of gender motivated violence this opportunity to hold their wrongdoers accountable.

Thank you.

*Testimony  
Of*

*Carine Silva*

*before the*

*New York City Council  
Committee on Women and Gender Equity*

*On*

*Thursday, October 16, 2025  
Written Testimony*

My name is Carine Silva. When I was a child, I was sexually abused by Jeffrey Epstein.

For many years, I could not come forward. I wasn't ready — awareness and courage take time. Now, I am ready to seek justice. But under the current law, the state can argue that I cannot pursue justice because the statute of limitations has expired.

I live every day with the pain of what happened to me. I am trying to heal, but healing is hard without accountability.

That is why I am asking you today to pass Intro 1297. Survivors like me deserve a chance to be heard in court. **If you do not pass this bill, you are protecting people like Jeffrey Epstein instead of protecting victims like me.**

**You have a choice: stand with survivors of child sexual abuse, or stand with abusers. The world is watching — and your decision will show whose side you are on.**

Please, help survivors like me get justice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Hello, my name is Danny Hunter, and I was regularly sexually abused at both Horizon Juvenile Center and Bridges Juvenile center from 2003-2006. At Bridges, I was subjected to frequent strip searches, in which I was totally naked, and groped and penetrated in my anus with my Correctional Officer's hands and fingers. This happened at least ten times, and left me feeling used and severely uncomfortable every time. At Horizon, one officer abused me in even more grotesque ways. She would touch me and grope me over my clothes, under my clothes, and with all different parts of her body. She gave me oral sex and masturbated me with her hands, and did not let me resist. I am now 36 years old, but this abuse sticks with me every single day. I have diagnosed PTSD and am terrified to be pat down in the airport or interact with any kind of officer. I am advocating for the passage of Intro Bill 1297 so that I can receive justice for what atrocities occurred to me. The system has already failed me and so many others once, and I do not want for it to happen again.

My name is Devaughn Lanham, I'm 49 years old, and I live in Crown Heights. When I was 15 years old, I was sexually abused by a correctional officer at Spofford Juvenile Detention Center. I was often targeted by other kids and got into a lot of fights, so I spent days at a time confined inside my cell while everyone else was going to school or recreation. The male correctional officer that supervised me would come into my cell after I showered and try to talk to me while I was naked. I told him I was uncomfortable, but he didn't listen. One day he came into my room and said that he would take away my meals unless I did what he said. He raped me that night. I wish I could say that was the only time he raped me. He brought me hair products and candy to try and keep me quiet. When I tried to fight back, he beat me. I was so scared of him, and I don't think I was the only one.

I tried to bury this deep inside of me, I was afraid people would think I'm weak. I became depressed and aggressive at the smallest things, and I blamed myself for what happened. When I finally spoke to my attorneys about my abuse, I thought there would finally be hope. But then my case got dismissed. I need Int 1297 so I can get justice for what happened to me in the city's custody. If the city doesn't re-open the GMVA lookback window, I'll be failed again just like I was failed as a kid. Please, vote yes on Int 1297. Not just for me, but for all the other kids who suffered like me.

Good afternoon, Council Members.

My name is Eva Santos-Veloz, and I am one of more than a thousand women abused by Dr. Robert Hadden.

I am from the Dominican Republic, and I am undocumented. For many years, I lived in fear and silence, afraid to speak about what happened to me. The only thing that gave me the strength and power to finally come forward was the passing of the Adult Survivors Act, which gave me and many of my sister survivors a glimpse of hope and justice.

I was assaulted by a New York City OB/GYN, Dr. Robert Hadden, and for years that truth was covered up and silenced by one of the largest institutions in this country, Columbia University. What happened to me was not just an act of violence it was an abuse of power. And that power worked overtime to protect itself instead of protecting us.

No amount of money can ever undo what was done or repay the years of silence and pain that followed. Because the truth is, it's never really buried, no matter how much people try to silence you or move on. The trauma doesn't disappear; it lives in your body, in your memory, and in your everyday life.

But this bill represents hope, just like the Adult Survivors Act did for me and so many others.

