

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY, JOINTLY WITH
THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

1

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY,
JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

----- X

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Start: 10:17 A.M.

Recess: 11:27 A.M.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY
Hon. Amanda Farías, Chair

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY:

Shirley Aldebol
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Kayla Santosuosso
Lynn C. Schulman

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY:

Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana K. Hanif
Kevin C. Riley
Julie Won

A P P E A R A N C E S

Jennifer Decarli,
Deputy Commissioner for Family Justice Centers
and Survivor Supports of the Mayor's Office to
End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV)

Jeanine Marie,
Policy and Programs Analyst at The Commission on
Gender Equity (CGE)

Lindsey Song,
Director of the Technology-Facilitated Abuse
Initiative at Sanctuary for Families

Kevin Coenen,
Representing-Self

Paulina A. Cohen,
Senior Staff Attorney at NYC Anti-Violence
Project

Galloway,
Representing the Ali Forney Center and the New
York City Trans and Queer Coalition

Christina Sparrock,
Representing-Self

1 COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY,
2 JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

4

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: This is a sound check
3 for the Committee on Women and Gender Equity, jointly
4 with the Committee on Technology. Today's date is
5 April 29, 2026. We are in the Committee Room. This
6 was recorded by (INAUDIBLE)

6 (PAUSE)

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning. Welcome
8 to the Committee on Women and Gender Equity, jointly
9 with the Committee on Technology. At this time, we
10 ask that you please silence all electronics. If you
11 wish to testify, you must see one of the Sergeant at
12 Arms in the back. Please do not approach the dais at
any time. Chair, you may begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Sergeant, can you
14 bring a gavel?

14 (PAUSE)

15 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: [GAVEL] I can
16 officially start.

17 Good morning, everyone. I'm Council
18 Member Amanda Farías, Chair of the Committee on Women
19 and Gender Equity. I'm excited to be joined by the
20 Chair of the Committee on Technology, Council Member
21 Carmen De La Rosa, for today's hearing on protections

1
2 against harassment in digital and physical spaces for
3 women and gender expansive people.

4 This morning, we've been joined by
5 Council Members Aldebol, Schulman, and Riley.

6 To start us off, I'm going to turn and
7 read a statement from Council Member Louis. Today,
8 we'll be hearing Resolution Number 99, sponsored by
9 the Council Member, declaring May 28 as Menstrual
10 Hygiene Day in the City of New York.

11 Just to begin her statement, "Firstly,
12 thank you, Chairs Fariás and De La Rosa, for your
13 leadership and for advancing this important
14 resolution before the Committee.

15 Today, I am proud to bring forward
16 Resolution 99, which designates May 28 as Menstrual
17 Hygiene Day in the City of New York.

18 This resolution speaks to an issue that
19 is often overlooked, yet impacts millions of
20 individuals across our city and country every single
21 day. Menstrual hygiene is not a luxury. It is a
fundamental component of health, dignity, and equity.
Yet, far too many individuals, particularly
low-income women, young women, and young people,

1
2 continue to face barriers in accessing basic
3 menstrual products.

4 We know that period poverty is real. It
5 forces individuals to make impossible choices between
6 food and hygiene, causes students to miss school, and
7 pushes people out of work and daily life simply
8 because they lack access to essential resources.

9 Millions of individuals lack access to
10 adequate products, and the consequences extend beyond
11 physical health to mental health, educational
12 attainment, and economic stability. When individuals
13 are forced to use makeshift materials or use products
14 beyond safe limits, it puts their health at risk. It
15 perpetuates cycles of inequality that we are actively
16 working to dismantle.

17 Designating Menstrual Hygiene Day in New
18 York City is an important step in breaking stigma,
19 advancing public awareness, and reinforcing our
20 commitment to ensuring that all individuals can
21 manage their health with dignity. It creates space
for education, for community engagement, and for
continued advocacy to expand access to menstrual
products across our schools, shelters, and public
institutions. This resolution affirms that menstrual

1
2 health is public health and that equity requires us
3 to address even the most basic needs of our
4 communities with urgency and intention.

5 I urge my colleagues to support
6 Resolution 99. Thank you.”

7 As many of you are aware, today's hearing
8 falls on Denim Day. Denim Day is recognized on the
9 last Wednesday in April in honor of Sexual Assault
10 Awareness Month, as the longest-running sexual
11 violence prevention and education campaign in
12 history.

13 Denim Day asks community members, elected
14 officials, businesses, students, and all individuals
15 to make a social statement with their fashion by
16 wearing jeans as a visible means of protest against
17 the misconceptions that continue to surround sexual
18 violence. People are encouraged to wear denim to
19 combat victim-blaming and educate others about sexual
20 violence.

21 This year on Denim Day, the Committees on
Women and Gender Equity and Technology will examine
protections against harassment, including sexual
harassment. Harassment is a complex issue rooted in
societal norms that reinforce gender and power

1
2 disparities, and disproportionately impacts women and
3 gender expansive people.

4 According to a 2022 poll of workers in
5 New York State, more than one-third of cisgender
6 women and half of respondents who identify as
7 transgender or gender expansive people reported
8 experiencing sexual harassment in the workplace. And
9 while this number is far too high in workplaces,
10 harassment laws have proved to be a structured,
11 civil, and specialized legal framework that forces
12 employers to prevent and stop harassment based on
13 protected characteristics. But we know that
14 harassment is a pervasive issue that can occur
15 anywhere, including public spaces and online.

16 It can be difficult for police to respond
17 to complaints and for people to feel their concerns
18 have really been addressed. There are complex legal
19 issues at play, and the burden of proof for a
20 criminal response is higher than in the civil system.
21 Some speech is protected by our freedom of speech
rights, and we lack jurisdiction for bad actors
outside the country.

1
2 Research has shown that as many as 80% of
3 cisgender women in New York City have experienced
4 some form of street harassment.

5 Additionally, online harassment against
6 women is escalating, with nearly one in four women
7 reporting that they have experienced online abuse.
8 The impact is even more severe for LGBTQ+ women, with
9 a recent survey showing that more than half of LGBTQ+
10 women reported having experienced online harassment.

11 So today, we'll ask the Administration
12 how they are planning to address harassment in New
13 York City, what resources are available for those who
14 have experienced harassment, and how we can better
15 protect women and gender expansive people from
16 harassment.

17 Now, I would like to invite Chair De La
18 Rosa to deliver her opening statement.

19 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you. Good
20 morning, and welcome to our hearing. I'm Council
21 Member Caremn De La Rosa, Chair of the Committee on
Technology, and I'm pleased to join my colleague,
Chair Amanda Fariás, for this very important hearing
on protections against harassment in digital and
physical spaces for women and gender expansive

1
2 people—especially on Denim Day, a day dedicated to
3 raising awareness about sexual violence and standing
4 in support of victims.

5 Sexual harassment and harassment more
6 broadly have evolved over the years. With
7 advancements in technology, harassment is no longer
8 limited to physical spaces. It has taken new forms
9 digitally, on social media, messaging platforms, and
10 even in virtual reality. Now, bad actors also commit
11 harassment, fraud, stalking, and other crimes through
12 digital means that directly affect people's lives in
13 the physical world. In many cases, abusers gather
14 personal information about their victims online and
15 weaponize it to commit cyber stalking, doxing,
16 identity theft, blackmail, non-consensual image
17 sharing, and sometimes even with AI-generated deep
18 fakes and other forms of abuse.

19 Photos, location, workplaces, schools,
20 family details, IP addresses, phone numbers, devices,
21 and daily routines can all be collected and misused.
This information may be shared directly by
individuals without realizing the risk exposed
through data breaches or obtained through apps and
online services where users agree to broad

1
2 data-sharing terms without reading the privacy
3 policies.

