

Press Contact:
Onika Abraham, Safe Horizon
T 212.577.4385, C 646.341.3125

New Stalking Study Findings To Be Released at Intimate Partner Stalking Symposium on May 13, 2009

Experts to discuss implications for law enforcement, criminal justice and social service providers

New York, NY, May 8, 2009 – A new study to be released on May 13, 2009 conducted by Safe Horizon and funded by the National Institutes of Justice raises questions about current practices to help victims of intimate partner stalking.

Over a 13-month period, this study followed intimate partner stalking victims recruited from Safe Horizon’s criminal justice programs in police precincts and criminal, family, and integrated domestic violence courts throughout New York City. A key finding is that, on average, incidence of stalking did not significantly decrease even if a victim sought help, and that neither contact with victim service nor criminal justice professionals was uniformly effective in reducing the frequency or intensity of stalking incidences. Instead, what was helpful to victims appeared to change over time, which challenges law enforcement, the criminal justice system and victim services organizations’ historically systematic approach to this issue.

The study also uncovers the harmful effects that stalking has on victims’ physical and mental health over time, which few past studies have explored. Most importantly, the findings indicate an urgent need for increased collaboration among criminal justice practitioners, law enforcement and service providers like Safe Horizon in re-envisioning interventions for intimate partner stalking.

Experts representing the spectrum of professions serving stalking victims will gather to release and discuss the study findings on May 13th at the symposium, *Intimate Partners Stalking: An examination of Victims’ Experiences Over Time*, hosted by John Jay College’s Office for the Advancement of Research. Panelists include:

- **Shelly Botuck**, Vice President, Evaluation and Research, Safe Horizon
- **James Lynch**, Distinguished Professor, John Jay College
- **Michelle Galletta**, Associate Professor, John Jay College
- **Catherine Stayton**, Director of Injury Epidemiology Unit, NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene
- **Deirdre Bialo-Padin**, Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau, Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office

The invitation-only symposium will be held on Wednesday, May 13th, 9:00-1:30 p.m. at John Jay College, 899 10th Avenue (between 58th & 59th Streets), Room 630T. For more information about the study or to attend the symposium, journalists may contact Onika Abraham at Safe Horizon, 212.577.4385.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

An international leader in educating for justice, John Jay College of Criminal Justice of The City University of New York offers a rich liberal arts and professional studies curriculum to upwards of 14,000 undergraduate and graduate students from more than 135 nations. In teaching, scholarship and research, the College approaches justice as an applied art and science in service to society and as an ongoing conversation about fundamental human desires for fairness, equality and the rule of law. For more information, visit www.jjay.cuny.edu.

National Institute of Justice

National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and is dedicated to researching crime control and justice issues. NIJ provides objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of crime and justice, particularly at the state and local levels. The NIJ Director is appointed by the President and confirmed by Congress. The NIJ Director establishes the Institute's objectives, guided by the priorities of OJP's Assistant Attorney General and the needs of the field. The Institute actively solicits the views of criminal justice and other professionals and researchers to inform its search for the knowledge and tools to guide policy and practice.

Safe Horizon

Safe Horizon is the nation's leading victim assistance organization and serves over 350,000 people each year who have been touched by violence. Whether we are responding to child abuse, domestic violence, or other violent crimes, Safe Horizon provides the practical tools, emotional support, education and advocacy to help victims and their families heal and rebuild their lives.