I stand here not just for myself, but for the hundreds of women whose stories mirror mine, women who were ignored, dismissed, or pressured to stay quiet. This is not a one-gender or one-person issue. This is not about money. It is about accountability and the right to real justice.

That's why Intro 1297 is so critical. This bill will give survivors like me and so many others the chance to hold not only the abusers accountable, but also the institutions that enabled them.

For so many of us, this bill represents the next step toward justice, the chance to finally be heard, to reclaim what was taken from us, and to ensure that silence never protects those who harm again.

Thank you for listening, and for standing with survivors by passing Intro 1297.

Hi, my name is Fauziya Muhammed. I'm 37 years old and I live in Hell's Kitchen. Starting around the age of 13, I was in and out of two juvenile detention centers in the Bronx. Almost ten staff members— men and women, at Bridges and Horizon both— used their power to touch a little girl in a way that no one ever should, especially not someone in charge of protecting kids in custody. During my stays I was groped, strip searched, penetrated, and threatened. When I tried to refuse, the staff members said they would extend my sentence and make my life harder than it already was. One staff member tried to show me pictures of his genitals and offered me food, drugs, even cash. I filed written reports against them at both facilities, but I was punished for trying to speak up and my abuse continued.

I've been diagnosed with anxiety because of what I went through, and I have a hard time trusting authority. When I ride the 4 train past Horizon, my heart starts to beat hard like I'm a little kid in that situation again. I was terrified to speak up, and now my case has been dismissed. I don't know what else to do except to turn to you and ask you to pass Int 1297. Without it, I can't get the justice I was denied as a kid. Please, for me and for all the other little girls out there who went through what I did. I'm asking you to pass Int 1297 for all of us. Thank you.

*Testimony  
Of*

*Jordan Merson  
Merson Law*

*before the*

*New York City Council  
Committee on Women and Gender Equity*

*On*

*Thursday, October 16, 2025  
Written Testimony*



My name is Jordan Merson. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Intro 1297-2025, which would reopen the Gender-Motivated Violence Act (GMVA).

Intro 1297 would commence on March 1, 2026, and close on March 1, 2027. It would extend the statute of limitations and provide survivors of gender-motivated acts of violence additional time to pursue justice against their perpetrators.

In addition to allowing for the revival of claims under the existing GMVA, this bill addresses retroactivity during the lookback window. It would permit justice for any individual or entity whose acts were committed before the GMVA's substantive amendment in 2022, including those that occurred prior to the original passage of the GMVA in 2000.

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude to this Committee and to the 41 Council Members who have sponsored Intro 1297.

I also wish to thank all the survivors and advocates who are here today. Their courage in coming forward makes a profound difference.

I am proud to represent a young woman who recently spoke publicly for the first time about the abuse she suffered at the hands of Jeffrey Epstein. Her decision to come forward reflects the strength of countless survivors who have been silenced by the passage of time and technicalities in the law. This bill would give them a fair opportunity to seek justice.

I would also like to address the issue of potential costs, which has been raised as an objection. In my experience representing hundreds, if not thousands, of sexual abuse survivors, this argument is both unfounded and unfair. **These cases were intended to exist under the original GMVA. The proposed lookback window simply corrects a legal technicality that prevented survivors from accessing the courts. There are no new or additional costs that should deter this Council from passing the bill.**

And even if there were, we must ask ourselves: should the financial burden fall on survivors, or on the institutions and individuals responsible for the harm? If an institution—whether private or public—enabled or perpetrated abuse, it should bear the cost of accountability.

Passing Intro 1297 is not only a matter of justice but of moral responsibility. Every time a case is dismissed because of a technical limitation, a survivor of sexual or gender-based violence is told that their suffering does not matter.