4 Once available, this information can be
5 weaponized to harass, stalk, threaten, impersonate,
6 blackmail, and exploit victims online. More needs to
7 be done to effectively prosecute these offenses and
8 to ensure that future acts of online harassment and
9 abuse are deterred. Recent reports indicate that
10 online harassment has increased significantly, with
11 some reports showing a rise of around 17% in the last
12 year alone. However, the real number may be even
13 higher, as many victims choose not to report or speak
14 about their experiences. Some victims may feel
15 ashamed, afraid, unsupported, or hopeless about
16 receiving justice or protection.

17 Anyone can be a victim of online
18 harassment. However, reports show that women,
19 transgender individuals, and members of the LGBTQ+
20 community are often disproportionately targeted
21 online.

 For this reason, digital safety and
privacy education must be a top priority. Protecting
personal information online is no longer optional; it
is an essential part of ensuring the personal safety

1
2 and freedom of everyone, especially women and gender
3 expansive people.

4 With our new reality of significant
5 online connectivity and future promises of increasing
6 technological sophistication, we need to be even more
7 prepared to protect vulnerable people from online
8 harassment. Just this past January, over a nine-day
9 period, the X AI chat box, Grok, generated and posted
10 over a half a million intimate deepfake images of
11 women in the overwhelming majority of cases, without
12 their consent, prompting bans by multiple
13 international governments and investigations by the
14 EU.

15 With the spread of IoT devices and remote
16 control technology, abusers can harass victims
17 remotely through their smart home devices, including
18 cameras, locks, thermostats, speakers, and security
19 systems. As with abuse online and in virtual reality,
20 the abuser can be located anywhere, blurring the
21 territorial boundaries. However, the legal system
still largely depends on territorial jurisdiction,
making it difficult to identify, investigate, and
prosecute.

1
2 Today, we wish to learn from the
3 Administration about the initiative that they have
4 taken on to combat online harassment, educate New
5 Yorkers about their rights under local, state, and
6 federal laws, and the resources available to New
7 Yorkers to support victims of online harassment.

8 The Committee is also looking forward to
9 hearing testimony from the public for a better
10 understanding of the present challenges around online
11 harassment, as well as what measures can be taken to
12 mitigate and protect these harms from occurring.

13 Finally, I want to express my sincere
14 gratitude to Irene Byhovsky, Senior Legislative
15 Counsel, and Erik Brown, Legislative Policy Analyst,
16 as well as my staff, James Burke, Hiba Imad, and
17 Fraynette Familia, for their effort in putting this
18 hearing together.

19 I would also like to acknowledge the
20 Technology Committee Members and Council Members who
21 are present: Riley, I think that is it from the
Technology Committee, but we also have Council Member
Aldebol and Council Member Schulman here with us as
well.

1
2 I will now turn it back over to the
3 Committee Counsel (INAUDIBLE).

4 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Thank you, Chair De
5 La Rosa.

6 Additionally, today, the committees will
7 also hear the following legislation:

8 T2026-1761, sponsored by Deputy Speaker
9 Williams, in relation to reporting on efforts to
10 combat sexual harassment and equal employment
11 opportunity violations at city agencies, and to
12 repeal Local Law 101 for the year 2018, relating to
13 the climate surveys and action plans to combat sexual
14 harassment and equal employment opportunity
15 violations at city agencies.

16 I will now read a statement from Deputy
17 Speaker Williams:

18 "Thank you, Chair Fariás, for hearing
19 this bill today.

20 For many New Yorkers, especially those
21 working in city government, the workplace should be
somewhere they feel safe and respected. But too often
that is not the case. And when issues arise, the
response can feel unclear or incomplete. This bill is
about getting a clearer picture of what is actually

1
2 happening inside our agencies and how those
3 situations are being handled.

4 Right now, while anti-sexual harassment
5 training is required, we do not have a clear
6 understanding of who is being reached, how consistent
7 those trainings are across agencies, or whether they
8 are being implemented in a meaningful way. We also
9 lack transparency around what happens after a
10 complaint is made.

11 This legislation would require more
12 detailed reporting from DCAS on trainings, including
13 who is being trained and how those trainings are
14 delivered. It would also require city agencies to
15 report on the outcomes of substantiated complaints
16 while still protecting individuals' privacy. That
17 level of transparency is essential if we expect these
18 systems to function with credibility and consistency
19 across agencies.

20 In communities like South East Queens,
21 where many residents work in public service, these
issues are not abstract. They shape people's
day-to-day experiences at work. People should be able
to trust that clear processes are in place and that
those processes are followed.

1
2 If we are serious about improving
3 workplace culture, it starts with transparency,
4 consistency, and accountability. This bill moves us
5 in that direction.”

6 Thank you, Deputy Speaker Williams, for
7 sharing those remarks.

8 Additionally, the committees will hear
9 three resolutions sponsored by Council Member Hudson:

10 Resolution Number 250 calling upon the
11 New York Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign
12 legislation to ensure equal educational opportunity,
13 basic civil rights protections, and laws and policies
14 that prohibit bias-based victimization, exclusion,
15 and erasure of LGBTQ+ young people in K-12 New York
16 State schools, as called for in GLSEN's 2023-2024
17 "Rise Up for Youth" campaign.

18 Resolution 251 calling on Congress to
19 pass, and the President to sign, the LGBTQIA+ package
20 of legislation currently before Congress.

21 Resolution 252 Resolution celebrating the
22 contributions of Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera
23 to the LGBTQ+ rights movement in the United States.

24 The committees will also hear
25 Preconsidered Resolution Number T2026-1774, sponsored

1
2 by Council Member Ung, calling on the New York State
3 legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign,
4 S.3394-A/A.3226-A, the Ceasing Repeated And Extremely
5 Egregious Predatory Behavior Act, also known as
6 CREEP.

7
8 Finally, the committees will hear two
9 resolutions sponsored by me, which include Resolution
10 Number 352, calling on the United States Congress to
11 pass, and the President to sign, H.R. 3562, the
12 DEFIANCE Act of 2025, to provide a federal Resolution
13 calling on the United States Congress to pass, and
14 the President to sign, H.R. 3562, the DEFIANCE Act of
15 2025, to provide a federal civil cause of action for
16 victims of non-consensual intimate digital forgeries.

17
18 There is also Resolution 393, sponsored
19 by Council Member Brewer and me, calling on the
20 United States Congress to pass, and the President to
21 sign, H.R.7467/S.3815, also known as Virginia's Law,
in relation to eliminating the statute of limitations
for civil lawsuits filed by survivors of sexual abuse
and trafficking.

Thank you to the Members of the Women and
Gender Equity Committee and the Technology Committee
who have joined us today. I would also like to thank

1
2 the Committee staff: Julia Goldsmith-Pinkham, Katie
3 Salina, Allie Stofer, and Taylor Francisco. As well
4 as my own staff, Daniel Curtin and Josephine Carras,
5 for their work on today's hearing.

6 I would like to remind everyone who
7 wishes to testify in person today that you must fill
8 out a witness slip, which you can find on the desk of
9 the Sergeant at Arms near the entrance of this room.
10 Please fill out a slip even if you have already
11 registered in advance that you will be testifying in
12 person today.

13 If you wish to testify on any of the
14 legislation, please indicate on the witness slip
15 whether you are here to testify in favor of or in
16 opposition to the legislation.

17 I also want to point out that we will not
18 be voting on any legislation today.

19 To allow as many people as possible to
20 testify, testimony will be limited to two minutes per
21 person, whether you are testifying in person or on
Zoom.

I'm also going to ask my colleagues to
limit their questions and comments to five minutes.

1
2 Please note that the witnesses who are
3 here in person will testify before those who are
4 signed into the Zoom webinar.

