

# SAFETY. ACCOUNTABILITY. SUPPORT:

## Exploring Restorative Approaches to Intimate Partner Violence

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### SUMMARY REPORT

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March 16, 2018

2 Court Square West  
Long Island City, NY 11101

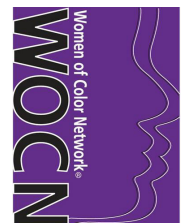
A day of dialogue, bringing together domestic violence and restorative justice communities to explore the use of restorative approaches to support people impacted by intimate partner violence



*The City University of New York*

**CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW**

*Law in the Service of Human Needs*





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# **SAFETY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND SUPPORT:**

## *Exploring Alternative Approaches to Intimate Partner Violence*

*Conference Summary*

*March 16, 2018, CUNY School of Law*

The “Safety, Accountability, and Support: Exploring Alternative Approaches to Intimate Partner Violence” conference was organized under the auspices of the New York City Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTF)<sup>1</sup>. The DVTF facilitated the conference to encourage an open and meaningful dialogue to explore additional ideas for survivors of intimate partner violence. Particularly, the conference focused on the needs of survivors who are not fully being served by – or are not engaging with – criminal or civil legal systems, and those who feel marginalized based on their identity, such as race, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, or disability.

The DVTF created a conference planning committee that included domestic violence victim advocates and survivors, restorative justice (RJ) practitioners working with both youth and adults, prosecutors, academics, and practitioners working with people who cause harm to develop the conference agenda. (See Appendix A for a list of conference planning committee members.)

During the conference planning process the planning committee developed working guidelines. The committee established that their foremost commitment was to survivor safety and support, as well as a commitment to developing stronger accountability mechanisms for those who cause harm.

The planning committee was dedicated to creating a dialogue on how restorative practices are being utilized, how different restorative practices work, the current needs of survivors, and whether restorative practices could effectively address those needs. The planning committee strived to construct a conference that would, fundamentally, act as a safe space to start meaningful conversations.

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1. The NYC Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTF) was launched by Mayor de Blasio in October 2016 and charged with developing a comprehensive citywide strategy to address domestic violence. The Task Force is co-led by the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice and the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (formerly known as the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence) and includes experts from City agencies and community-based organizations, professionals assisting victims and working with offenders, leaders from law enforcement and the criminal justice system, and survivors who all work collaboratively to identify existing domestic violence programs and interventions that are working well, those that need attention, and promising practices to implement or expand. The Task Force focuses on three main areas: (1) expanding prevention and early intervention options for families and youth; (2) enhancing criminal and civil justice interventions by reducing recidivism and risk of continued harm; and (3) increasing capacity of city agencies and community service providers.

## THE CONFERENCE

The conference was held on March 16, 2018 at CUNY School of Law. Commissioner Cecile Noel from the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence<sup>2</sup> and Professor Julie Goldscheid from CUNY School of Law opened the conference and provided welcoming remarks.

DVTF Executive Director Bea Hanson framed the discussion with some of the advances that the City has made in addressing domestic violence such as: supporting and expanding capacity for shelters, culturally-specific service providers, family justice centers, domestic violence units in police precincts, district attorneys' offices, and integrated domestic violence courts. While these advances resulted in initial reductions in reported incidents of domestic violence, more recently, the number of reported incidents of domestic violence has remained fairly constant. For example, as homicide and crime rates have decreased in New York City, the number of domestic violence homicides has remained steady over the past decade, and domestic violence has become a larger percentage of overall crime, accounting for 44% of felony assaults in the City in 2017.

In addition, it is clear that many incidents of domestic violence occur without engaging the criminal justice system. For example, in New York City, 61% of domestic violence homicide victims and perpetrators had no contact with the New York City Police Department in the year preceding the homicide. And resources for domestic violence offenders are primarily for those who are mandated by the court. The City is engaged in ongoing discussions on how to improve work with abusive partners, through organizations such as the Coalition on Working with Abusive Partners and the Interagency Working Group on NYC's Blueprint for Abusive Partner Intervention which led to the release of [Seeding Generations: New Strategies Towards Services for People who Abuse](#) and has helped provide the foundation for exploring new approaches to address abusive partners, including the use of restorative approaches. However, the City needs to both continue current efforts and expand options in order to reduce domestic violence and enhance safety for survivors. To prevent domestic violence, the City needs more resources outside of the criminal justice system to identify and provide support for those seeking services in communities.

Restorative justice approaches have been used successfully in work with youth and individuals coming out of the criminal justice system. For example, the Center for Court Innovation runs a voluntary peacemaking program out of the Red Hook Community Justice Center that is available to victims and people who have caused harm who are involved in the criminal justice system, as well

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2. The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence was formerly known as The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence. For more information on this change, please visit ENDGBV's website. <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/index.page>

as community members with disputes who have not engaged the criminal justice system. In addition, the New York City Department of Education has launched restorative justice programs in five high schools aimed at building relationships, addressing conflicts and supporting alternative responses that reduce suspensions. The question the conference explored was if restorative approaches can successfully be used to respond to domestic violence.

The purpose of the conference was not to develop concrete plans, but rather to have an opportunity to learn from people who are using restorative practices and understand how these practices may be used to promote safety for victims of intimate partner violence and accountability for people who have harmed them.

Below is a summary of the conference presentations and workshops. See Appendix C for a list of speaker biographies.

### **Opening Keynote: Understanding Restorative Approaches**

*Speakers: Sonya Shah, Director, Ahimsa Collective*

*Vivianne Guevara, Director of Social Work and Mitigation,  
Federal Defenders of New York*

Sonya Shah provided an overview of restorative healing practices, making clear that her understanding and practice is based on her own personal experiences. For Sonya, restorative justice is, first and foremost, holistic in that it seeks to restore balance to oneself, one's community, and to nature. She shared that before the practice even becomes restorative justice, it is first a way of being in the world in which the individual acknowledges that they are interconnected to something larger than oneself. Sonya emphasized that it is through recognizing this interconnectedness that people can begin to take responsibility for their own actions, because they recognize—and feel—that their actions are intrinsically tied to others; it is through this fostering of responsibility that we can begin to see true accountability come to life.

Along with cultivating community responsibility, Sonya discussed that radical empathy is an important component to facilitating restorative justice processes. In other words, one has to be able to hear the worst things people have done and still not judge them—still carry faith that they have the capacity to change. Sonya, quoting Faith Tait of the Nisga'a nation, stated, "We don't have a word for offender: the word that we use is unhealed." In acknowledging that "hurt people hurt people," Sonya explained that people who cause harm most often have been harmed themselves, and we have to nurture wellness and healing to uncover what could be generations of trauma.

Sonya then provided some vocabulary that she has collected over the years,

and emphasized that different people use different language depending on their experience with RJ:

- Peacemaking and circle have been generally used in Indigenous practices because the circle emphasizes the notion that healing should be a cyclical, holistic process. It is a traditional, non-adversarial form of justice designed to heal damaged relationships and restore harmony to the community. Peacemaking brings together the immediate parties to a conflict (such as defendant and victim), along with family, neighbors, community members, and others who wish to support the participants. In a peacemaking session, the participants sit in a circle with one or more peacemakers, who are respected community members trained in peacemaking, to discuss the underlying causes of the conflict. Peacemaking not only seeks to resolve the immediate conflict but to foster healing and help the participants avoid future problems.
- The term restorative justice was a response to a criminal justice system that was seen as broken (i.e., didn't meet the needs of victims, appeared to focus on punishment rather than rehabilitation or behavior change, did not preserve the dignity of those involved in the process), and was pioneered by people like Howard Zehr, Mark Umbreit, Kay Pranis, and others.
- Restorative practices have often been used in schools which seek to teach students community-based and trauma-informed methods of problem-solving over more traditional forms of punishment.
- Restorative approaches have gained recent popularity to encompass the multitudes of ways circles and other restorative processes are practiced in various contexts, and to encompass practices that incorporate values like healing and community building over the formal connotation of "justice."