I urge the Council to pass Intro 1297 at its next stated meeting on October 29. Survivors have waited long enough for justice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I'm Laquan Rivera, I'm 38 years old, and I live in Astoria, Queens. I was only 11 years old when I was sent to Spofford. I was a good kid, so the staff members let me clean up around the unit for extra snacks. One day when I was inside the mop closet, a male staff member came up behind me and rubbed himself on me. I saw he was erect, and it scared me. I tried to walk away, but it didn't help. Over the next few months, that staff member manipulated me into doing what he wanted. He made me touch myself, then he made me give him oral sex. A few times he raped me, and he didn't stop even when I told him it hurt. He gave me things I couldn't get while I was locked up: McDonalds, soap, better clothes. Eventually another staff member said he knew I was being sexually abused, and made me do the same things to him. I told other staff members what was happening, and they just punished me. It made me think no one cared about what I went through.

It took a lot to speak up to my legal team about my sexual abuse, and now I'm worried it was all for nothing. I felt so powerless when I found out my case was dismissed, and that's why I'm writing to you all today. I need you to pass Int 1297 to help survivors like me. Nothing can fix what happened to me as a kid, but the city can do the right thing now and pass Int 1297. Thank you.

## **Written Testimony in Support of Intro 1297 Reopening the Gender-Motivated Violence Act (GMVA) Lookback Window**

Laurie C. Maldonado, PhD  
October 17, 2025

Good afternoon, Chair and members of the New York City Council Committee on Women and Gender Equity.

My name is Laurie Maldonado, and I am writing to express my strong support for Intro 1297, which would reopen the lookback window under the Gender-Motivated Violence Act (GMVA).

This legislation is essential to ensuring that survivors of sexual violence and gender-motivated abuse are given a fair opportunity to seek justice, especially those whose cases were previously barred by restrictive statutes of limitation. The over 450 survivors whose cases were dismissed in the Bronx after reporting sexual abuse while incarcerated deserve to have their voices heard and their cases reconsidered. Survivors should have the right to hold sexual predators, as well as the institutions that enabled or covered up abuse, fully accountable.

I speak not only as an advocate, but as a survivor. I am one of more than 900 women who were sexually assaulted by former OBGYN Robert Hadden at Columbia University. Hadden groomed me for ten years as my physician and assaulted me two days before the birth of my son. I was frozen and terrified when the abuse occurred. Like so many survivors, it took years to process the trauma and find the strength to come forward.

The passage of the Adult Survivors Act (ASA) had an enormous impact on my life. I was among the first survivors to file a claim on the opening day of the ASA lookback window. During this time, I was able to speak publicly about the assault and share my victim impact statement during Hadden's criminal sentencing, where he received twenty years in prison. Finding my voice, and shining light on the truth, was a turning point. Together with 576 other survivors, I joined in filing a lawsuit against Columbia University for its role in concealing and enabling Hadden's abuse.

While these steps marked progress, our collective fight for justice is far from over. Too many survivors have been silenced by arbitrary deadlines that fail to account for the lasting effects of trauma. Intro 1297 acknowledges that justice delayed should not mean justice denied.

As a survivor, as a mother, and as a social worker, I believe that reopening the GMVA lookback window is not only a legal necessity but a moral imperative. Every survivor who finds the courage to come forward deserves to have their case heard.

I urge the City Council to stand with survivors and vote to pass Intro 1297. Your action will help ensure accountability, protect future generations, and affirm that New York City is committed to justice for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Laurie C. Maldonado

My name is Mohamed Benhalima, I'm 37 years old, and I live in Staten Island. When I was 14 and 15 years old, I was sent to Spofford Juvenile Detention Center. As soon as I got there, I saw firsthand how normal it was for staff members to exchange sexual favors for better treatment. At night, when I was alone, two different staff members came to me and said they needed to collect those favors from me. I had to expose myself and let them touch me. Sometimes they asked me to touch them. A few times, they made me perform oral sex on them, and after those times I couldn't stop myself from crying. When I didn't do what they said, they choked me and threatened me. I was so scared and embarrassed. I began feeling suicidal, and those feelings didn't go away once I was released.

I'm asking you all today to pass Int 1297. It took so much for me to reach out once, and now that my case has been dismissed I don't want all my pain to be for nothing. Please, not just for me, but for all the other victims you would be helping, give your support to Int 1297. Thank you.



