

BREAKING NEWS



October 4, 2010

AVP condemns weekend incidents of hate violence in Chelsea and the West Village; calls for an end to the culture of violence

AVP has learned of two appalling hate violence incidents that occurred this past weekend. The first incident occurred in Chelsea where a group of men on the street were embracing goodbye. The group was assaulted by five or six men who allegedly told them, "you faggots don't belong in this neighborhood." The attackers are believed to be from both New York and Boston. So far, one person, 20-year-old Andrew Jackson, has been apprehended and is awaiting arraignment at the Manhattan District Attorney's office.

The second incident occurred at the Stonewall Inn in the West Village. A bar patron was approached in the bathroom by a man who demanded money and asked if he was gay. When the patron answered in the affirmative, he was beaten by the man and an accomplice who entered the bathroom at some point during the initial exchange. Matthew Francis, 21, and a 17-year-old, both of Staten Island, are awaiting arraignment in Manhattan Criminal Court for this assault.

We at the Anti-Violence Project are especially saddened that this attack occurred at the Stonewall Inn, a longtime friend and ally of AVP's work, and most importantly, an enduring symbol of the resilience within New York's LGBTQ communities. AVP is working with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, the NYPD, as well as the office of New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, on both of these incidents. Investigations are ongoing, and we will keep our communities aware of any developments.

AVP encourages you to report any anti-LGBTQ bias, including hate speech, bullying, harassment, 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 the support you need.

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