Ultimately, Sonya highlighted that modern practices of any restorative approach should pay homage to the Indigenous communities that paved the way for this work to be possible, with tribes using healing circles differently based on their community's specific and unique needs and wants.

Sonya closed by reflecting on the fact that it is because of this room for nuance that circles can be brought into many different contexts and communities. If restorative approaches are institutional responses or framed as a government service, it would be at risk of losing its core essence, because it would be very difficult to separate current systems of institutionalized oppression from a service brought into and for marginalized communities.

Vivianne Guevara talked about how RJ has become a part of her regular practice at work. She first came in contact with RJ when a client charged with a federal crime was looking for a way to express his remorse. Vivianne decided

to receive training in order to facilitate a sentencing circle with her client and his family. During the sentencing circle, Vivianne was in awe with how the family members were able to express the magnitude of the effect of his actions on them, as well as the way her client was able to express how deeply he was affected by his family's concerns. It became clear to Vivianne that circles are as much for the community as they are for those who have harmed or been harmed, because that harm does not occur in an isolated bubble.

As a survivor of intimate partner violence herself, Vivianne reflected that RJ may not have worked in her situation to ensure her and her family's immediate safety when she left the relationship. She acknowledged that RJ may not always be the best option for every survivor, but that she would be willing to sit in circle with her former partner. She continued to be hopeful that she and her former partner will arrive at a place of being able to engage in a healing circle. The emotional labor may be worth the healing that could occur for her family and community.

Both Sonya and Vivianne discussed the nature of restorative justice as being ever-changing and dependent on context, and they held a shared belief that while restorative approaches should not be institutionalized, its integration into programs all over the country could be expanded.

### **Panel I: IPV and Restorative Approaches: Examining diverse practices around the country**

*Moderator: Erika Sasson, Director of Restorative Practices, Center for Court Innovation*

*Panelists: nuri nusrat, Senior Program Associate, Impact Justice*

*Dr. Mary Koss, Regents' Professor, University of Arizona*

*Quentin Walcott, Co-Executive Director, CONNECT*

Throughout the dialogue during this panel, several themes were identified. The panelists emphasized the need to have any restorative process be survivor-centered every step of the way. Panelists agreed that those involved need to be careful not to use the survivor for the rehabilitation of the person who caused harm and ensure that circles are always voluntary. Restorative approaches offer an option: neither a requirement, nor a panacea that will solve intimate partner violence (IPV). Panelists mentioned that one example of a restorative approach to IPV could involve the survivor requesting a circle that does not involve the person who harmed them; another example could be a circle with the person who caused harm without the survivor present. However, a restorative process should always engage with a survivor first, before involving the person who caused harm, to ensure that the survivor feels safe and agrees with the approach.



The panelists discussed elements of a restorative approach, including how it is separate and distinct from a fact-finding process, and is premised on an acceptance of responsibility by the person who caused harm. Panelists explained that restorative approaches utilize the sharing of narratives to understand how and why each individual experienced the harm differently. This creates space for those involved to reflect on further harm that has been caused to others and to deepen the accountability process. While saying “sorry” is seen as an admission of guilt in courts of law and ends the court process, restorative approaches strive to make space for apologies while acknowledging that apologies forgiveness needs to be earned over time.

Panelist nuri nusrat outlined the kinds of questions that are often discussed in a restorative process:

- What is the survivor asking for? Is this appeal reasonable for everyone?
- How can the person who caused harm begin to unpack their actions and reflect on their impact on others?
- How does the survivor want to move forward? What kind of person does the one who caused harm want to be? How can we help them both move forward?
- Where are everyone’s actions coming from? How have social norms and barriers influenced those involved?

At Impact Justice, nuri noted that she and her team have found great success through restorative approaches in working with youth, but not in the context of IPV. In their work with youth they have experienced a 20% drop in recidivism compared to the criminal legal system and a 92% satisfaction rate among survivors. However, nuri also mentioned that as we offer alternative options to healing, we also need alternative methods to measure success. Statistical data cannot always account for the nuances of restorative approaches, such as community building or individual and community healing.

## **Panel II: Restorative Approaches in NYC: Exciting projects in the field**

*Moderator: Charlene Allen, consultant and trainer*

*Panelists: Coleta Walker, Associate Director,  
Red Hook Peacemaking Program*

*Kellsie Sayers, Supervising Coordinator, Restorative Justice in  
Schools Project, Center for Court Innovation*

*Gene A. Johnson Jr., Teen Accountability Program Facilitator,  
STEPS to End Family Violence*

*Audrey Moore, Executive Assistant District Attorney and Chief of the Special Victims Bureau, Manhattan District Attorney's Office*

The panel began by acknowledging the diverse expertise of panel members, who represented both IPV and RJ-based programs, and shared an interest in exploring restorative approaches to support IPV survivors, increase their safety, and work with them to construct effective mechanisms of accountability for those who harm them. Charlene noted that all of the panel members had also expressed a commitment to considering restorative approaches in a context that is firmly grounded in:

- Prioritizing survivor safety.
- Analyzing effective options for abuser accountability.
- Factoring in the dynamics of power and control.

During the course of the conversation, some of the panelists discussed how IPV is often present in RJ interventions, even when the focus of the intervention is to address other types of harm. For example, Kellsie uses restorative approaches in New York City public schools to address conflict, foster prevention of harm, and provide support for students. She described an experience in which two teenage friends engaged in a conflict circle to address bullying behavior. However, it was revealed in the circle that one of the students was in an abusive relationship at the time, and that the conflict between them had arisen because the friend was upset that she was in what seemed to be an unhealthy and abusive relationship. When the two students came to this place of understanding, the conflict circle transformed into a support circle in which those involved created safety planning steps for the victim to find safety from IPV. The panel noted how this situation underscores the magnitude of IPV and the often invisible ways it intersects with other types of harm.

Responding to an audience question, the panelists stated that the language used in restorative practices can be particularly useful when addressing IPV. Restorative approaches often reduce the use of labels, such as “perpetrator,” which can deny the rest of a person’s humanity. The use of labels can also undermine the process of holding someone accountable. For example, an individual may accept the label and begin to internalize a false narrative that they are an inherently violent person and therefore incapable of change. Ideally, by removing such labels from an intervention, attention can be fully focused on accountability and on changing behavior.

Coleta explained how focusing on building positive relationships promotes accountability, especially with youth. She has seen many young people who cause harm form more positive relationships with family and community members during the course of a restorative intervention. By focusing on

the importance of our connections with each other, restorative approaches highlight the direct correlation between community building and taking responsibility for ourselves and our actions. These positive relationships help to encourage young people to take responsibility for their actions and to refrain from causing more harm.

The panelists also noted that restorative practices often address the role that structural oppressions, like racism, sexism, and/or homophobia can play in causing harm, seeking help, and accepting responsibility for harm. This approach can be especially helpful to IPV survivors who are concerned not only about systemic oppression directed against themselves, but also against the people who hurt them. Restorative circles provide what may be a more attractive alternative to institutional responses, which can be interpreted to reflect, replicate, or represent structural oppression.