My name is Naquan Robinson, I'm 41 years old, and I currently live in upstate New York. When I was 14 years old, I was preyed upon and sexually abused by a staff member at Crossroads Juvenile Center. They called him "8 Fingers J" because he was missing two fingers, and I know I'm not the only one he victimized. When I first got to Crossroads the other kids told me to stay away from him for my own good. I tried to keep my head down around him, but that didn't work. One day he grabbed me and told me I wouldn't be able to go home unless I jerked him off. I was so scared, and I had no choice but to do what he said. He threatened and abused me nearly every day for the whole six months I was there.

My abuser told me to keep my mouth shut, that no one would ever believe me. I know now that he was wrong; there are people out there who would listen to me and help me. My legal team brought a case on my behalf, but now it's been dismissed. I'm writing to the counsel today so you know my experiences, and so you know how much Int 1297 would mean to me if passed. Without it, I have no hope. But with your help and support, I can get the closure and accountability that I deserve. Thank you.

To the Lawmakers Considering Bill 1297,

I was a patient of Dr. Robert Hadden at Columbia Presbyterian from the mid 90s through 2012. While watching the evening news, I heard the horrifying report that he had sexually assaulted a patient. In that moment, everything I had buried came flooding back. I was shaken to my core, not just by the confirmation that it had truly happened, but by the realization that I had spent years doubting myself, silencing myself, and carrying the weight of shame that was never mine to bear.

I didn't speak up right away. I was afraid. Afraid of what my family and friends would think. Afraid no one would believe me. After all, it would be my word against a doctor's, and in our society, that imbalance of power too often protects the wrong people.

It took me years, and a great deal of therapy to find the strength to tell my loved ones. It was less than three years ago that I finally contacted a lawyer. That was the moment I began to reclaim my voice. Unless you've lived through this, you cannot fully understand how hard it is to come forward. The trauma doesn't end with the assault, it continues in silence, in shame, in the fear of not being believed.

That's why I'm urging you to pass Bill 1297 and reopen the GMVA Lookback Window. Survivors deserve the chance to seek justice, no matter how long it takes them to come forward. I was fortunate to file under the Adult Survivors Act and begin to find closure. I am not a victim. I am a survivor.

But there are so many others who haven't had that chance. You have the power to change that. You have the opportunity and the responsibility to stand with survivors. To give them a voice. To show them that the law is on their side.

If you choose not to act, you are choosing to protect perpetrators. There is no neutral ground here. You either stand with survivors, or you stand with those who harmed them.

Please, do the right thing. Pass Bill 1297. Reopen the look back window. Let justice be possible.

Sincerely,  
Sophia Bagienski  
A Survivor

**Good afternoon. My name is Thomas DeBlasio and I come to you today, to let you know that I am a victim of Dr. Reginald Archibald. These acts occurred when I was a teenager. I did not come forward before this, as I only found out about this situation a year and a half ago. Unfortunately, I did not know that there was a time restriction.**

**I have been directly emotionally and physically affected by his abuse and am hoping that by coming to you today, you will approve the new law giving me the opportunity to have justice for myself and other survivors who were innocent children taken advantage of and not protected. Please pass this law so that these victimized teenagers who were abused prior to the year 2000 can receive justice. I was deeply affected by acts of Gender Motivated Violence and I urge you to pass this law today. Thank you for your consideration in my request.**

**Sincerely,**

**Thomas J. DeBlasio**

**Good afternoon. My name is Dr. Candace DeBlasio and I come forth to you today as my husband had fallen prey to Dr. Reginald Archibald when he was a young teenager. His mom has been devastated with this news as we had just found out about these concerning facts approximately two years ago.**

**While looking for information about my husband's bone disease and trying to locate his former doctors, I google searched Dr. Archibald's name and then realized that what was intended to help provide proper medical care (in absence of a parent being present), was in fact sexual abuse. I was not aware that there was a time restriction. I just ask that you search your hearts and think about what if this was my son or daughter involved in a gender motivated act of violence by someone you entrusted your child with? Especially a renowned doctor and institution. I ask that you please pass this law to allow victims prior to the year 2000, to have their stories heard to allow justice for these survivors of the heinous abuse that have emotionally and physically scarred them forever. I thank you, in advance, for your time today and your consideration.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Dr. Candace L. DeBlasio**

My name is Victoria MacKenzie. I am here before you today to testify about my experience as a survivor of sexual assault and sexual harassment by my employer and dentist at his office in Brooklyn.