5 I'll now turn it over to the Women and
6 Gender Equity Committee counsel to administer the
7 oath.

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Hello.

9 In accordance with the rules of the
10 Council, I will administer the affirmation to the
11 witnesses. I'll call on you each individually for a
12 response. Please raise your right hands.

13 Do you affirm to tell the truth, the
14 whole truth, and nothing but the truth before these
15 committees and to respond honestly to Council Member
16 questions?

17 PANEL: (INAUDIBLE)

18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: Good
20 morning, Chair Farías, Chair De La Rosa, Members of
21 the Committee on Women and Gender Equity and the
Committee on Technology. I am Jennifer DeCarli,
Deputy Commissioner for Family Justice Centers and
Survivor Supports of the Mayor's Office to End
Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV).

1
2 ENDGBV supports survivors of domestic and
3 gender-based violence by developing and delivering
4 accessible and inclusive services to survivors, their
5 families, and communities through collaboration with
6 government agencies, community partners, survivors,
7 and philanthropy. We strive to ensure that the City's
8 services and resources reduce barriers, address gaps
9 in service, and create new pathways to safety through
10 program development, legislative and policy advocacy,
11 research, and capacity building for service
12 providers, city agency staff, and community members
13 to identify and respond to domestic and gender-based
14 violence. ENDGBV directly oversees a portfolio of
15 prevention and intervention programming that includes
16 services for survivors of DV/GBV and victims of other
17 crimes, and we operate the City's five borough-based
18 Family Justice Centers. Thank you for the opportunity
19 to speak with you today regarding protections against
20 harassment in digital and physical spaces for women
21 and gender expansive people in New York City.

 Harassment affects all New Yorkers but
disproportionately impacts women and gender-expansive
people. The World Health Organization estimates that
one in three women experiences physical and/or sexual

1
2 violence in their lifetime. In the U.S., GLAAD's
3 ALERT Desk Report found that anti-LGBTQ+ incidents
4 are widespread, with over half targeting transgender
and gender non-conforming individuals.

5 In response, ENDGBV continues to
6 prioritize prevention through year-round training and
7 public education. Over the past year, we conducted 91
8 trainings, reaching more than 5,600 city staff,
9 service providers, and community members to
10 strengthen awareness and improve responses to
11 harassment in both digital and physical spaces.
12 ENDGBV provides a range of accessible,
13 survivor-centered services and referrals. Our
14 borough-based Family Justice Centers offer free,
15 confidential, and trauma-informed support, including
16 case management, safety planning, counseling, and
17 legal assistance, by co-locating city agencies and
18 community providers to improve access to care.
Services are available to all survivors regardless of
language, income, gender identity, or immigration
status, with interpretation available on site.

19 ENDGBV oversees NYC's 24/7 Hope Hotline,
20 which, along with its chat feature, provides
21

1
2 immediate support and connects victims of all crimes
3 to appropriate resources.

4 We also operate prevention and
5 intervention programs and work closely with
6 community-based providers to ensure survivors can be
7 connected to the services they need. The Relationship
8 Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP) places counselors in
9 middle and high schools to promote healthy
10 relationships and support youth experiencing or
11 witnessing violence. Our Home+ helps survivors remain
12 safely housed by providing security upgrades, lock
13 repairs, and flexible funding.

14 In addition, our abusive partner
15 intervention programs, Respect and Responsibility for
16 Adults and Respect First for Youth, focus on
17 trauma-informed accountability to change behavior and
18 prevent future harm.

19 ENDGBV has co-chaired the Street
20 Harassment Prevention Advisory Board (SHPAB) with the
21 New York City Commission on Gender Equity (CGE) since
22 2022 in accordance with Local Law 46 of that year.
The board was created to study the occurrence of
street harassment in New York City, identify people
and communities most at risk, promote public

1
2 awareness of street harassment, and develop
3 programming, training, and a resource guide to
4 prevent and respond to street harassment.

5 In the fall of 2023, the board conducted
6 a citywide survey to better understand the scope of
7 street harassment and used these findings to inform a
8 public awareness campaign that launched this April as
9 part of Sexual Violence Awareness Month. Ads across
10 transit and public spaces highlight that unwanted
11 remarks, touching, or photography are not harmless;
12 they are harassment. The ads also include QR codes
13 that help connect New Yorkers to multilingual
14 resources and support.

15 As more of our daily lives take place
16 online, harassment has increasingly extended into
17 digital spaces as well. According to Amnesty
18 International, 38% of women have experienced online
19 violence, and research from the Pew Research Center
20 shows that nearly half of U.S. teens have faced
21 online harassment, with girls reporting higher levels
of negative experiences. LGBTQ+ individuals,
particularly transgender and gender non-conforming
people, also face disproportionately high rates of
online abuse.

1
2 This form of harm, often referred to as
3 technology-facilitated abuse, can include
4 cyberbullying, online harassment, image-based abuse,
5 doxxing, stalking, and emerging threats such as
6 AI-generated deepfakes and impersonation. These harms
7 are often persistent and far-reaching, and can
8 escalate into real-world consequences, including
9 coercion, physical violence, and long-term trauma.

10 ENDGBV addresses technology-facilitated
11 abuse through a combination of direct services,
12 specialized interventions, and systemwide training.
13 Through our Family Justice Centers, survivors can
14 access support that increasingly incorporates digital
15 safety planning and referrals to specialized
16 providers. We also partner with Sanctuary for
17 Families and Cornell Tech to support the Sanctuary
18 Tech Abuse Clinic (STAC), which provides technology
19 safety assessments and digital safety planning.
20 Originally, this was called the CETA Clinic. It was
21 developed through Cornell Tech's Clinic to End Tech
Abuse. This model has become a national example of
how to help survivors identify, document, and prevent
technology-facilitated abuse. In addition, we
integrate this work into our broader prevention and

1
2 response efforts by providing training and technical
3 assistance to City agencies and community-based
4 organizations. These trainings help frontline staff
5 recognize and respond to evolving forms of abuse,
6 including online harassment, cyberstalking, and
7 misuse of digital tools.

8 As harassment continues to evolve across
9 both physical and digital spaces, ENDGBV remains
10 committed to advancing survivor-centered,
11 trauma-informed approaches that prevent harm and
12 support survivors. We look forward to continued
13 partnership with the Council to strengthen these
14 efforts. Thank you for the opportunity to testify
15 today. I welcome any questions you may have.

16 CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: Thank you so much for
17 your testimony. How does ENDGBV define harassment,
18 and where does it fit into the scope of the work that
19 ENDGBV does against gender-based violence?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So
21 harassment is a type of abuse. It's a type of abuse
that people who come into our centers and those who
come into community providers experience with
frequent regularity. We define it as any type of
unwanted harm that you're experiencing physically or

1
2 digitally. So we really take a broad look at the
3 definition of harassment. Obviously, our penal codes
4 and our laws take a more specific view, but we take a
5 very broad lens when we're looking at harassment.

6 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: And how is the
7 Administration tracking the rates of harassment in
8 New York City? Are we tracking at all? Are we getting
9 it through certain agencies?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So the data
11 that ENDGBV uses is the data that we get from NYPD.
12 So, the NYPD does have defined crimes that look at
13 this. So that would be one way that we could look at
14 folks' experience of harassment.

15 We operate the Family Justice Centers,
16 but we don't provide direct services. So the data
17 that we collect there is more of a, "Who did you meet
18 with?" "What type of victimization are you
19 experiencing?" So we do not have direct, specific
20 numbers of folks coming in that say they're
21 experiencing harassment. We know what services they
were provided and what agencies they met with because
that data is held by our providers.