The panelists went on to discuss how restorative approaches acknowledge transgenerational harm, or harm imposed on a community and/or individual which impacts future generations. It is essential to have spaces where survivors and those who cause harm can explore how systemic and transgenerational harm may have influenced their decisions. In this way, individuals can better understand themselves and their communities and more effectively set goals about their own behavior and the decisions they will make in the future.

## **Workshops to Support Dialogue on IPV and Restorative Approaches**

The conference's afternoon session included six facilitated workshops that participants could choose based on their knowledge of IPV and RJ, as well as a specific conversation for survivors and a workshop on addressing accountability as men:

### **1. IPV and Restorative Approaches Values, how do they connect?**

Facilitators Kenton Kirby, Director of Clinical and Trauma Support Services at the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center, and Liz Roberts, Deputy CEO at Safe Horizon, conducted an interactive dialogue with workshop participants about IPV dynamics and restorative approaches generally, then discussed how restorative approaches could help foster the values of safety and accountability for survivors and people who cause harm.

### **2. Why is this conversation so difficult? Bridging Restorative Approaches and IPV**

Facilitators Erika Sasson, Director of Restorative Practices at the Center for Court Innovation, and Anne Patterson, Director of STEPS to End Family Violence, conducted an interactive dialogue, in a circle setting,

about why these conversations can become so tense and how to discuss alternative approaches to IPV in an inclusive and safe way.

### **3. A Conversation for Survivors**

Vivianne Guevara, Director of Social Work and Mitigation at the Federal Defenders of NY, and nuri nusrat, Senior Program Associate at Impact Justice, facilitated a space for those who identify as survivors to discuss their experiences throughout the day. All were welcome to come and listen to survivors' perspectives.

### **4. In Practice: Lessons Learned from Implementing RJ Programs**

Mary Koss, Regents' Professor, College of Public Health at the University of Arizona, presented on her experiences designing and operating a restorative justice-based family strengthening program for children and families experiencing domestic violence, and a restorative conference program for adult felony and misdemeanor sex crimes. The focus was on basic program design, the modification of standard RJ models required for it to work safely, and the resource environment on which successful implantation rests.

### **5. What could this look like? Implementing community-based restorative practices**

Facilitators RJ Maccani, Intervention Manager at Common Justice and Tasha Amezcua, Manager of Finance and Administration at the Audre Lorde Project, conducted an interactive dialogue comparing systems-based and community-based models responding to violence, including an emphasis on systemic racial disparities affecting survivors and people who cause harm, and discussing how to implement community-based restorative practices.

### **6. Addressing Power, Privilege, and Accountability as Men**

Facilitators Donnell Penny, Intervention Coordinator at Common Justice, and Cameron Rasmussen, Program Director at the Center for Justice, Columbia University, conducted an interactive dialogue with workshop participants about how men can respond to and prevent IPV— including the use of restorative approaches—to provide accountability and healing for people who cause harm within the context of safety and healing for survivors.

All of the workshops provided opportunities for attendees to interact with one another, ask questions, and bring their own knowledge to the conversations. While some participants discussed their gratitude for an open space to discuss new options, others expressed fear and concern about using restorative approaches to address IPV. Many participants mentioned that they thought the breakout sessions provided an opportunity for more in-depth discussions to voice their interests and concerns.

Participants reported that they responded well to facilitators that began their conversations with grounding exercises. Such exercises, like deep breathing or moments of meditation and reflection, allowed people to enter the space feeling safe and validated, despite the intensity of the topic. Many also reported that they enjoyed workshops where participants were divided into smaller groups, because it allowed them the opportunity to get to know one another and focus on interpersonal relationships—one of the priorities of restorative approaches. Participants reported that groups that directly employed circle techniques were very successful because participants could better envision what healing circles look like in practice. However, participants noted the need for more examples of how participants could concretely incorporate restorative approaches and practices into their work addressing intimate partner violence. Some participants also reported the importance of conscious consistency in using inclusive language to ensure that participants felt included and safe to participate in the conversation. The word “hopeful” was used several times to describe participants’ reactions to engaging in and continuing the dialogue in exploring the use of restorative approaches to IPV.

## **OVERALL FEEDBACK**

While conference participants came from different perspectives – from assistant district attorneys working in the criminal justice system, restorative justice practitioners working in communities, domestic violence victim advocates working in social service agencies, to survivors of IPV - the stories shared and the themes explored affected everyone in some way, which shows why this conversation is so important: voices and feelings need to be heard in order to move forward in a way that is inclusive, and that prioritizes the values of safety, accountability, and support.

One of the most tangible feelings in the room was that of excitement. Through interviews with participants, we learned that many people felt that the “conversation was long overdue,” and that they were excited by the turnout and the willingness of participants to be open and engage across differences. Others said that another conference should be held, but that it should be more than one day so each person can attend every workshop. There were also many requests for the opportunity to engage in healing circles in smaller groups of

5-10 people so attendees can know how restorative circles actually look and feel. Furthermore, people were excited to learn and wanted to know more about how they can have these conversations within their communities upon leaving the conference.

Along with this eagerness to engage in more dialogues and circles, participants had many questions and curiosities, including:

- Are there more opportunities for IPV and RJ organizations and programs to partner? For example, to provide more options for survivors?
- How does one differentiate between genuine restorative work and work that takes on restorative elements? What are the benefits and limitations of both?
- How can we change the larger cultural desire for and acceptance of punishment for “wrong-doing” to increasing the use of values and practices found in restorative approaches? What are other forms of discipline that do not take on punishment and foster shame, but, instead, foster behavior change and rehabilitation?

From those who were learning about restorative approaches for the first time, to experts in the field, participants also expressed several concerns:

- A recurring concern was that of victim-blaming. How do practitioners avoid victim-blaming in a circle where everyone is supposed to share their honest feelings and opinions?
- Some attendees were concerned that there was not enough space to discuss that restorative approaches may not work in all cases; others expressed concern that adding restorative approaches as an “option” reduces the responsibility of the criminal justice system.
- One of the most recurring concerns was that the use of restorative approaches felt vague and “up in the air.” The nature of restorative approaches to resist formalization in order to preserve its highly-contextualized use, left some people feeling that restorative approaches had no steps, processes, or trainings.
- Some people working in non-profits reported experiencing limitations in their work in this area because their organizations rely on external funding, and there is very little existing funding to explore the use of restorative approaches, especially as it relates to IPV.

## MOVING FORWARD

From the beginning, the Planning Committee understood that the conference would be part of the early stages of ongoing conversations to explore alternative approaches to address IPV. It made sense, then, that toward the end of the conference and in the days that followed, what attendees were asking the most for was *more*: more discussions, more examples, more trainings, and more circles. The conference surely raised more questions than answers—a testament to the complexity of both IPV and RJ and the caution with which we should approach the possibility of using restorative approaches to address intimate partner violence.

The Committee seeks to create future opportunities for discussion that provide more concrete examples of how restorative approaches could be used to address IPV, including protocols and trainings.

Additionally, paying respect to Indigenous people came up in the beginning of the conference and should certainly continue to be centered as we explore work in this area. Indigenous people have long been practicing healing circles to reduce harm in their own communities. To safeguard against the erasure of Indigenous people from history, it is important that we do not discuss restorative approaches as if they are new concepts. Furthermore, it is important to remember that different Indigenous communities uniquely employ healing circles and other restorative approaches.