In my early 20's, I was working as a dental assistant for a man that I later understood used his position of power over me to groom me, misuse nitrous-oxide, improperly prescribe me pills in order to sexually assault me for his own gratification.

On multiple occasions, he used nitrous-oxide to put me in a state that allowed him to overpower me and sexually assault me. He abused his authority and my trust in him as my dentist and employer to prey upon me.

I was not the only one. Multiple other women were sexually assaulted and sexually harassed by this same dentist. Some of the survivors of this dentist were able to finally come forward against this abuser and file a lawsuit under the adult survivor.

The shame, self-hatred, self-blame and embarrassment of the violence perpetrated against me, I was not able to come forward about what happened to me. I feared that no one would believe me or think, "I asked for this."

I am now able to come forward and hold my abuser accountable. I strongly support the City Counsel in passing this important law to support the victims of gender-motivated violence. Should this law pass, then I will finally be able seek restorative justice and help other survivors have the courage to come forward. We need to continue to find ways to support access to justice for New Yorkers that were traumatized by acts of sexual violence. By passing this amendment to the gender-motivated violence protection law, the City Counsel will show that it supports survivors and will not tolerate sexual violence to continue in our City.

Thank you and I look forward to continuing to fight for a safer City that seeks to end gender-motivated violence.



**Written Statement of Xavier Mimaud**  
**In Support of Reopening the Gender-Motivated Violence Act (GMVA)**  
**Lookback Window**  
**Submitted to the Committee on Women and Gender Equity**  
**Saturday, October 18, 2025**

Good morning, Chair Farah Louis and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Xavier Mimaud**, and I am writing to express my strong support for reopening the Gender-Motivated Violence Act (GMVA) lookback window.

I was born and raised in **France**, a country built on the values of *liberté, égalité, et fraternité* — liberty, equality, and brotherhood. These words have guided me throughout my life. When I came to the United States, I carried those ideals with me, and I have seen them reflected here — in the courage of survivors and the compassion of lawmakers willing to act on behalf of others.

In **2023**, when the GMVA lookback window first opened, I had the opportunity to seek justice for violence that had deeply affected my life. Because that window existed, I was able to come forward, to be heard, and to see justice served — to the **full extent of the law**. That process restored my belief that fairness and accountability can prevail when the system gives people a true chance to be heard.

Today, I am a proud parent of **four children**, and I want them to grow up in a society where justice is not limited by time, fear, or silence — a society where liberty, equality, and solidarity are not only values we speak of, but principles we live by.

We know that **trauma takes time**. Many survivors cannot speak out for years — sometimes decades — due to fear, shame, or the long journey of healing. The original GMVA window was a vital step forward, but many were not yet ready or able to come forward during that period.

**Reopening the window** would not only provide another chance for those survivors to seek justice — it would reaffirm our collective belief that **justice delayed should never be justice denied**. It would show that New York remains a place where compassion, courage, and accountability endure.

When we reopen the GMVA lookback window, we are not reopening old wounds — we are **opening new doors to healing**.

We are saying to every survivor: *your voice still matters, your story still matters, and justice still belongs to you.*

Thank you for allowing me to share my story and for considering this essential step toward a more equitable, humane, and just future.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Xavier Mimaud**  
Dallas, Texas  
October 18, 2025

October 17, 2025

Dear New York City Council Members,

I'm writing to you regarding the Gender Motivated Violence Act (GMVA) passed by the New York City Council on March 1, 2023 and the pending legislation to amend the GMVA, INT 1297-2025. The GMVA amended the existing GMVPL to allow victims of abuse to bring claims not only against the perpetrators but also against the institutions that enabled those perpetrators. The GMVA further created a two-year "lookback window" allowing victims to take advantage of this amendment, even if the nine-year statute of limitations had lapsed. Unfortunately, recent New York case law has held that the GMVA does not extend to survivors prior to the enactment of the GMVA in 2000. I believe that this is contrary to the objectives and legislative history of the GMVA, and respectfully request your assistance in correcting this problem. In particular, I ask that the New York City Council confirm the retroactivity of the GMVA by amending the statute to clarify its retroactive scope.

