



VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARE DYING FOR A SAFE HOME

Why we mourn

- For the 87% of women and children in domestic violence shelters who leave after their 135 day (maximum allowable) stay without safe and permanent housing. Many of these families are forced to either start over again in the City's homeless system or return to their batterer out of desperation, risking further abuse and even death.
- For the thousands of NYC women and children who have fled abuse and will not have a safe permanent home this holiday season.
- For the women who are denied safe and permanent housing for themselves and their children because they cannot meet NYCHA'S unrealistic documentation and timeline requirements.
- For the 22 NYC women who were killed last year by their intimate partners (or former partners).
- For the 4,000 women who were treated in NYC emergency departments last year due to injuries inflicted by their intimate partners.
- For the more than 400 women that reach out to the NYC domestic violence hotline every day. Many are seeking shelter and housing in order to begin a new life free of violence.
- For the many victims of domestic violence, including undocumented immigrants and women with disabilities, that our housing & service systems fail each day.

In addition to the over 2,000 women and children in NYC's domestic violence shelters, there are also survivors of domestic violence in homeless shelters. Of the record 9,300 families now in the City's homeless shelters, domestic violence was the number 1 reason these families gave for becoming homeless.

Why we organize

The Voices of Women Organizing Project (VOW) is a grassroots organization of survivors of domestic violence fighting to ensure that victims of domestic violence get the help they need when seeking safety and justice. **We can no longer remain silent while women in this City are victimized by their partners and then re-victimized by a system that ignores their needs or makes it extremely difficult to qualify for help and housing.**

We call upon NYCHA to:

- accept a wider range of documentation as proof of domestic violence (dv) for DV Priority housing eligibility, so that women and children in desperate need of safe housing can receive Section 8 and NYCHA apartments.
- speed up the application process to make it possible for families to qualify for housing while in dv shelters.

We call upon Mayor Bloomberg to:

- increase the housing options available to survivors of domestic violence, especially undocumented immigrants, single women, and survivors with disabilities.
- speed up the application process so that survivors of domestic violence can qualify for housing while in domestic violence shelters and are not shuttled from system to system with no end in sight.
- create more transitional (Tier II) housing programs specifically for survivors leaving domestic violence shelters, which could give families more time to get back on their feet and find jobs and housing.
- ensure that victims of domestic violence who must leave dv shelters after 135 days are automatically transferred to the Dept. of Homeless Services' shelters without having to start all over again in the PATH center.