One helpful resource to keep in mind is the Restorative Justice Initiative ([www.restorativejusticenyc.org](http://www.restorativejusticenyc.org)), which promotes restorative principles, practices, and programs throughout New York City, and serves as a hub and clearinghouse for upcoming events, trainings, resources, and employment and funding opportunities for restorative practitioners and supporters. The Restorative Justice Initiative also brings together domestic violence victim service providers who are interested in exploring restorative approaches.

Exploring restorative approaches and practices in our response to IPV should not be interpreted as taking away existing criminal and civil legal options from survivors and their families, but rather as a deliberate effort to find additional options to address harm and find safety for families and communities. The Domestic Violence Task Force, the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice will continue to work on identifying next steps, including promising practices, additional opportunities to discuss these issues, and training opportunities for practitioners in NYC to continue ensuring that safety, accountability, and support can be prioritized in this exciting, ongoing discussion on restorative approaches and intimate partner violence.

# APPENDICES

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## **SAFETY. ACCOUNTABILITY. SUPPORT:**

Exploring Restorative Approaches to  
Intimate Partner Violence

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March 16, 2018

2 Court Square West  
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# APPENDIX A: CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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**The New York City Domestic Violence Task Force** invites you to a day of dialogue, bringing together domestic violence and restorative justice communities to explore the use of restorative approaches to support people impacted by intimate partner violence.

## **MORNING PROGRAM**

8:30 – 9:00 am     **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**

9:00-9:30 am     **WELCOME**

**Julie Goldscheid, J.D., MSW**

Professor of Law  
CUNY Law School

**Cecile Noel, LMSW**

Commissioner  
Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

**Bea Hanson, PhD.**

Executive Director  
New York City Domestic Violence Task Force

9:30-10:30 am     **OPENING KEYNOTE:  
UNDERSTANDING RESTORATIVE APPROACHES**

**Vivianne Guevara, LMSW**

Director of Social Work and Mitigation  
Federal Defenders of New York

**Sonya Shah**

Director of The Ahimsa Collective

10:30-11:30 am     **PANEL I:  
IPV and Restorative Approaches: Examining diverse  
practices around the country**

**Erika Sasson, Esq., BCL, LLB, LLM**

Moderator  
Director of Restorative Practices  
Center for Court Innovation

**nuri nusrat**

Senior Program Associate  
Impact Justice

**Mary Koss, PhD.**  
Regents' Professor  
Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the  
University of Arizona

**Quentin Walcott**  
Co-Executive Director  
CONNECT

*For Continuing Legal Education: One professional practice credit will be awarded for attending this session.*

11:30-11:45 am

**BREAK**

11:45 -1:00 pm

**PANEL II:  
Restorative Approaches in NYC: Exciting projects in the field**

**Charlene Allen, Esq.**  
Moderator  
Consultant and Trainer

**Coleta Walker**  
Associate Director  
Red Hook Peacemaking Program

**Kellsie Sayers, Esq., LMSW**  
Supervising Coordinator  
Restorative Justice in Schools Project  
Center for Court for Innovation

**Gene A. Johnson, Jr.**  
Teen Accountability Program Facilitator  
STEPS to End Family Violence

**Audrey Moore, Esq.**  
Executive Assistant District Attorney and  
Chief of the Special Victims Bureau  
Manhattan District Attorney's Office

*For Continuing Legal Education: 1.5 professional practice credits will be awarded for attending this session.*

1:00-2:00 pm

**LUNCH**

## AFTERNOON PROGRAM

2:15-3:45 pm

### **Workshops to Support Dialogue on IPV and Restorative Approaches**

Please attend only the session indicated by the color of the sticker on your name tag. If you believe you've been placed in the wrong session, staff members at the registration desk are available to assist.



#### **WORKSHOP I: IPV and Restorative Approaches values, how do they connect?**

The facilitators will conduct an interactive dialogue with workshop participants about intimate partner violence dynamics and restorative approaches generally; and will then discuss how restorative approaches could help foster the values of safety and accountability for survivors and people who cause harm.

*For Continuing Legal Education: .5 skills based credit and .5 ethics credit will be awarded for attending this session.*

#### **Kenton Kirby, LMSW**

Director of Clinical and Trauma Support Services  
Crown Heights Community Mediation Center

#### **Liz Roberts**

Deputy CEO  
Safe Horizon



#### **Workshop II: Why is this conversation so difficult? Bridging Restorative Approaches and Intimate Partner Violence**

The facilitators will conduct an interactive dialogue, in a circle setting, about why these conversations can become so tense and how to discuss alternative approaches to intimate partner violence in an inclusive and safe way.

*For Continuing Legal Education: .5 skills-based credit and .5 diversity, inclusion, and elimination of bias credit will be awarded for attending this session.*

**Erika Sasson, Esq. BCL, LLB, LLM**  
Director of Restorative Practices  
Center for Court Innovation

**Anne Patterson, LMSW**  
Director  
STEPS to End Family Violence



### **Workshop III: A Conversation for Survivors**

A space for those who identify as survivors to discuss their experiences throughout the day. All are welcome to come and listen to survivors' perspectives.

**Vivianne Guevara, LMSW**  
Director of Social Work and Mitigation  
Federal Defenders of New York

**nuri nusrat**  
Senior Program Associate  
Impact Justice



### **Workshop IV: In Practice: Lessons Learned from Implementing RJ Programs**

The presenter draws from experiences designing and operating a restorative justice-based family strengthening program for children and families experiencing domestic violence and a restorative conference program for adult felony and misdemeanor sex crimes. The focus is on basic program design, modifications of standard RJ models required to work safely and the resource environment on which successful implementation rests.

*For Continuing Legal Education: 1 Professional practice credit will be awarded for attending this session.*

**Mary Koss, PhD.**  
Regents' Professor  
Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the  
University of Arizona



## **Workshop V: What could this look like? Implementing community-based restorative practices**

The facilitators will conduct an interactive dialogue comparing systems-based and community-based models responding to violence, including an emphasis on systemic racial disparities affecting survivors and people who cause harm, and discussing how to implement community-based restorative practices.

*For Continuing Legal Education: .5 skills based credit, .5 diversity, inclusion and elimination of bias credit will be awarded for attending this session.*

**RJ Maccani, LMSW**  
Intervention Manager  
Common Justice

**Tasha Amezcua**  
Manager of Finance and Administration  
Audre Lorde Project



## **Workshop VI: Addressing Power, Privilege, and Accountability as Men**

The facilitators will conduct an interactive dialogue with workshop participants about how men can participate in work to respond to and prevent intimate partner violence, including in the context of restorative approaches, to provide safety, accountability and healing for survivors and people causing harm.

*For Continuing Legal Education: 1 skills based credit will be awarded for attending this session.*

**Donnell Penny**  
Intervention Coordinator  
Common Justice

**Cameron Rasmussen, LMSW**  
Program Director  
Center for Justice  
Columbia University

4-4:30pm

**CLOSING REMARKS:**  
**Where do we go from Here?**

**Bea Hanson, PhD.**  
Executive Director  
New York City Domestic Violence Task Force

**Sonya Shah**  
Director of The Ahimsa Collective

# APPENDIX B: PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

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## **Tasha Amezcua**

*Manager of Finance and Administration, Audre Lorde Project*

Tasha Amezcua is currently the Manager of Finance and Administration at the Audre Lorde Project, and was formerly the Intimate Partner Violence & Sexual Violence Community Organizer in The New York City Anti-Violence Project's Community Organizing and Public Advocacy department, supporting coordination of statewide and local community organizing, public advocacy, and policy programming related to LGBTQ intimate partner violence and sexual violence. Tasha coordinated the New York State LGBTQ Domestic Violence Network, developed and coordinated local intimate partner violence and sexual violence programming and survivor-informed campaigns, and developed the leadership of LGBTQ and HIV-affected survivors of intimate partner, sexual, and hate violence to lead organizing and advocacy. After organizing at the Anti-Violence Project, Tasha went on to coordinate the Safe OUTside the System Collective at the Audre Lorde Project, building transformative community-led safety strategies in Central Brooklyn. She has 10 years of LGBTSTGNC POC anti-violence community organizing experience. She wanted to be a nun as a child, but figured out later that the desire was really for queerness, safety, and community. Tasha believes that we are all we need to survive, that we are experts in our own lives, and that community are the folks who show up for you and have your back. Tasha, a femme-identified queer Chicana survivor of violence, loves cats and bikes, and is originally from Santa Ana, CA, but has called New York City her home away from home since 2003.