22 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: And is the NYPD data
23 that we received disaggregated in any way where we

1
2 can identify, like, gender identity, where the
3 harassment took place, those types of things that
4 maybe can give us some more detailed report out? Or
5 is it very basic to what the NYPD is supposed to be
6 logging?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: My
7 understanding is it's looking at the, you know, the
8 data that comes from the domestic incident report. So
9 it would give you the number of (INAUDIBLE) or
10 harassment complaints, the number of complaints that
11 involve different types of harassment, but we can get
12 back to you on that, and we can... (CROSS-TALK)

11 CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: Yeah, I'd like to
12 know for like disaggregating that information...

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: Sure.

14 CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: by gender identity or
15 any other things that are helpful to ENDGBV's role or
16 CGE's role in the city.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: Sure.

17 CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: You folks are
18 conducting an anti-street harassment campaign right
19 now. How is the information distributed, and how are
20 you tracking the impact or successes of the campaign?
21

1

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: That's a
2 great question. I'm going to defer to my colleague
3 from CGE to answer that.

4

MS. MARIE: Well, first of all, thank you
5 for having us here today.

6

CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: You can pull the mic
7 closer if it's easier. Thank you.

8

MS. MARIE: Thank you for having the
9 Commission on Gender Equity here today for this
10 important conversation.

11

So you asked about tracking the success
12 of the campaign, right? So I know that we are-- the
13 QR codes on the campaign posters lead folks to
14 nyc.gov/end-street-harassment. And so we can see
15 directly there how many people go to that website--If
16 there's an increase over the course of April.

17

18

The other way we do this is, CGE and
19 ENDGBV, per Local Law 46 of 2022, keep the Resource
20 Guide on our website, so we can track the number of
21 downloads and even the views. We can tell if there's
an uptick over the course of April. And we'd be happy
to talk to our communications teams and provide that
information to you if we get an uptick over the
course of the month.

21

1
2 And I will just say, I know we have some
3 estimates on the number of people we expect to see in
4 the campaign. So I think on the Staten Island Ferry,
5 the estimates are like 15 million impressions. On the
6 subways, we're expecting to get 12 million
7 impressions, and then we have a number of posters in
8 Manhattan and Brooklyn, and 151 subway-sidewalk
9 decals in Queens and the Bronx. So, it's quite a wide
10 net.

11 CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: Is there any chance
12 that you folks are, with all the downtime that all of
13 us have, ever cross-referencing maybe NYPD stats or
14 3-11 complaints versus the impressions that you're
15 seeing on downloads to see if maybe there's a direct
16 correlation between people researching what resources
17 are out there for them versus what they're
18 experiencing or reporting?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: I am not
20 aware of that, Chair, but we can definitely look into
21 that. That's a great suggestion.

CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: Thank you.

And aside from this, what awareness or
educational campaigns has New York City conducted

1
2 around harassment in the past, and is this the only
3 tool that we're utilizing at the moment?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: This is our
5 first huge campaign on this issue. We are constantly
6 doing training and prevention. I know that as part of
7 the Street Harassment Advisory Board, which was
8 convened in response to the Local Law to study this
9 issue, part of that was to convene trainings. And
10 there was a survey done in 2023, and one of the
11 things that most of the responses asked for was more
12 training, particularly in bystander interventions,
13 because that was identified through the survey as
14 something people really wanted to see happen when
15 they were being harassed. So I know that CGE has led
16 training and has continued to do that.

17 MS. MARIE: Yeah. And our communications
18 and public engagement team is out in community at a
19 very regular cadence in all five boroughs; they
20 always have our Resource Guide with them in all 12
21 mandated languages. And so that's one way we're
reaching people very regularly. I know last year we
delivered 1,100 resource guides to the public in four
languages. This year, we have already delivered more
than 250 in four languages. And the other way in

1
2 which we are raising awareness is through our
3 partnerships with community-based organizations,
4 especially Right to Be. We have partnered with them
5 regularly for six years, and they have a curriculum
6 on street harassment and bystander interaction
7 training. I think we have trained more than 800
8 people so far. And this year, we are anticipating
9 really increasing that number, because it's CGE's
10 10-year anniversary. So as part of that celebration,
11 we are partnering with Right to Be on 10 different
12 bystander intervention trainings over the course of
13 the year.

14 CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: That's great. Is
15 ENDGBV monitoring workplace harassment complaints in
16 the city?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So that's
18 not part of our role, but what we are doing is
19 working really closely with city agencies. Executive
20 Order 85 was passed, which basically mandates every
21 city agency to have a domestic and gender-based
violence liaison at their agency, attend trainings
and meetings with ENDGBV, and have that person be
looking at that city agency's response to domestic
and gender-based violence.

1
2 We also, as part of that work, have
3 resource coordinators who are available to support
4 the liaisons if city agency staff want to be
5 connected to resources and supports. And we are
6 currently working with DCAS on an online training
7 module about domestic and gender-based violence and
8 about the availability of these liaisons. And what EO
9 85 says. We're just currently looking to identify a
10 vendor.

11 CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: How is the
12 relationship consistent with working with each of the
13 agencies? Are there some agencies that are
14 non-responsive? Are there some agencies that maybe
15 are not communicating consistently enough for us to
16 know what the liaisons are up to or if they need any
17 additional support?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So we've had
19 a really good response. I mean, EO 85 requires each
20 city agency to have a liaison. And so we have a email
21 distribution list where they're all on that. We do
regular updates. We have annual meetings, and they're
very well attended, and folks do reach out. And when
we have city employees, staff coming into the Family
Justice Centers, we're able to quickly connect with

1
2 liaisons and try to get support from them. So we've
3 found a very positive response.

4 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Great. Thank you.

5 Does ENDGBV work with 3-11 on referrals to hotlines
6 or your programming at all?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: We do. We
8 have conversations with 3-11, and we have in the
9 past, and I don't have the details on when, but I can
10 get them to you. In the past, we have done training,
11 and we have communicated with them regarding
12 referrals. So when folks call: "Do you refer to the
13 hotline?" "Do you refer to the Family Justice
14 Centers?" And we continue to have those
15 conversations.

16 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Thank you. I'm going
17 to yield my time to pass it over to Chair De La Rosa
18 to ask some questions.

19 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you, Chair.

20 I think the Chair asked this already in
21 some way. But in terms of 3-11, what is the work that
22 you all do with referrals to the hotline or your
23 programming, like what is the coordination?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So, 3-11,
25 we've worked with them on their scripts. So if

1
2 someone calls up and there are certain keywords that
3 they say indicating that they're a victim of domestic
4 violence or harassment, they were given the city's
5 hotline, The Hope Hotline, as well as the Family
6 Justice Centers that they can turn to for support and
7 services.

8 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Great.

9 Do you all work with the DOE on
10 addressing online harassment in terms of school and
11 students, and cyberbullying?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So, through
13 our RAPP programs, ENDGBV contracts with
14 community-based providers to provide counselors in
15 our middle and high schools. And so not-for-profit
16 organizations hold those contracts, and then they
17 work with the schools on those issues, and they also
18 have counselors in schools.

19 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Are there any
20 educational programs related to online safety or
21 intimate privacy targeting middle school students at
this time?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: That I am
aware of, but we can get back to you on that. I think
it could be part of the RAPP curriculum, but I don't

1
2 want to get that wrong. So, I will get back to you on
3 that.

4 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Great. Are there
5 any other programs by ENDGBV or its partners focusing
6 on digital safety or digital privacy for parents and
7 young adults?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So as part
9 of the RAPP program, I know they have done...

10 (CROSS-TALK)

11 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: (INAUDIBLE)
12 program? I'm sorry.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: The RAPP,
14 sorry, the Relationship Abuse Prevention Program.

