

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 1394

Applauding organizations that engage in the prevention of domestic violence and provide outreach and support services for victims.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2008

Mr. TOWNS (for himself, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. WEINER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. NADLER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. SOLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## RESOLUTION

Applauding organizations that engage in the prevention of domestic violence and provide outreach and support services for victims.

Whereas around the world, at least 1 in 3 women have been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused, and 1 in 3 American women reports being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives;

Whereas in 2007, the New York City Police Department responded to 229,453 domestic violence incidents and 123,409 telephone calls were received by the city's Domestic Violence Hotline;

Whereas in 2007, Brooklyn had the highest number of family-related homicides of all the New York City boroughs;

Whereas women and families of all ages and racial, ethnic, economic, and religious backgrounds are affected by domestic violence;

Whereas 30 percent of Americans say they know a woman who has been physically abused by her husband or boyfriend in the past year;

Whereas as many as 324,000 women each year experience violence at the hands of an intimate partner while pregnant;

Whereas the Family Violence Prevention Fund found teenage girls are victims of sexual abuse and assault, with approximately 20 percent of female high school students reporting physical or sexual abuse by a dating partner, 8 percent of high school females reporting they had been coerced into having sex against their will, and 40 percent of high school females knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend;

Whereas between 2005 and 2007, over 37,000 telephone calls received by the New York City Domestic Violence Hotline were made by adolescents and teens;

Whereas recent studies show children are also the victims of domestic violence, with 50 percent of men who frequently abuse their wives also frequently abusing their children and between 3,000,000 and 10,000,000 children witness domestic violence in some form every year;

Whereas Sanctuary for Families provided direct service to over 3,100 families so far this year, plus over 22,000 through outreach, education, training, and hotline calls;

Whereas Sanctuary for Families has demonstrated remarkable perseverance and success in serving domestic violence and trafficking victims and their families as one of the largest nonprofit agencies in the State of New York by providing a wide range of services, including shelter, counseling, specialized services to children of domestic violence victims, legal advice and representation, economic and housing assistance, and a mentors program for survivors who speak publically and educate others about domestic violence;

Whereas the New York City Family Justice Center in Brooklyn, New York, an initiative of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence with lead partner agency the Kings County District Attorney's Office, is dedicated to reducing barriers faced by victims of domestic violence who are seeking help, enabling victims to meet with a prosecutor, speak with a trained counselor, and apply for housing and financial assistance, all in their native language while their children play safely in the next room;

Whereas the New York City Family Justice Center has representatives from 6 city and State agencies, 14 community-based and civil legal organizations, and universities that provide colocated, holistic services to victims of domestic violence;

Whereas the New York City Family Justice Center provided service to 10,780 new clients seeking domestic violence assistance from the onsite city agencies, law enforcement, social and civil legal services, and other partners, with an average of 1,000 clients visiting each month, and 2,845 children supervised in the children's room, Margaret's Place, between July 20, 2005, and June 1, 2008;

Whereas Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A's Victim Support Program provides invaluable services to women and families in Brooklyn and to the community organizations that assist and support them through offering legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence; promoting empowerment, self-sufficiency, and economic independence; improving victims' access to shelters, housing, and public assistance; and addressing the needs of their children;

Whereas Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A is dedicated to the safety and well-being of women and families in Brooklyn and working toward ending domestic violence and the devastating impact it has on women, families, and communities;

Whereas North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence provides community-based services and creates a locally based support network to enable survivors of domestic violence to negotiate the criminal justice system, break the cycle of violence, and increase their capacity to take back power and control their own lives so that they may safely remain in the community, if they wish, or begin new lives elsewhere;

Whereas the North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence has made invaluable contributions to the borough, where it reduces the practical and cultural barriers that often prevent victims from seeking or receiving assistance from the criminal justice system; and

Whereas these organizations and all institutions that commendably work toward domestic violence prevention and provide outreach and support for victims of domestic violence should be applauded for their invaluable contribu-

tions to the well-being of women, families, and communities: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) applauds the efforts of Sanctuary for Families,  
3       the New York City Family Justice Center in  
4       Brooklyn, New York, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A,  
5       the North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence, and all  
6       organizations that engage in domestic violence prevention and  
7       provide outreach and support services for victims of domestic  
8       violence;  
9       and

10              (2) supports raising awareness about domestic  
11       violence and its tragic consequences for women, families,  
12       and communities.

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