## **Charlene Allen, Esq.**

*Consultant and Trainer*

Charlene Allen has worked with survivors of crime and trauma for more than 20 years, beginning in the late 1980's when she led one of the first statewide domestic violence coalitions as lobbyist and organizer. She served as executive director of the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center and supervising attorney at Northeastern University Law School's Domestic Violence Law Clinic. Recognizing the need to address violence and trauma in a context that confronts social and economic oppression and also provides mechanisms for accountability, Charlene served as legal director of Emerge, the first abuser education program in the United States.

Most recently, Charlene has served as chief of staff at Common Justice, a restorative-justice based program in New York City, which works with survivors of violence as well as those who commit violent felony crimes. She currently consults with a range of non-profit organizations to build transformative programmatic and administrative practices in victim services, criminal justice reform and restorative justice.



**Julie Goldscheid, J.D., MSW**

*Professor of Law, CUNY Law School*

Julie Goldscheid is a Professor of Law at CUNY School of Law, where she served as Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 2015-2017 and where she teaches subjects including civil procedure, lawyering, and courses on gender and law, and where she helped develop the Family Law Practice Clinic. Her scholarship focuses on gender equality, with a particular focus on gender-based violence and economic equality. Before joining the CUNY faculty, she held positions including senior staff attorney and acting legal director at Legal Momentum (formerly NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund), where her litigation and policy work included defending the constitutionality of the civil rights remedy of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act in courts nationwide, and before the U.S. Supreme Court in *United States v. Morrison*. She was also general counsel at Safe Horizon, a leading victim services organization. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Stonewall Community Foundation and other NGO's, and has been active in bar association committees and task forces. She has taught at Yale Law School, Columbia Law School, NYU School of Law, Penn State Law School and Brooklyn Law School. She received her law degree from NYU School of Law, a master's in social work from Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work, and her undergraduate degree from Cornell University.

**Vivianne Guevara, LMSW**

*Director of Social Work and Mitigation, Federal Defenders of New York*

Vivianne Guevara is the Director of Social Work and Mitigation at the Federal Defenders of New York. She has been working in the field of criminal and civil defense for over ten years. Prior to joining the Federal Defenders, Vivianne was an investigator and social worker at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia, where she supported litigation that challenged conditions in juvenile and adult jails and prisons in Georgia and Alabama, the provision of indigent defense in Georgia, and the proliferation of debtor's prisons in Georgia. Vivianne began working in public defense as a social worker at the Bronx Defenders, where she worked with clients charged in domestic violence and mental health courts. Vivianne is a graduate of New York University and Columbia University's School of Social Work, and is an adjunct professor at Columbia School of Social Work and the Silberman School of Social Work. Vivianne has been a circlekeeper since 2014, and facilitates restorative circles with her clients, staff, and community. She conducts workshops and training in social work, mitigation, and restorative practices at national Federal Defender conferences, at private and non-profit organizations, and at a community co-op school in Brooklyn.

**Bea Hanson, PhD.**

*Executive Director, Domestic Violence Task Force*

Bea Hanson currently serves as Executive Director of the NYC Domestic Violence Task Force, created by Mayor Bill de Blasio to develop a comprehensive citywide strategy to reduce domestic violence. Through Bea's leadership, in 2017, the City pledged nearly \$11 million to implement 32 Task Force recommendations of new and innovative approaches to address domestic violence.

Prior to her current position, she was the Acting Director and Principal Deputy Director of the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (2011-2017). She was responsible for developing the Department's legal and policy positions regarding the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act and overseeing an annual budget of nearly \$500 million.

Bea previously served as Chief Program Officer for Safe Horizon, a crime victim service organization in New York City that serves 350,000 victims annually, where she directed a staff of 500 in 60 locations. She joined Safe Horizon (formerly Victim Services) in 1997 as the Director of Emergency Services and went on to oversee the agency's domestic violence, homeless youth, and child abuse programs before being promoted to Chief Program Officer. Prior to Safe Horizon, Bea was the Director of Client Services at the New York City Anti-Violence Project where she led programs for the nation's largest crime victim assistance and advocacy organization serving the LGBT community; responsible for programs assisting 2,000 victims of hate crime, domestic violence, and sexual assault annually.

Bea earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare degree from City University in New York, a Master of Social Work degree from Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work in New York, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

**Gene A. Johnson, Jr.**

*Teen Accountability Program Facilitator, STEPS to End Family Violence*

Gene A. Johnson, Jr. facilitates and develops curricula for battering intervention programs for men and young men. These programs include Edwin Gould Services for Families STEPS to End Family Violence Teen Accountability Program in partnership with Kings County Criminal Court Youthful Offender Domestic Violence Court, Community Driven Solutions and Safe Horizon's Domestic Violence Accountability Program.

Mr. Johnson has facilitated and designed various processes to promote dialogues about masculinity and its role in society. Gene has also developed and facilitated conflict resolution, mediation, and restorative justice trainings and models in various New York City public schools.

He is also a mediator, conflict resolution consultant, New York State

certified basic mediation trainer, New York State certified ombudsman, facilitator and a parliamentarian (Robert Rules of Order) experienced with divorce, custody and visitation, child support, family, restorative justice, transformative mediation and victim offender mediation. He also was on a committee that created a mediation domestic violence screening tool used in New York State family court.

**Kenton Kirby, LMSW**

*Director of Clinical and Trauma Support Services, Crown Heights Community Mediation Center*

Kenton Kirby, LMSW completed a Master’s degree in Social Work from New York University. With nearly 15 years of experience in the field Mr. Kirby previously worked in foster care and child welfare with ACS as well as a Forensic Social worker throughout the New York court system.

In his current role as the Director of Clinical and Trauma Support Services at the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center, Mr. Kirby is one of the founders in developing and the implementation of the Make It Happen program. Funded through OVC (Office of Victims of Crime), Make it Happen is a revolutionary and nationally recognized program which provides mentorship, intensive case management, clinical interventions and supportive workshops to young men of color ages 16-24 who have been impacted by violence. Through a trauma-informed and culturally competent approach participants are challenged to think about how their definition of manhood is intertwined with trauma and the implications it has on stereotypical gender roles. Mr. Kirby has presented at a number of local, national and international conferences on the success of Make It Happen and the program’s approach to trauma, healing and advocacy for victims. Through an expansion, Make It Happen is now participating in a number of inter-agency collaborations to integrate this model into other parts of New York City and across the country utilizing the program’s trauma toolkit “Responding to Trauma Among Young Men of Color: Adapting the Crown Heights Approach for Your Community”.