15 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay, mm-hmm.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: ENDGBV also
17 has a Youth Advisory Council, so we take feedback
18 from the youth, and I know that we have done targeted
19 trainings for parents to support them in
20 understanding the digital world. We've offered that
21 training through our Family Justice Centers in the
past, and we can get you more details on that.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Great. Do you
partner with any social media platforms or companies
to raise awareness about online abuse and educate

1
2 young people on digital hygiene, online safety, or
3 intimate privacy?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: We don't at
5 the moment. What we do is work really closely with
6 Cornell Tech, which has relationships with many of
7 those companies, and we offer the CIDA program and
8 the STAC program. It's now called STAC through our...

9 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: (INAUDIBLE) I'm
10 sorry. I'm having a hard time hearing you.

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: That's okay.
12 And I'm having a hard time hearing all of you. I'm
13 sorry. (LAUGHS)

14 So, right now at the Family Justice
15 Centers, we have a partnership with Cornell Tech and
16 Sanctuary for Families, which was called the Clinic
17 to End Tech Abuse.

18 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay.

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: Cornell Tech
20 has volunteers who do digital privacy safety checks
21 with survivors who come to the Family Justice Centers
or are referred there because they have concerns
about digital safety, and they're being harassed
online. So we do that, and through that relationship,
we have done a lot of training to raise awareness

1
2 about online harassment and digital safety. And there
3 is a lot of training for advocates to better
4 understand how to do technology safety planning. I
5 myself am not a technology and safety expert. So we
6 have to really train advocates to have those
7 conversations with survivors, so that they can
8 properly respond to them.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Great. I did want
11 to ask a little bit about the NYPD's data involvement
12 in terms of the data, and I have another question,
13 too, about the NYPD. But in terms of the data, how do
14 you find the relationship for getting the data? How
15 is that? Is it readily accessible? Does that
16 information come mostly through-- I know that
17 precincts have domestic violence officers and things
18 of that nature. How does that data come to you or
19 flow?

20
21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So we work
22 really closely with the NYPD's Domestic Violence
23 unit, which is now part of the Chief of Detectives
24 department. Our Deputy Commissioner for Research and
25 Evaluation has a really great working relationship
26 with them, where when we ask for data, we're given

1
2 that data. It's specifically being pulled from the
3 domestic incident reports.

4 As I am sure you all know, when NYPD gets
5 to the scene, it's a mandate in New York State law
6 that they provide a domestic incident report. So much
7 of the data that we're getting from PD is coming from
8 those domestic incident reports, and we have found
9 that to be a really great working relationship.

10 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Great. And does
11 the NYPD or the District Attorney's Office have
12 qualified investigators who can assist victims in
13 identifying online abusers or pursuing criminal
14 charges to assist in online harassment in general?

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So I'm glad
16 you asked that question. We've actually been working
17 a lot with the NYPD and the District Attorney's
18 offices on targeted training.

19 We are a member of NYPD's Training
20 Advisory Board, and we're currently meeting regularly
21 to develop video trainings for the entire force and
in-person specialized trainings for the domestic
violence detective investigators on all topics of
domestic and gender-based violence. But we're
actually currently crafting a video on stalking for

1
2 the entire force that will have questions that you
3 have to answer. And part of that training will also
4 have a civil attorney from the Sanctuary for Families
5 STAC clinic, to talk about cyber stalking. Because
6 obviously, online harassment is part of stalking. So
7 we want to make sure that the offices are aware of
8 that and aware of the resources that can support
9 survivors of online harassment.

10 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: One of the issues
11 that comes up with cybersecurity around these types
12 of attacks is identity theft, using people's personal
13 information, personal images. What type of
14 interventions does your office have if someone who is
15 going through that situation comes and asks for
16 assistance?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So we would
18 assign them to-- so if they walked into the Family
19 Justice Center, we would have them meet with the case
20 manager first to kind of do a basic safety planning,
21 assess what issues they want to seek support from. If
they were mentioning all of that during the
screening, we would do a referral to the STAC program
so they could meet with an expert to help them safety
plan around that.

1
2 Sometimes, you know, it can get really
3 complicated. If they do want to report that to the
4 police, we could help them meet with a police officer
5 at the Family Justice Centers. We have one at every
6 center who wears plain clothes. They can meet with
7 them. We could also talk to the district attorney's
8 offices—with permission—because everything is
9 client-centered—if they gave us permission to see
10 what possible charges could be levied.

11 The criminal justice system is hard. It's
12 incident-based, right? And survivors-- domestic
13 violence is a pattern of behavior. It's hard
14 sometimes with matching that up. And so we do
15 everything we can if somebody wants to pursue the
16 criminal justice remedy to help them navigate that
17 and understand that. We have found the DAs an NYPD to
18 really want to be strong partners in this. And we
19 mentioned the training. The DAs will be part of that
20 training as well for domestic violence officers. And
21 they really want to ensure that their officers are
aware of all of the different tools that they could
use to help someone.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: We know that one
of the ways that abusers often control their victims

1
2 is through financial sort of exploitation. When
3 someone's identity is stolen, it's kind of impossible
4 to track down and figure out. Are there any special
5 initiatives that are coming out of your offices when
6 it comes to the financial abuse portion of it?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So the
7 Family Justice Centers and our other community
8 partners do a lot of work helping survivors recover
9 from financial abuse and understand the detrimental
10 impact it's having on them.

10 We have partnerships in some of our
11 centers with financial counselors who can sit and
12 meet with someone and really delve into their credit,
13 if there's been identity theft, flagging that for
14 credit bureaus, right, working through all those
15 reports. And if someone wants to make a report about
16 identity theft to law enforcement, we can try to help
17 them do that. That can be challenging, because it can
18 be hard to figure out who is doing it. Right? But
19 that is why we have those financial counselors and
20 experts to help them navigate that.

19 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Great. I want to
20 pass it back to the Chair for Member questions. I
21

1
2 also want to recognize that we have been joined by
3 Council Member Hanif on Zoom.

4 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Thank you, Chair De
5 La Rosa. We have also been joined by Council Member
6 Won.

7 I am going to pass it over to the two
8 Members before I ask additional questions. First up
9 will be Council Member Riley, followed by Council
10 Member Aldebol.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Chair,
12 and good morning.

13 Thank you so much for presenting to us
14 today. I kind of want to get into your initiative
15 when you're going into schools and speaking about
16 healthy relationships. If you could just talk a
17 little bit more about that? And at what age are you
18 starting these conversations?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So the RAPP
20 program, the Relationship Abuse Prevention program,
21 is contracted with community-based organizations, and
it begins in middle school, so 6th grade and up. So
we have middle school and high school. And there are
counselors in select schools throughout New York
City's school district system who have counselors on

1
2 site to talk to people about healthy relationships.
3 You know what it means—for 6th graders, like, what
4 does it mean to be a good friend, right? A lot of
5 that starts there. What does respect mean in a
6 friendship? And then we're in through high school and
7 doing a lot more on teen dating violence and signs to
8 look out for. And as part of the counselors' jobs at
9 those schools, they're doing workshops, you know, in
10 the schools. So that program is 6th through 12th
11 grade.

12
13 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: And the reason why
14 I'm asking is, I'm not sure if you saw it, there was
15 a horrific video that came out probably a week or two
16 ago, and I don't have all the details, so I don't
17 want to say anything I'm not supposed to. But I'm
18 really just concerned about teen dating and teen
19 violence. A lot of our young people are still
20 developing their emotions. Their minds are still
21 developing. But, at the same time, they are getting
into relationships. And it's really concerning,
especially seeing a video like that.

I have two daughters and a son. I just
want to make sure that as a city, we're providing
enough resources to make sure that we're kind of

1
2 giving the balance that they need to have these
3 healthy relationships.

4 So I would love it if we could connect.
5 We could partner in my district. I would love to do
6 it at some of my schools just to make sure that we
7 are getting it in front of this.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: I would
9 love that, Council Member.