I'm writing to strongly urge the New York City Council members to amend the GMVA language to include claims for abuse prior to 2000 and close this artificial loophole created by this narrow and contrary reading of the law.

The culture surrounding the disclosure of abuse has changed significantly over the past few decades. Whereas survivors were once summarily silenced, now, we are being accepted, if not called upon, to speak our truths and seek accountability. We have waited for decades in the growing shadows of powerful abusers, both known and unknown, for a chance at justice after being grievously wronged. We know that you are aware of us, and the pain that we have suffered. Indeed, when passing the recent amendments to the GMVA, many survivors spoke at the hearing. They told you about their stories in raw, unfiltered language that now are permanently and publicly available for all to see on the Council's website. Many of those survivors spoke powerfully and elegantly about abuse that occurred prior to the year 2000. Nobody told them that their claims would be silenced by courts, or that they would have no opportunity to pursue justice based on when their abuse occurred. They were there as examples of why this look-back window was—and is—so important to this city.

You are the elected officials that represent the over eight million residents of New York City, many of whom are survivors of sexual abuse or assault. When you passed the GMVA and the GMVA Window, it was to "give survivors of gender-motivated acts of violence more time to pursue civil actions[.]" Why should some survivors not be afforded the same opportunity as others, simply based on when their abuse occurred?

Indeed, when Council Member Brooks-Powers introduced the legislation, she noted specifically that it was designed for "[a]ll survivors." As the many CVA and ASA lawsuits have recently proven, many sexual assaults happened prior to 2000, and there is no proper reason that these pre-2000 assaults are less deserving of justice than post-2000 assaults. When the City Council approved the bill, the bill's co-sponsors reiterated the legislative intent to protect survivors who previously suffered from gender motivated violence. Councilwoman Rivera stated that "[The

GMVA Window] offers a path to healing for survivors who have been failed by the very institutions tasked to protect them by creating a two-year look-back window for survivors of gender-motivated violence to file civil actions against their assailants..., even if the statute of limitations in the case has already expired.” Again, it is clear that everyone should be afforded the right to pursue a case against their abusers and the institutions that enabled the abuse—there should be no blinds or shades covering up the look-back window.

When this look-back window was enacted, we felt like our hometown was finally trying to protect us. Courts all over the five boroughs are considering our cases each and every day, and the longer you wait to clarify your position, more survivors will be barred from getting justice. Already, many survivors have either had their cases dismissed or have been forced by recent Court decisions to make difficult decisions about continuing to pursue their claims while risking their dismissal based on the Court’s interpretation of the GMVA. The consequences of this reading of the GMVA forces survivors of abuse to bear this burden. Your silence or inaction may impair the good done by your previous actions. If the GMVA goes uncorrected, it would be extremely unfair and painful.

As a victim of child sexual violence, it took me many, many years to come to terms with the abuse that was perpetrated on me as a child by a prominent doctor. The GMVA was passed to extend the 2-year lookback window for abuse victims like me. Now, victims who were abused prior to 2000 are being told the 2-year lookback window created under GMVA may not apply to us. How is that justice?

As a result of this narrow reading of the Act, I have had to voluntarily discontinue my case, to limit the risk of dismissal, because my abuse as a child occurred prior to 2000 and the GMVA language has been interpreted by some courts thus far to apply only to cases after 2000. The language of the Act should not be ambiguous—it should be made clear to a court, based on the legislative intent, how this Act applies. Again, the intent of the legislature was meant to be retroactive for all survivors rather than exclude a category of victims. The wording of the Act has been used to inadvertently leave out an entire class of victims and has resulted in abuse victims having to voluntarily withdraw our cases or risk having our cases dismissed by the court. That is not what was intended; that is not justice.