Kenton was awarded the 2016 Emerging Leader Award by the National Association of Social Workers, New York City Chapter (NASW-NYC). He was also the recipient of the Community Impact Award from the Urban Justice Center in 2017.

**Mary Koss, PhD.**

*Regents’ Professor, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona*

Mary Koss, PhD. is a Regents’ Professor in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. She published the first national study sexual assault among college students in 1987. She was the principal investigator of the RESTORE Program; the first restorative justice

program for sex crimes among adults that was quantitatively evaluated. She also directed Safety Connections, a restorative justice-based family strengthening program for children under 5 exposed to violence. She has developed resources for campus use including ARC3 Campus Climate Survey and the STARRSA model for rehabilitation of those responsible for sexual misconduct. Her ongoing work evaluates a sexual assault primary prevention program focusing on staff of alcohol serving establishments. She recently published a test of the “serial rape” hypothesis among college men. Her credentials document close to 300 publications. The most recent appeared in *American Psychologist* and focused on victim voice and in re-envisioning responses to sexual and physical violence, better responses to underserved populations, and greater alignment of funding from the Violence Against Women Act funding with expressed victim needs, consultations with national and international health organizations and governments. During her career she has consulted with many national and international health and advocacy organizations. Since 2016 she advised the US Departments of Justice, Education, and the White House Taskforce on Campus Sexual Assault. She was the 8th recipient of the Visionary Award from End Violence Against Women International. She has received awards from the American Psychological Association: the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy (2000) and the Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology (2017). Websites: <https://publichealth.arizona.edu/directory/mary-koss> and <http://wavemaker.podbean.com/e/a-quest-for-justice%C2%A0stories-from-sexual-harassment%E2%80%99s-front-lines/>

**RJ Maccani, LMSW**

*Intervention Manager, Common Justice*

RJ Maccani, LMSW has been active in movements addressing state, community, and interpersonal violence since the late '90s. He currently serves as Intervention Manager for Common Justice, the first alternative-to-incarceration and victim-service program in the United States that focuses on violent felonies in the adult courts. RJ brings over a decade of experience in transformative justice responses to violence as well as trauma-informed therapy and leadership development to his role at Common Justice. RJ is a lead teacher and practitioner with Generative Somatics, building the capacity of social and environmental justice leaders, organizations, and alliances. As co-founder of the Challenging Male Supremacy Project and leadership team member for generationFIVE, his transformative justice work has focused on addressing violence against women, queer and trans people, and children. RJ appears alongside four other survivors of childhood sexual abuse in Ping Chong and Company's oral history theatre work and documentary film *Secret Survivors*.

**Audrey Moore, Esq.**

*Executive Assistant District Attorney and Chief of the Special Victims Bureau, Manhattan District Attorney's Office*

Audrey Moore is tasked with strengthening the office's policies relating to workforce diversity, working with Legal and Support Staff Training, and leading an expansion of the Office's existing mentoring program.

Ms. Moore also serves as Chief of the Special Victims Bureau, where she oversees the management of the Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse, Sex Crimes, Human Trafficking Response, and Witness Aid Services Units. Additionally, Ms. Moore oversees the District Attorney's Harlem and Washington Heights Offices, and is a member of the Conviction Integrity Committee. Ms. Moore joined the Office in 1989 and was assigned to Trial Bureau 60, where she was a member of the Domestic Violence Unit and prosecuted felony domestic violence cases and other violent felonies. Ms. Moore served as Criminal Court Supervisor of Trial Bureau 60 from 1996-1998. In 1999, she transferred to the Family Violence and Child Abuse Bureau and, in 2000, she was appointed Deputy Bureau Chief. In that capacity, she investigated and prosecuted child sexual assault cases, investigated child fatalities, and supervised assistants in the handling of domestic violence cases. In 2009, Ms. Moore was appointed co-Chief of the Family Violence and Child Abuse Bureau before her appointment as Chief of the Special Victims Bureau, and additionally served as Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit. Ms. Moore has served on the Legal Hiring Board since 1994, and now serves on the Board's Executive Panel. From 2000-2002, she served as the Attorney-in-Charge of the Summer Intern Program. She is a founding member of Legal Hiring Board's Diversity Outreach Committee and was co-Chair of the Mentoring Committee. In September 2006, Ms. Moore was presented with the New York County Lawyers' Association Public Service Award. In November 2007, she was presented with the New York City Bar Association's Thomas E. Dewey Medal, an award given annually to an outstanding assistant district attorney in each of the City's District Attorney's Office.

**Cecile Noel, LMSW**

*Commissioner, Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (formerly known as the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence).*

Cecile Noel was appointed Commissioner of the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (formerly known as OCDV) in October 2015. OCDV was established by city charter in 2001, and is charged with coordinating the delivery of citywide domestic violence services, and formulating policies and programs relating to domestic violence services. The office also oversees the Family Justice Centers (FJCs) that operate in Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, serving over 2,700 clients a month.

In her prior position as the Executive Deputy Commissioner for the Human

Resources Administration (HRA) Emergency Intervention Services, Commissioner Noel oversaw a \$180 million budget, over 500 staff and 30 contracts. Under her leadership, expansions were accomplished in both residential and non-residential services for domestic violence survivors across the network of 52 New York City-funded domestic violence shelters. She launched one of the first school-based domestic violence prevention programs in the country, the Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP), now operating in 94 New York City public schools.

In addition, Commissioner Noel had oversight of the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP), the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and several other emergency utility assistance programs that help low-income New Yorkers with their utility needs. She also led the HRA Crisis and Disaster program and Adult Protective Services (APS) programs for more than a decade.

Commissioner Noel is a graduate of Vassar College and holds a Master's Degree in Social Work Administration from Columbia University.

### **nuri nusrat**

*Senior Program Associate, Impact Justice*

nuri nusrat is dedicated to supporting folks in building relationship, healing, and resolving harm. For the past few years, she collaborated with communities across California to implement pre-charge restorative justice diversion programs. These programs attend to victim-identified needs and support young people arrested for crimes through processes that upholds the humanity and dignity of all affected. Prior to this, at the Federal Public Defender Death Penalty Project, nusrat assisted attorneys' presentations of their clients' life histories. In the past, she also worked on cases regarding people denied disability benefits, people facing removal from the U.S., and on record expungement. In recent years, she has been learning about community responses to child sexual abuse. nusrat's family history inspires her to empathize with and support people harmed and people who have done harm. nusrat holds a J.D. from American University and an M.A. in ethnic studies from San Francisco State University.

### **Anne Patterson, LMSW**

*Director, STEPS to End Family Violence*

For over two decades, Anne Patterson has worked alongside survivors of intimate partner violence in an effort to raise awareness of the epidemic of violence against women, educate others about domestic violence, and transform the rhetoric and institutions that sustain gender-based violence. Anne has worked across the country in multiple domestic violence shelters, within the child welfare system, and extensively within the New York City criminal legal system. Anne is currently the Director of STEPS to End Family Violence (STEPS). STEPS is a small and mighty anti-violence organization that provides robust clinical

and advocacy support to survivors of intimate partner violence and children impacted by abusive partner behavior. STEPS is equally dedicated to prevention and healing and has an intentional commitment to amplifying the narratives of invisible survivors, primarily criminalized survivors.

### **Donnell Penny**

*Intervention Coordinator, Common Justice*

Donnell Penny has a strong commitment to restorative justice, violence intervention, and advancing the well-being of his peers and his community. He is a proud graduate of Common Justice and joined the community of violence intervention as a leader of the program's M.O.V.E. (Men Opposing Violence Everywhere) group, which builds accountability among men for the environments of violence created through hypermasculinity and the lack of empathy for women and LGBTQ people. Donnell currently serves as an Intervention Coordinator for Common Justice. A Brooklyn native, he has held a variety of positions in social services, including working as a youth counselor and home health aide. Donnell is currently developing a program that gives media training to under privileged youth in need of crisis intervention to support them in building self-identified values and purpose to shape what they see in the media and their neighborhood.

### **Cameron Rasmussen, LMSW**

*Program Director, Center for Justice, Columbia University*

Cameron Rasmussen is a social worker, educator and facilitator committed to reimagining our responses to human behavior and pathways to social justice, and to contributing towards the larger movement of an anti-oppressive social justice praxis. Cameron is a Program Director at the Center for Justice at Columbia University where he supports a variety of programmatic efforts to advance individual, institutional and social transformation for a more just and safe world. He is an Adjunct Lecturer at Columbia School of Social Work and a PhD Student at the CUNY Graduate Center. He received his master's degree in social work from Columbia University.

### **Liz Roberts**

*Deputy CEO, Safe Horizon*

Liz Roberts joined Safe Horizon in 2010, where she provides executive leadership to the nation's largest and most comprehensive victim service provider. Liz was previously with the New York City Administration for Children's Services, where she developed groundbreaking policy and programs related to the intersections of domestic violence and child abuse; strengthened the citywide non-profit preventive services system; and led a variety of programs designed to enhance health and mental health outcomes for children and families engaged with the child welfare system. She also worked as a clinician and trainer

for the Child Witness to Violence Project at Boston Medical Center, a nationally recognized clinical program for young children who have witnessed violence. At the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Liz trained more than a thousand health care providers to identify and respond to intimate partner violence. She began her career as a community-based advocate for survivors of domestic violence and their children.

**Erika Sasson, Esq. BCL, LLB, LLM**

*Director of Restorative Practices, Center for Court Innovation*

Erika Sasson, BCL, LLB, LLM, is the director of restorative practices at the Center for Court Innovation, overseeing the Center’s restorative practice initiatives across a broad range of demonstration projects. She is currently directing a multi-year randomized controlled trial of restorative practices in five high schools in Brooklyn with high suspension rates. She is also overseeing a project exploring the national landscape of restorative practices in cases of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. Ms. Sasson previously oversaw the planning and implementation of the Red Hook peacemaking program, the first program of its kind in a state court system. She also participated as a site coordinator for the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge, assisting jurisdictions in finding ways to reduce the over-reliance on jail and reduce racial and ethnic disparities in its use. Prior to joining the Center, she worked in Toronto as a federal prosecutor, where she handled drug, gun, and gang cases. Ms. Sasson moved to New York in 2009 to attend New York University School of Law, where she received an L.L.M. in criminal justice. She is raising a family of boys with her husband Misha in Brooklyn, NY.

**Kellsie Sayers, Esq.**

*Supervising Coordinator, Restorative Justice in Schools Project, Center for Court for Innovation*

Kellsie Sayers, Esq., LMSW, is the Supervising Coordinator of the Restorative Justice in Schools Project at the Center for Court for Innovation. Prior to joining the center, Kellsie worked as a litigator for the Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense Practice. Her social work experience includes individual therapy and adolescent group therapy. Ms. Sayers is a graduate of Howard University with a BA in Political Science and BA in African-American Studies. She received her Juris Doctorate from the New York University Law School, and Master of Social Work from the New York University Silver School of Social Work.

**Sonya Shah**

*Director of The Ahimsa Collective*

Sonya Shah is the founding director of the Ahimsa Collective — a network of people creating an alternative way to address violence and heal trauma that is



rooted in relationships. The Collective works in deep community with people who have committed an act of violence, survivors of violence, families impacted by violent crime, and law enforcement. The Ahimsa Collective intersects with various movements: the restorative justice movement, the anti-oppression and racial justice movement, the anti-sexual violence movement and the criminal justice reform movement.

The Ahimsa Collective's work is centered around trauma healing, accountability and the relationship between the two. We foster rich and complex restorative dialogue between different stakeholders when possible. We believe that people are the authorities of their own life experience and we center their agency. We integrate the impact of oppression into every level of our work. We stay away from the false dichotomy of "victim" and "offender" knowing that every person is capable of harming another. We radically nurture healing and justice as a connected way of being that is led truly by and for the people, from process to outcomes. We believe that healing is connected to breaking cycles of future violence to oneself and others.

In 2016, the collective initiated restorative approaches to sexual and intimate violence with people who have committed those harms (who are often survivors) in California prisons. They take a holistic and non-compartmentalizing approach to sexual harm, sexual trauma, gender socialization, patriarchy, rape culture, internalized homophobia, gender based violence, and intimate partner violence. And see the totality of these violences as a soul wound -a term first coined by Eduardo Duran in regards to historical trauma on indigenous people.

Sonya has decades of experience in social justice education and in restorative and peacemaking practices. She has trained hundreds of facilitators in trauma healing and restorative approaches to violence across the U.S. Central to her core values are creating belonging and beloved community in every aspect of her work and life. She is a survivor of sexual abuse and a first-generation immigrant from the Northwestern part of India.

### **Quentin Walcott**

*Co-Executive Director, CONNECT*

Quentin Walcott is an internationally recognized anti-violence activist, educator and facilitator. He is the Co-Executive Director of CONNECT, a nonprofit organization in New York City dedicated to eliminating interpersonal violence and promoting gender justice. Mr. Walcott's work over the past 20 years has focused on engaging men and boys as allies and activists in the movement to prevent and end interpersonal and gender-based violence. Before taking sharing the helm of CONNECT in 2013 along with Rev. Dr. Sally MacNichol, he developed the CONNECT Training Institute, the leading anti-violence learning facility in NYC, directed CONNECT's Community Empowerment Program and the organization's groundbreaking work to engage men and boys in ending gender-based violence. Mr. Walcott is one of the U.S. leaders chosen for the 3rd cohort of NoVo

Foundation's Move To End Violence (MEV) initiative. He has been a featured speaker in international anti-violence forums and leads trainings in Brazil, Canada, Fiji, France, India, Kenya, South Africa and Thailand. In June of 2016, he was invited as a plenary speaker along with actor-activist, Matt McGory, at the White House Summit on Women, discussing the importance of engaging men and boys in the work to end violence.

He co-founded and organizes the Father's Day Pledge Against Violence, an annual event now entering its 9th year and observed in many U.S. cities. Mr. Walcott partnered with Cornell University ILR School to create Men and Women as Allies, a training program to address intimate partner violence in the workplace. He was awarded the 2013 United Nations Trust Fund Award along with Mariska Hargitay and Nicole Kidman. Mr. Walcott was the first man to receive NOW-NYC's Susan B. Anthony Award (2012). Mr. Walcott was mentored by the foremost leader in batterers' intervention in New York City, Dr. John Aponte, and in 1996 began facilitating batterers' intervention programs.

### **Coleta Walker**

*Associate Director, Red Hook Peacemaking Program*

Coleta Walker is the Associate Director of the Red Hook Peacemaking Program at the Red Hook Community Justice Center. She has been with The Center for Court Innovation For 6 years. In this capacity, Ms. Walker assists with implementation of the Red Hook Peacemaking Program and oversees its day-to-day operations. Before joining the Center, Ms. Walker was an art therapist for five years at Rikers Island Correctional Facility. She also provided art therapy to at-risk youth ages 13-18 at the Brunswick Psychiatric Hospital, and has volunteered with victims of domestic violence, providing therapy to both women and children of abuse. She currently volunteers at the Brookville Center for Children Services, working with children from ages 3-5 with autism and special needs. Ms. Walker received her B.A. from the University of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and her Master's degree from Long Island University Post.