10 We also work with Day One. I don't know
11 if you know if you've heard of Day One. They're an
12 amazing community-based organization that focuses
13 specifically on team dating violence. They are great
14 partners. So we would love to connect with you. I can
15 share my information afterward.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you. Thank
17 you, Chair.

18 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Council Member
19 Aldebol?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: (INAUDIBLE)

21 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Okay.

A New York court can order content to be
taken down, especially where the content involves
non-consensual intimate images, sexually explicit
depictions, or digitally altered deep fake sexual

1
2 material. Do we have any statistics on this? And do
3 you know if any social media platforms honor these
4 orders?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: I don't have
6 any statistics on it, but I can follow up with
7 (INAUDIBLE). I know some of those laws are relatively
8 new, and so I know there's been a ton of training
9 even for advocates, honestly, to understand them, to
10 be able to work with survivors. So we continue to
11 push out trainings and work with our partner agencies
12 on that. So we can get back to you on that.

13 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: That would be great,
14 especially if there's going to be some coordination,
15 getting information from the state or any data from
16 the state, that would be really great.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: Okay.

18 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: The federal Take it
19 Down Act was signed into law as you mentioned
20 recently, May of 2025, prohibiting the non-consensual
21 online publication of intimate visual depictions of
individuals, both authentic and computer-generated,
and requiring online platforms to promptly remove
such depictions upon receiving notice of their
existence.

1
2 Is ENDGBV planning to help inform victims
3 under the Take It Down Act of their rights and access
4 to the new federal mandates?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So, as part
6 of the STAC and CIDA program that I mentioned, they
7 are letting folks know of those rights. We also—I
8 should have mentioned this before—you mentioned
9 social media, and I didn't think of this, but we do
10 work closely with Uber and other agencies. Uber
11 actually supports our (INAUDIBLE) with free
12 rides—and Uber Eats, which is amazing. We have
13 worked with and been in spaces with Uber and other
14 kinds of corporate entities that now have digital and
15 safety managers, and we've been part of those
16 conversations. So I wanted to mention that as well.
17 So we are informing folks of that.

18 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Thank you for that.
19 That's really great to hear.

20 In 2020, the New York State Legislature
21 passed S.5959/A.5605, which established a private
right of action for unlawful dissemination or
publication of sexually explicit depiction of an
individual, including both authentic and
computer-generated content. And in 2023, the state

1
2 Legislature passed S.1042/A.3596, which also makes
3 this a criminal offense.

4 How is ENDGBV helping to inform victims
5 under these laws of their rights—Is it similar to
6 the Take it Down Act?—and how to navigate any of the
7 next steps?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: So yeah, as
9 part of the sessions that folks have with CIDA and
10 STAC to do digital safety planning, we're letting
11 folks know of that. We're also doing, as part of that
12 stalking training I mentioned with NYPD, and we do
13 regular training through our Family Justice Centers
14 for all partners, not just folks who work at the
15 FJCs, but on all different topics.

16 So we have a tech abuse 101. And we're
17 talking in those trainings about these laws. Because
18 the laws are great, but they are really complicated.
19 And so needing to work with an advocate to try to
20 help navigate it is really important.

21 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Mm-hmm.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: And raising
23 awareness of the systems that the laws exist, right?
24 If you're going into family court, asking for an
25 order of protection about that is a new law to the

1
2 judge, too. And so making sure that all the systems
3 are aware of it through training is one of our big
4 focuses.

5 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: That makes a lot of
6 sense.

7 What remedies are generally available to
8 victims under this law? And what amounts of damages,
9 if you know of any, have the victims typically
10 received in these cases?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: I don't know
12 of any specific cases, but we can get back to you. We
13 can talk to our partners who've been supporting folks
14 with it.

15 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Thank you.

16 The Defiance Act is currently being
17 considered by Congress and provides a federal civil
18 cause of action for victims of non-consensual
19 intimate digital forgeries. Is ENDGBV prepared to
20 help victims under the Defiance Act navigate the new
21 federal civil right of action if and when passed?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: If and when
passed, we would be prepared to support them.

1

CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Great. I am going to
2 pass it over to Council Member Aldebol before my
3 final two questions.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: I do have a
5 question about the tech abuse clinic.

6

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: Sure.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Is this clinic
8 also available in schools for young people, middle
9 school students?

9

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI:

10 Unfortunately, it's not. I wish it were. We work with
11 Cornell Tech, as I mentioned, and the clinic is
12 actually supported by volunteers who are students.
13 Many of them are international students supporting
14 those digital safety checkups. And we are doing
15 everything we can to support Cornell Tech and
16 Sanctuary for Families to expand the clinic. Because
17 it really is a national model. There is really no
18 other clinic that exists like this within a Family
19 Justice Center setting. So we would love to see it
20 expand.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Thank you.

20

21

1
2 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Thank you. How will
3 ENDGBV's work change now that it is housed under the
4 Office of Community Safety?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: That's a
6 great question. We're currently in talks with our
7 Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services and our
8 Deputy Mayor of Community Safety about the pending
9 transition. ENDGBV remains committed to ensuring that
10 all of our services are as effective, accessible, and
11 client-centered as possible. And we will continue to
12 do everything to strengthen our relationships across
13 the city government.

14 Our understanding is that a lot of this
15 transition is about not duplicating services, not
16 operating in silos. And so we are committed to that,
17 and we will continue to elevate the issue of domestic
18 and gender-based violence to our leadership.

19 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: I've had a ton of
20 feedback on the Mayor's Executive Order 15 on this. I
21 have had folks express some concerns about a
quote/unquote, "downgrading" of ENDGBV and their
concerns surrounding that—just to put it out there,
loss of efficacy, authority, specialization, and even
budget components are impacted. And I think

1
2 generally, the message going out from the
3 Administration is that this is damaging to ENDGBV's
4 work.

5 I just want to express the concern as
6 well in ensuring that the focus and the mission of
7 ENDGBV gets to be prioritized, despite it being
8 housed under the new Office of Community Safety.

9 Can you speak to any conversations that
10 maybe you're privy to with the Administration, or any
11 understanding going forward on how we are going to
12 protect the focus or the prioritization of what the
13 mission of ENDGBV is, and how that can be prioritized
14 going forward?

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: Yes, I mean
16 it's so new. The transition, as you know, was just
17 announced. So we're still in conversation with our
18 deputy mayors about this. My understanding, though,
19 is that the intent is not to take resources away, but
20 in fact to ensure that resources are available and
21 that all of our agencies are working together and not
in silos to best support survivors of crime and
domestic and gender-based violence. So we continue to
be in those conversations.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Great, thank you so
3 much.

4 Seeing no additional questions, you folks
5 are excused. Thank you so much for coming today and
6 answering our questions.

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DECARLI: Thank you
8 for all of your support. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: I now open the
10 hearing for public testimony. I remind members of the
11 public that this is a formal government proceeding
12 and that decorum shall be observed at all times. As
13 such, members of the public shall remain silent
14 unless called upon to testify.

15 All testimony must be relevant to today's
16 hearing on *protections against harassment in digital
17 and physical spaces for women and gender expansive
18 people*. If remarks stray from the subject matter,
19 speakers will be reminded of the topic and be asked
20 to refocus their comments.

21 The witness table is reserved for
people who wish to testify. No video recording or
photography is allowed from the witness table.

Further, members of the public may not
present audio or video recordings as testimony, but

1
2 may submit transcripts of such recordings to the
3 Sergeant at Arms for inclusion in the hearing record.

4 If you wish to speak at today's hearing,
5 please fill out an appearance card with the Sergeant
6 at Arms and wait to be recognized. When recognized,
7 you will have two minutes to speak on today's hearing
8 topic and/or pieces of legislation.

9 If you have a written statement or
10 additional written testimony you wish to submit for
11 the record, please provide a copy of that testimony
12 to the Sergeant at Arms.

13 You may also email written testimony to
14 Testimony@council.nyc.gov within 72 hours after the
15 close of this hearing. Audio and video recordings
16 will not be accepted.

17 I will now call the first panel: Lindsey
18 Song, Kevin Coenen, and Paulina Cohen. You can
19 approach and sit. Lindsey, you can start when ready.

20 LINDSEY SONG: Good morning, my name is
21 Lindsey Song, and I am the Director of the
Technology-Facilitated Abuse Initiative at Sanctuary
for Families, New York State's largest non-profit
organization dedicated exclusively to services and
advocacy on behalf of victims of domestic violence

1
2 and sex trafficking. We are so grateful for the
3 opportunity to testify today.

4 I just wanted to note that in my current
5 role at Sanctuary, I provide training to law
6 enforcement, the District Attorney's Offices, NYPD,
7 9-11 dispatchers, judges, and judicial staff around
8 cyber crimes and intimate partner violence. The
9 civil/legal attorney that Deputy Commissioner Decarli
10 was mentioning before, that is me. So, I am happy to
11 answer any questions, if the Committee has any, on
12 some of the trainings.

13 I am also a practicing attorney and have
14 practiced in New York City family courts for 11 years
15 now, addressing take-down requests around intimate
16 image abuse and various forms of
17 technology-facilitated violence.

18 And I just want to note that, as aptly
19 noted in the committee report, tech-facilitated abuse
20 does disproportionately impact women and girls as
21 well as gender diverse individuals. And we know from
research and from years of victim services at
Sanctuary and our partners—I also chair the New York
Cyber Abuse Task Force, which is a group of nonprofit
advocates, attorneys, civil advocates, therapists,

1
2 law enforcement, others around the intersection of
3 technology facilitated abuse and gender-based
4 violence—that the most dangerous forms of
5 technology-facilitated abuse come in the context of
6 intimate partner violence where an abuser can
7 weaponize knowledge from the closeness of
8 relationships to abuse, exploit, harass, and threaten
9 their victims through online platforms.

10 Even since 2023, when we delivered
11 remarks to this very committee on this topic, we've
12 seen a vast increase in the use of digital
13 technologies to perpetrate intimate partner violence.
14 Including specifically an increase in the use of
15 smart devices like Bluetooth and internet-enabled
16 devices, such as AirTags, connected cars, and more,
17 to monitor, stalk, and harass victims.

18 For example, a recent client seeking help
19 in leaving her abusive partner came to one of the
20 city's Family Justice Centers—this is actually a
21 client of mine—(TIMER), which, of course, is run by
ENDGBV. At the time, she told her abuser that she was
traveling to a new library with her children. When
she came back to the same FJC a week later, her
abuser texted her, demanding, "Why are you back at

1
2 that same library again?" She later discovered he had
3 installed a tracking device on her car that he was
4 using to monitor all of her movements. And in
5 response to that, we were able to pass legislation
6 that requires car dealers and auto manufacturers to
7 remove access to abusive partners when a victim
8 self-identifies as a victim to a car dealer or
9 manufacturer, which was not in place before 2025.

10 We've also seen an explosion in
11 image-based abuse, including the creation of digital
12 forgeries, which was noted by the Committee. And
13 according to UN Women, digital sexual images now make
14 up 98% of all AI deepfake videos online, and 99% of
15 the individuals targeted are women. And many
16 applications simply do not work on male-oriented
17 bodies. If you put in a body that is not female, it
18 will spit out a female-identified body. Because the
19 technology is created to create images of women and
20 girls.

21 Technology-facilitated abuse causes
extreme emotional and even physical harm. We know
that there is a high lethality factor—76% of
homicide victims were stalked prior to their murder.
And partners who stalk, including online stalking,

1
2 are more likely to threaten, use a weapon, sexually
3 assault, and/or physically injure or kill their
4 victims. The harms caused by these forms of abuse are
5 pervasive.

6 I do want to be mindful of time, and move
7 on to a few proposals that I have from Sanctuary for
8 Families that we urge the City Council to join in
9 supporting survivors of intimate partner violence.

10 First, the New York City Council was a
11 leader in passing the first municipal code provision
12 in the country banning the unlawful disclosure of
13 intimate images in 2017. We applaud the Council's
14 prescience in including threats to disseminate
15 intimate images in the law, which often are more
16 damaging, if not as damaging as the actual production
17 of the images themselves. However, it has become
18 clear in the nine years since that change is needed
19 to update the code to align with New York State
20 legislation. Every state and most territories have
21 legislation around the unlawful dissemination of
intimate images, and New York State includes images
created by digitization, but the New York City
Council law does not. That has not been updated. So
we ask that that be modified to align.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

Additionally, the (INAUDIBLE)...

CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: I'm sorry, Lindsey, I am going to have to cut you off for time, because you are over...

LINDSEY SONG: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: But we do have your testimony...

LINDSEY SONG: Certainly.

CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: And we will refer to that.

LINDSEY SONG: Perfect.

CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Thank you so much.

LINDSEY SONG: Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: You can begin when ready.

KEVIN COENEN: My name is Kevin Coenen. I am a candidate for Assembly in Astoria, District 36. I'm here to listen to some of the testimony down here. And I think the City is the biggest violator of equality. You were only here a couple of weeks ago with the probationary officers, and how little they can progress in their salary as compared to, you know, the male-dominated careers. They went from maybe \$45,000 up to \$53,000. And that's not very good

1
2 when you want to have equality. So, the City is the
3 biggest violator... (CROSS-TALK)

4 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: While we are on the--
5 I just want to keep you to the topic. This is about
6 the hearing topic today, which is about digital
7 harassment and sexual harassment in digital spaces...

8 KEVIN COENEN: Okay, so...

9 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Not on wage
10 inequality, so if you can get back to the topic, that
11 would be great.

12 KEVIN COENEN: Yeah, you said there were
13 other issues we could talk about when you were
14 talking before. Okay, so...

15 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Testify on the issues
16 of this hearing topic. Would you like me to restate
17 the hearing topics?

18 KEVIN COENEN: All right, so basically, we
19 all agree. All of these laws that you are putting
20 through are already in the books. If the courts would
21 enforce them, maybe we could get some-- a little bit
of satisfaction from what the government is doing. I
mean, you are making \$142,000 a year. You are raising
your salaries 16% pretty soon...

1
2 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: I am going to have to
interrupt again... (CROSS-TALK)

3 KEVIN COENEN: And I think the City needs
4 to hear why...

5 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Are you going to stay
6 on the topic, if not (INAUDIBLE)... (CROSS-TALK)

7 KEVIN COENEN: why they're not doing
anything for the people.

8 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Okay, Sergeants, if
9 you can please mute his mic; he is not staying on
10 topic. You can see him out of the hearing. Thank you
so much for coming to testify.

11 KEVIN COENEN: Very good, yep.

12 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Paulina?

13 KEVIN COENEN: I'm fine...

14 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: If you are ready to
begin, you can begin.

15 PAULINA COHEN: Good morning, everyone.
16 Thanks for holding this hearing today.

17 My name is Paulina Cohen. I'm here on
18 behalf of the New York City Anti-Violence Project,
19 where I serve as a senior staff attorney. We
20 appreciate the Council holding this hearing.
21

1
2 AVP has long been at the forefront of the
3 city's fight against hate and oppression, offering
4 critical support to LGBTQ and HIV affected survivors
5 of all forms of violence. We also run the city's only
6 24-hour crisis hotline for LGBTQ survivors.

7 We see that for LGBTQ+ individuals,
8 especially transgender and gender expansive New
9 Yorkers, harassment in digital and physical spaces is
10 all too common. These harms are not separate but form
11 part of one continuum of harm. We regularly see this
12 connection between harassment in digital and physical
13 spaces and how these harms can escalate. Harassment
14 may begin, for example, online through threats,
15 doxing, manipulated or non-consensual images, and
16 then escalate into in-person stalking, workplace
17 harassment, or physical violence.