I’m angry at this miscarriage of justice. Why is an entire category of victims arbitrarily excluded from being made whole for the harm that was done to us simply because that harm occurred before the year 2000? This is patently unfair and further delays justice for those of us who were harmed as children. It’s not what the NYC Council Members intended when the GMVA was passed. I do not believe that NYC Council Members would intend to deny justice for child victims of sexual abuse prior to the year 2000.

For the GMVA to afford the access to justice that all survivors of crimes of gender-motivated violence deserve, I ask the Council to amend the GMVA to clarify that it applies to all survivors, including those abused before 2000. It would mean a great deal to abuse victims if the language in the GMVA were strengthened to send a clear message to perpetrators, especially serial sexual predators, and the institutions that enable these perpetrators, that they will face consequences for

their actions. Please vindicate the rights of victims of sexual abuse. Please don't let a miscarriage of justice be added to the enormous burden victims already have to carry. Please close this artificial loophole that weakens the law as it was intended. I urge the City Council members to strengthen the language of the GMVA to allow for claims in cases of abuse prior to 2000.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jane Doe

To the City Council:

I implore you to pass Intro 1297 to give Survivors a fair pathway to hold institutions accountable.

I am a Survivor who was assaulted by former Dr. Robert Hadden for over a decade. Columbia University protected him so they could protect their institutional reputation at the expense of its many hundreds patients he molested and assaulted for more than twenty years.

I was only able to find justice because of the Adult Survivors Act, and the look-back window that was afforded to me by its enactment.

It makes no sense to me that look-back windows are fleeting and temporary. Why must our justice system protect institutions and powerful people rather than their victims? This is a terrible injustice in our system, and must change.

Pass Intro 1297 so that Survivors have a voice and path to justice. If more of these powerful and well-protected institutions were held accountable, there would be more self-imposed institutional limits in place to guard against this abhorrently illegal and disgraceful behavior.

Christopher Leon Johnson. 10/16/25



Brooklyn NY 11213



To the Committee on Women and Gender Equity,





Hello my name is Christopher Leon Johnson and I'm here to show my support for intro 1297 I wish I could have stayed there to show my support in person by testify that person but I'm not able to show my supportive person is because IMB I am heading to a I was heading to a United Nations event from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on October 16th 2025 but I wish I could able to testify in person right now today. The reason I came out there is because of the fact that I'm here to show my support for intro 1297 I heard from a a political personally that speaker Adams is personally trying to block the bill for being on the floor I will so disgusted when I heard about that that story that I had to come out and show my support some way somehow so I did that today I wish I could testify right now but I can't. It is sickening to hear that speaker Adams is doing what should I do to block the bill for beyond the floor people got started asking is the people that's funding her campaign or funny her behind the scenes is telling her to block this bill because they know that this bill becomes law and it opens the window from lawsuits that they going to get litigated so people are asking that question myself Christopher Leon Johnson is not a saint and I'm not innocent from the stuff because it's 2023 myself and \$15 other guys chase the executive director of the worker justice project Ligia gualpa, Chase they're all around call of everywhere you call the derogatory word that a man can call a woman and threaten her. Myself is not proud of that day but I know that with this type of bill that can open up for me is litigated but I'm not against that if I get litigated then I get litigated I don't give a crap because if that means justice then that means justice oh well but it should not be where you have a speaker that is gay funded by guys who make more money than me most likely more money than me is getting



