

# COMMUNITY ALERT



**April 15, 2010**

## **Community Alert: Hate Violence Incident at The Center**

AVP is disturbed and outraged by an incident that occurred on April 14, at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center (The Center) in Manhattan. Staff members arriving to work yesterday discovered [a burned rainbow flag hanging on a poster display case outside The Center](#). Center staff immediately contacted the NYPD and called AVP to report this despicable act of hate violence. The NYPD's Hate Crimes unit is handling the investigation and AVP is working with the NYPD and The Center to respond to this incident.

"Hate violence comes not only in the form of physical assault, but in the bias, harassment, bullying and intimidation that LGBTQ people face every day," said Sharon Stapel, Executive Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project. "This act of hate, aimed at The Center, a valued and valuable space for LGBTQ community members, cannot be tolerated in a city and world as diverse as ours."

AVP encourages anyone who has experienced or been affected by bias, bullying or intimidation to contact our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-714-1141** and speak with a trained counselor to seek support. We have also started a new LGBTQ support group for survivors of hate violence. To find out more about this support group call our main number at 212-714-1184. All services are free and confidential.

More information about the New York City Anti-Violence Project can be found at our website: [www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org) and Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/antiviolence](http://www.facebook.com/antiviolence). Additional safety tips can also be found on our website. Please forward this e-mail to your friends and urge them to stay safe.