## APPENDIX C: PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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The New York City Domestic Violence Task Force, a collaboration between the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence and the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice, would like to thank the members of the conference planning committee for their time and commitment to making this conference a success.

Planning committee members include:

**Erika Sasson, Esq.**

Center for Court Innovation

**Julie Goldscheid, Esq., MSW, Karyn Manocchia**

City of New York (CUNY) School of Law

**RJ Maccani, LMSW**

Common Justice

**Charlene Allen, Esq.**

Consultant and Trainer

**Kenton Kirby, LMSW**

Crown Heights Community Mediation Center

**Audrey Moore, Esq.**

Manhattan District Attorney’s Office

**Mika Dashman, Esq.**

Restorative Justice Initiative

**Luba Reife, Esq.**

Sanctuary for Families

**Gene Johnson, Jr., Anne Patterson, LMSW**

STEPS to End Family Violence

**Marleni Crisostomo, Tracey Downing, Esq., Sandhya Kajeepeta, Heba Khalil,**

**Hannah Pennington, Esq., Alvaro Pinzon, Maria Polzin, Monica Sobrin**

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

**Ilana Turko, Esq.**

Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice

**Bea Hanson, PhD., Shania Pride, EdS.**

New York City Domestic Violence Task Force

**Zoe Flowers**

Women of Color Network

### **Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV)**

The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) - formerly known as the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence - develops policies and programs, provides training and prevention education, conducts research and evaluations, performs community outreach, and operates the New York City Family Justice Centers. We collaborate with City agencies and community stakeholders to ensure access to inclusive services for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence (GBV) services. GBV can include intimate partner and family violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

### **Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice**

As the Mayor's chief advisor on public safety strategy, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice shapes and funds strategies at every stage - from interactions with first responders on the street, to how cases are processed through the criminal justice system, to connecting individuals leaving Rikers Island jails with programs and services to help them build productive and healthy futures.

### **NYC Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTF)**

The NYC Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTF) was launched by Mayor de Blasio in November 2016 and charged with developing a comprehensive citywide strategy to address one of the most urgent challenges facing our City. The work of the Task Force is led by Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Elizabeth Glazer, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Cecile Noel, and the Task Force's Executive Director Bea Hanson. Thanks to the efforts of domestic violence survivors, non-profit organizations, City agencies, District Attorney's Offices, defense attorneys, and elected officials, in 2017, the DVTF announced 32 new initiatives with \$11 million in City funding to reduce violence and enhance the safety and wellbeing of survivors of domestic violence and their families.

### **Center for Court Innovation**

Founded as a public/private partnership between the New York State Unified Court System and the Fund for the City of New York, the Center creates operating programs to test new ideas and solve problems, performs original research to determine what works (and what doesn't), and provides expert assistance to justice reformers around the world.

The Center conceives, plans, and operates programs that seek to test new ideas, solve difficult problems, and achieve system change. Our projects include community-based violence prevention projects, alternatives to incarceration, reentry initiatives, and court-based programs that reduce the use of unnecessary incarceration and promote positive individual and family change.

Some of our projects are big, serving thousands of people each year. And some are small, working intensively with a few dozen people at a time. No matter the size or the topic, our approach is always the same: thoughtful planning, an emphasis on creativity, and the rigorous use of data to document results. Our efforts have produced tangible results like safer streets, reduced incarceration, and improved neighborhood perceptions of justice.

### **City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law**

CUNY School of Law is the premier public interest law school in the country. It trains lawyers to serve the underprivileged and disempowered and to make a difference in their communities. CUNY Law pioneered the model of integrating a lawyering curriculum with traditional doctrinal study. Founded in 1983, the CUNY School of Law consistently ranks among the top 10 law schools in the country in clinical training. With a student-faculty ratio of 10 to 1, CUNY Law has been a model for other law schools for its clinical practice. All third-year students at CUNY Law represent clients under the supervision of attorneys at one of the largest law firms in Queens – Main Street Legal Services, Inc. – situated right on the Law School campus. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg praises CUNY as “an institution of incomparable value.” She has noted the school’s leadership for “innovations and tireless advancement of public interest law.” Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., Professor at Harvard Law School, also praises CUNY: “With all due respect to my legal institution and others, in my view CUNY Law School is the premier legal institution in the country and the world for training lawyers who are committed and dedicated to the public interest.”

### **Common Justice**

Common Justice develops and advances solutions to violence that transform the lives of those harmed and foster racial equity without relying on incarceration. Locally, we operate the first alternative-to-incarceration and victim-service program in the United States that focuses on violent felonies in the adult courts. Nationally, we leverage the lessons from our direct service to transform the justice system through partnerships, advocacy, and elevating the experience and power of those most impacted. Rigorous and hopeful, we build practical strategies to hold people accountable for harm, break cycles of violence, and secure safety, healing, and justice for survivors and their communities.

### **Crown Heights Community Mediation Center**

The Crown Heights Community Mediation Center is a unique neighborhood institution that works to improve community problem-solving, collaboration, and inter-group relations in Brooklyn, New York.

The Mediation Center staff and volunteers work to strengthen the

neighborhoods of Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant. We work to be an example to the city and the rest of the world of how neighborhoods torn apart by violence can become safe, healthy, and vibrant places for all people through the collaborative efforts of neighbors, government, and community organizations.

The Center's staff work out of a storefront office on Kingston Avenue, the ground floor of a brownstone in Bed-Stuy, and throughout the neighborhoods of Crown Heights and Bed-Stuy. At our Crown Heights office, we offer resources, referrals, and youth programs, and in the community we run youth development and anti-violence programs. The Crown Heights Community Mediation Center is a project of the Center for Court Innovation.

### **Manhattan District Attorney's Office**

The Manhattan District Attorney's Office has a long tradition of excellence and non-partisanship, and is considered one of the nation's preeminent prosecutor's offices.

### **Restorative Justice Initiative**

Restorative Justice Initiative is a Partner Project of the Fund for the City of New York dedicated to promoting restorative principles, practices and programs throughout New York City. We serve as a hub and a clearinghouse, distributing information about upcoming events, training, resources, employment and funding opportunities via email and social media to a growing network of restorative practitioners and supporters. We also organize and host events intended to build relationships across sectors and raise awareness of restorative practices and their broad applications and efficacy.

### **Sanctuary for Families**

Sanctuary for Families is dedicated to the safety, healing and self-determination of victims of domestic violence and related forms of gender violence. Through comprehensive services for our clients and their children, and through outreach, education and advocacy, we strive to create a world in which freedom from gender violence is a basic human right.

### **STEPS to End Family Violence**

For over 75 years, Edwin Gould's Community of Care has addressed the complex and often overwhelming issues that confront society. Rooted in a history of services focused on the needs of orphaned children during the early years of the twentieth century, our programming now includes a comprehensive array of services incorporating evidence-based practices to address those in need across the life-span. Our cornerstone foster care and adoption services are joined by community-based preventive services designed to assist at-risk families; programming focused on the prevention of domestic violence,

intervention to assist victims of such violence, and advocacy toward policy change; criminal justice services; school-based programs; health and mental health services; vocational, and economic empowerment programming; and group living environments for developmentally disabled adults who wish to live independently.

# NYC HOPE







