

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,  
Queer and HIV-affected Communities

October 19, 2011

## AVP recognized as a “Champion of Change” by the White House

Today, The White House honored the New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP) as a **“Champion of Change”** for our work on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) survivors of domestic violence. The [Champions of Change program](#) is a part of President Obama's Winning the Future initiative. Each week highlights a different national issue and groups of Champions, ranging from educators to entrepreneurs to community activists, are recognized for the work they are doing to better their communities.

In honor of **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, the White House's Office of Public Engagement will host a Champions of Change event tomorrow, October 20<sup>th</sup>, to honor fifteen Champions from across the country who are working to end domestic violence on a local level. AVP is deeply honored to be included among these 15 Champions (read the full White House Press Release below).

Tomorrow's event will be **live streamed at [www.whitehouse.gov/live](http://www.whitehouse.gov/live) at 1:00pm EDT** and AVP's Executive Director, **Sharon Stapel**, and **Victoria Cruz**, AVP's Senior Domestic Violence Counselor/Advocate will attend the reception. We hope that you will watch as the event unfolds!

We know that this tremendous success is because of the [support we receive from you](#). Please consider [making a gift to AVP](#) in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness month in recognition of all that AVP does—and all the work that remains to be done—on behalf of LGBTQ survivors of Domestic Violence.

Warm regards,

Sharon Stapel  
Executive Director

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 2011

**White House Highlights Sharon Stapel as “Champion of Change”**

WASHINGTON – Tomorrow, in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Valerie Jarrett will join White House Advisor on Domestic Violence, Lynn Rosenthal, to host 14 leaders at the White House who are dedicating their professional lives to ending domestic violence in their communities. At the event, participants will share their personal stories and discuss lessons they have learned while working to end domestic violence on a local level.

The Champions of Change program was created as a part of President Obama’s Winning the Future initiative. Each week, a different issue is highlighted and groups of Champions, ranging from educators to entrepreneurs to community activists, are recognized for the work they are doing to better their communities. Tomorrow, the White House welcomes Sharon Stapel to participate in a roundtable discussion to raise awareness for domestic violence. To watch this event live, visit [www.whitehouse.gov/live](http://www.whitehouse.gov/live) at 1:00 pm ET tomorrow.

Sharon Stapel is the Executive Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP). Founded in 1980 as a community response to violence, AVP is the country’s largest organization dedicated to eliminating hate violence, sexual violence, and domestic/intimate partner violence affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) and HIV-affected communities. Through our 24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline, community-based intake sites and trained counselor/advocates and volunteers, AVP provides a lifeline of support to survivors of violence and their families. AVP organizes communities and allies to challenge the root causes of violence to create long-term strategies to prevent violence. AVP trains and monitors emergency first responders, including law enforcement and medical professionals, to ensure the response to LGBTQ-specific hate, domestic, and sexual violence is effective and appropriate. AVP also educates elected officials and communities about the persistent problem of violence and the steps that can be taken to reduce it. AVP’s innovative programs include: a Speaker’s Bureau which provides LGBTQ and HIV-affected survivors of violence with a safe space to discuss, develop and practice personal stories related to violence to promote group and individual leadership development and public speaking skills; Safe Bars/Safe Nights outreach program where AVP staff and volunteers reach thousands of LGBTQ people and their allies to talk about safety and hand out safety information; and a co-located, community-based direct services and outreach program for transgender people of color who are victims and survivors of violence.

###