18 Digital abuse we see is often a first
19 warning sign, not the least serious form of harm.
20 What can begin as harassment on social media can
21 quickly escalate to personal information being
disseminated, followed by threats that make the
person no longer feel safe leaving their home. In
other words, harm that starts online does not

1
2 necessarily stay there, and it can move into every
3 part of someone's life.

4 We support the resolutions under
5 consideration by the committees today as part of a
6 broader effort to strengthen protections for the
7 LGBTQ+ communities. These are all necessary steps—
8 from ensuring safe and inclusive schools, advancing
9 federal civil rights protections, and addressing
10 emerging forms of harm like non-consensual digital
11 forgeries or otherwise manipulated images that my
12 panel member has also mentioned.

13 However, the road does not end here.
14 Digital harm is often minimized to the detriment of
15 survivors, who are often told to simply block or
16 ignore those who are harming them or just to
17 “disappear” themselves from online spaces rather than
18 seeing meaningful accountability for the people
19 actually causing the harm.

20 So we urge the City to continue investing
21 in survivor services like AVP by ensuring culturally
competent responses from law enforcement and city
agencies, (TIMER) recognizing that New Yorkers, and
particularly those groups most impacted by violence,
women, transgender and gender nonconforming people,

1
2 people of color, undocumented immigrants, low-income
3 survivors, and sex workers face heightened risks.

4 I'm just going to close up here.

5 It also means treating community-based
6 organizations like us as thought partners in this
7 area. We are on the front lines of these issues, and
8 we can help the City respond to evolving forms of
9 harm in ways that put survivors' needs and stories
10 first. New Yorkers deserve to be safe on and offline,
11 and right now, too many are not. So I thank you for
12 your time. Thanks.

13 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: I only have one
14 question for Lindsey. You were talking about the need
15 for an update in the legislation. Can you just, I'm
16 sorry, I, I missed the, the train of thought. Can you
17 just tell me what piece of the legislation needs
18 updating?

19 LINDSEY SONG: Absolutely. So, currently,
20 the Administrative Code, now codified as 10180, does
21 not include digitized or deep fake images.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay.

LINDSEY SONG: So specifically, the New
York State law was amended in 2023, as I believe you
noted, I know it was noted, to include that. And most

1
2 states now include that as well, recognizing that
3 authentic images are not the only type of images that
4 can be weaponized.

5 The other change is to remove the
6 recipient-- the covered recipient requirement. The
7 City Council had included this requirement to prevent
8 the fear of downstream distributors—that once one
9 person sent it, it would be kind of sent through a
10 school, and there would be all of these prosecutions
11 of young people. That has not come to pass. And no
12 other law that I have found in any of the other
13 states includes such an onerous requirement.

14 We have found, as service providers—and
15 I am actually providing a training to the Brooklyn
16 District Attorney's Office today, I train all kinds
17 of DA offices and law enforcement on this issue—that
18 it really prevents the effective use of the law.
19 Which otherwise is a great law, because it does
20 include threats to distribute the intimate images. So
21 we ask for those two changes to include digital
images and to remove the covered recipient
requirement.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay, thank you
for clarifying.

1

CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Thank you for
2 testifying. This panel is now excused.

3

I am going to call up our next two
4 panelists: Christina Sparrock and Galloway.

5

Can you just state your name for the
6 record?

6

GALLOWAY: Yeah. Good morning, Chair and
7 Members of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity.
8 My name is Galloway. Thank you so much for hosting
9 today's hearing.

10

I'm here on behalf of the Ali Forney
11 Center, where we work to protect and empower LGBTQ
12 young people, as well as a proud leader of the New
13 York City Trans and Queer Coalition, a statewide and
14 citywide coalition that helps to protect the safety
15 of those who are experiencing marginalization,
16 especially in the cross sections of trans and queen
17 New Yorkers.

16

17

18

19

20

21

So, I want to lean in on that a little
bit. For trans and queer New Yorkers, especially
those who are navigating multiple forms of
marginalization, gender-based violence shows up
across all spaces, physical and digital, and
workplaces, on the streets, in shelters, and

1
2 especially in public-facing roles. So, people facing
3 harassment, the discrimination shows up in very
4 harmful ways through violence, not only in these
5 physical spaces, but also in online spaces through
6 harassment, outing, doxing, and targeted abuse that
7 can directly impact someone's safety, employment, and
8 mental health. These harms are deeply connected, and
9 without strong systems of accountability, they often
10 go unaddressed.

11 I want to address the strong support of
12 Intro 1761 as well as the Resolutions of 0250, 0251,
13 and 0252 because these bills will help to take an
14 important step towards strengthening the
15 accountability and transparency across the workforce
16 place, where we're seeing a lot of sexual harassment,
17 especially for queer and trans New Yorkers who have a
18 hard time receiving employment. And when they do,
19 they're just met with harassment and not met with
20 those safety protections. So that bill is going to
21 really help strengthen those trainings. That way, we
can start to make changes by improving through
transparency, through strengthening reports that are
required, and ensuring that there are climate surveys
and action plans that have meaningful, consistent

1
2 change. So, I just wanted to highlight that, because
3 New York has a strong position in itself to be a
4 leader of equity and inclusion. So passing Intro 1761
5 is an opportunity to line that up with the promises
6 that we are making to ensure that trans and queer New
7 Yorkers (TIMER) can feel safe in the workplace and
8 beyond that. Thank you so much.

9 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Thank you.

10 You can begin, Christina.

11 CHRISTINA SPARROCK: My name is Christina
12 Sparrock. I just came here really to observe, but I
13 really needed to-- I felt compelled to share my
14 story.

15 So women with disabilities experience
16 intimate partner violence at double the rate of
17 able-bodied women. IPV can look like (INAUDIBLE)
18 community is like, removing service animals, denying
19 people their medication, taking their Social Security
20 benefits.

21 I worked as a consultant at Rikers
Island, training on crisis intervention trainings,
and my boss, who was the former commissioner, used to
grope me regularly. I went along with it. I laughed
because I wanted to keep my job. I'm a disabled

1
2 person, and I just wanted to work. When I reported it
3 eventually to EEOC, to the Inspector Generals at
4 Department of Corrections, this person is very, very,
5 very influential and powerful. He sent my information
6 to the GRV unit, where I had inmates start to call
7 me, threatening to rape me and kill me. I couldn't
8 follow through with my investigation because I was
9 afraid. And once EEOC dropped my investigation, this
10 man showed up at my home, and I saw other people, men
11 who were very intimidating. And luckily, I live in a
12 very busy neighborhood. My phone has been hacked, my
13 computer has been hacked, and there's no justice
14 served. And this man still works at Rikers Island,
15 and I want justice.

16 I recommend that there be some kind of
17 oversight committee or a committee for women with
18 disabilities and intimate partner violence
19 relationships. Because we're never seen, we're never
20 heard, and we die, and nobody will ever know about
21 us. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Thank you for sharing
your story and for uplifting it for not only
yourself, but for all New Yorkers. This space is to
uplift that narrative and to give us that action item

1
2 to look into. So we really appreciate you testifying
3 today, especially since you just came to observe and
4 see what we were doing and felt compelled to share
5 your story. So we really appreciate it.

6 CHRISTINA SPARROCK: Thank you so much.

7 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: You're welcome.

8 This panel is now excused. Thank you so
9 much for coming to testify.

10 Seeing that no one else is signed up to
11 testify in person or virtually, the public comment
12 period is now closed, and this hearing is adjourned.

13 [GAVEL]

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date: MAY 15, 2026