

COMMUNITY ALERT



September 15, 2010

AVP condemns recent murders in Maplewood, New Jersey and Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico; calls for an end to violence against transgender and gender non-conforming people

AVP is deeply concerned by a spike in violence perpetrated against transgender and gender non-conforming people. On September 23, [Victoria Carmen](#), a 28-year-old transgender woman, was shot to death in a private residence in Maplewood, New Jersey. The case is still being investigated, and no arrests have been made. On September 13, two transgender women were found dead alongside Highway 512 in Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico. Both women had been shot in the head. Authorities have arrested a 28-year-old man in connection with the killings. These murders are the fourth and fifth that we know of in the past year that have targeted transgender and gender non-conforming people in Puerto Rico.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Program's (NCAVP) report on Hate Violence against the LGBTQ Communities in the United States in 2009, released in June, reveals that members of traditionally marginalized communities are being disproportionately targeted for severe violence. Of the 22 reported hate murder victims in 2009, 79% were people of color, and 50% were transgender women or were feminine-presenting. AVP is committed to bringing an end to violence based on perceived gender identity and expression and to countering the pervasive stereotypes and phobias regarding gender identity and expression.

“Violence against LGBTQ people of color and transgender people continues to occur at disturbingly high levels and AVP is committed to the work that we all must do to end the racism and transphobia that perpetuates bias-related violence,” said Sharon Stapel, Executive Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project. AVP is working with the coalition *New York City Stands in Solidarity with the Puerto Rican Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community* to respond to the incidents in Puerto Rico [who today released a statement about these murders](#). We are also reaching out to community-based organizations in New Jersey.

AVP encourages you to report any anti-LGBTQ bias, including hate speech and physical violence, to our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-714-1141** where you can speak with a trained counselor and seek support. In addition, AVP has also introduced [a new secure online form for reporting anti-LGBTQ bias incidents](#) that you have experienced or witnessed.

More information about the New York City Anti-Violence Project can be found at our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Please forward this e-mail to your friends and urge them to stay safe.