away of blocking a bill that's going to help a woman out later down the run so in the Bible and it's a saying that says that there's a special place of hell for a woman that don't help out other woman there's a special place in hell for women that don't stand with other woman and I believe that Satan has completely made a special space in hell for speaker Adams. To make it clear that the reason that this bill is on the is being heard today is because of the fact that so Brooks powers supports Andrew Cuomo and the speaker is doing well she got to do to line of spot up in the administration That's why. I stand myself I stand with virus of domestic violence gender-based violence and I stand the people the woman and men that are true scared to make their stories public because those stories could be really sensitive and I understand their stories I understand that I understand the situation so going forward I hope that this bill goes through the city council like I said before I wish I could I could say this in person but I can't believe I want to say what I want to say in person I'll probably get back for 30 days but I'll say it on here on virtual I'll stay here I'll stay here right now written is that our Adrienne Adams is a demon because she's a demon you know she's a demon because of the fact that she's a woman a black woman blocking a bill that will protect and give justice to other black woman and not just black woman white woman Asian woman Latino woman gay woman by woman transgender woman or woman she's a demon only a demon would block a bill to make sure that people don't get people get a woman get justice. Audrene needs to pass ryders law that will protect woman from in the horse carries industry from getting hurt and making sure that those same woman gets a jobs in the industry outside the industry I mean. Pass ryders law. Past ryders law. But I support all bills at this hearing but I want to show my support for intro 1297 past 1297 in the city council thank you God bless and enjoy your day take care later.











**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1216-2025 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10-16-25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: AUDACIA RAY

Address: [REDACTED] BROOKLYN NY 11217

I represent: NYC ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT

Address: 116 NASSAU ST NY NY 10038

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297/1216 Res. No. 10/10/25

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/10/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Emily Mites

Address: 11 Park Place

I represent: New York City Alliance Against Sexual

Address: 11 Park Place Assault

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1126 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: Oct 16, 2025

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rachel Braunstein

Address: 100 Broadway 10th fl. NY NY 10005

I represent: Her justice

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Edita Binkant

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ NY

I represent: NYCLASS

Address: NYC

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: 10.16.25

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Paisley Ann Bailey

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Brooklyn NY 11207

I represent: NYCLASS

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: KATHRYN ROBB

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Address: 111 MILK ST BOSTON



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: EVA SANTOS VELOZ

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Edward Hill, Deputy Commissioner for

Address: Research, Evaluation, and Training

I represent: ENDGBV

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Commissioner Saloni Sethi

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: ENDGBV

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1210 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Yasmeen Hamza (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ NJ 07095

I represent: Womankind  
Address: 42 Broadway Suite 1836 NY, NY 10004

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. GMVA Loopback Window Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/2025

Name: JOHN H. SALDWIN (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ and data collection

Name: Elizabeth Ehrlich (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 2 Lefferts Pl 3rd Fl., NY NY 10007

I represent: Safe Horizon

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1216 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carla Smith

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: The LGBT Center

Address: 700 W 121st St NY NY 10014

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1216 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kavita Mehra

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Sabhi for South Asian Women

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1216 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jessha Fisher

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Korean American Family Service Center

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297-2025 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Khalid Melvin

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1216 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Margaritz Forman

Address: PO Box 1161 Triborough Stn. NYC

I represent: Violence Intervention Program

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jerome Block

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ NY, NY 10158

I represent: Levy Konigsberg

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1216 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANDREW [REDACTED] SANTA ANA

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: ASIAN AMERICAN FEDERATION

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lagan Youngton

Address: [REDACTED]

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Victoria Mackenzie

Address: [REDACTED] NY NY 10158

I represent: self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carine

Address: [REDACTED] NY NY 10158

I represent: self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jordan Merson

Address: [REDACTED] NY NY 10158

I represent: self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anthony Di Pietro

Address: [REDACTED] NY NY 10158

I represent: self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Emily Miles

Address: [REDACTED] NY NY 10158

I represent: self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elizabeth Ebright

Address: [REDACTED] NY NY 10158

I represent: self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Donna Hylton

Address: [REDACTED] NY NY 10158

I represent: self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Fauziya Muhammad

Address: [redacted] NY NY 10158

I represent: self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Khalid Melvin

Address: [redacted] NY NY 10158

I represent: self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jason Moore

Address: [redacted] NY NY 10158

I represent: self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1297 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Chris Alexander

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ NY, NY 10158

I represent: self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 10/16/25

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christopher Leon Thomas

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Self

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms