

Panelists:



Karen Cheeks-Lomax
Executive Director,
My Sister's Place, Westchester
"The Next Generation"



Rosemonde Pierre-Louis
Manhattan Deputy Borough President
*"Violence Against Women
and the Media"*



Leslie Crocker Snyder
Retired Justice, New York Supreme Court
*"Reform in sex crimes and
domestic violence and the need
to continue these reforms."*



Irene Weiser
Executive Director, StopFamilyViolence.org
*"The family court crisis - what's
happening, why, and how we
need to organize to address it."*

The New Agenda

presents

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FORUM

Saturday, April 18, 2009

3:00-5:00 pm

cocktail hour to follow
5:00-6:00 pm

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The Benjamin Hotel

125 East 50th Street
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The New Agenda
**Violence Against
Women Forum**
April 18, 2009

Karen Cheeks-Lomax
Executive Director, My Sister's Place, Westchester

Topic: "The Next Generation"



Karen Cheeks-Lomax was appointed Executive Director of My Sister's Place in Westchester after several years of service as the organization's General Counsel. She also served for ten years as the Director of General Litigation at Harlem Legal Services in New York City. Karen is a member of the Westchester County Human Rights Commission.

My Sister's Place provides extensive intervention and support services for the victims of domestic violence, addressing the many facets of making one's life whole again. To make meaningful change in the way our society thinks about abuse in intimate relationships, My Sister's Place is putting concerted energy into "The Next Generation." This initiative is designed to reach children and young people to change the dialogue around intimate partner abuse and gender appropriate behavior. Through middle and high school education programs, creative art therapy programs, school guidance programs, and outreach and training programs for community groups, the next generation will be given a new paradigm of respect and dignity.

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Honorable Rosemonde Pierre-Louis
Manhattan Deputy Borough President

Topic: "Violence Against Women and the Media"



Deputy Borough President Rosemonde Pierre-Louis has dedicated her entire career to helping New York City's most vulnerable. Her record includes more than 18 years as an advocate, educator and attorney for women's rights and for survivors of domestic violence.

As the Legal Director of the Family Justice Program at Network for Women's Services, Ms. Pierre-Louis recruited attorneys from large corporate law firms to represent battered women on a pro bono basis. At the Sanctuary for Families Center for Battered Women's Legal Services, Ms. Pierre-Louis was the Senior Staff Attorney and represented battered women before New York State's Supreme and Family Courts.

Ms. Pierre-Louis is a frequent lecturer on domestic violence and the law, and served as an adjunct Professor at Fordham University School of Law. She sits on the Board of Directors of My Sister's Place, is a founding member of the African American Task Force on Violence Against Women, and is the Chair of the Women's Alliance of Harlem.

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Honorable Leslie Crocker Snyder
Retired Justice of the New York Supreme Court

Topic: "Reform in sex crimes and domestic violence and the need to continue these reforms."



Leslie Crocker Snyder is a nationally recognized leader in the fight against crime, having spent 35 years protecting New Yorkers as a prosecutor, judge and devoted public servant.

As an Assistant District Attorney, Leslie was the first woman in the New York County District Attorney's office to try both felony and homicide cases. During her nine years in the office, she founded and led the Sex Crimes Prosecution Bureau, the first in the nation and a model throughout the country. Additionally, she is the co-author of legislation that includes New York's Rape Shield Law and other reforms of the Penal Law.

After leaving the Manhattan District Attorney's office, Leslie became a Special Assistant Attorney General, prosecuting corruption in the criminal justice system. In 1983, Leslie was appointed as a Judge to the Criminal Court of New York City. Subsequently, she was appointed to the New York State Supreme Court and the Court of Claims.

Leslie is the author of *25 to Life* and is currently a partner at Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP. She has appeared on numerous television news and documentary programs and has been profiled in several, such as *60 Minutes*.

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Irene Weiser
Executive Director, StopFamilyViolence.org

Topic: "The family court crisis - what's happening, why, and how we need to organize to address it."



Irene Weiser has been involved in feminist anti-violence, anti-oppression and community organizing work in a variety of capacities for the past 24 years. In 2000, she founded and has since been the Executive Director of StopFamilyViolence.org, an online activist organization whose members have raised their voices for reform at the national, state and local levels. Their stories have been read into the Congressional Record, incorporated into a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court, and used to shape national policy guidelines.

StopFamilyViolence.org's action campaigns have been instrumental in securing passage of the Violence Against Women Act and have blocked advancement of dangerous "fathers rights" legislation.

For the past three years, Irene has been the coordinator of the Family Court Reform Coalition, a coalition of advocates, organizations and professionals formed in response to the national crisis in the custody court system, where all too often, judges order children to live with abusers and punish, silence, or jail the parent who tries to protect the children from harm. The FCRC's mission is to promote reform and accountability to ensure that victims of domestic violence and child abuse are protected from abuse in child custody determinations.

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