



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**The New York City Anti-Violence Project announces the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Courage Awards**

### **For Immediate Release**

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New York- On Monday, October 27, the New York City Anti-Violence Project will proudly host the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Courage Awards at ESPACE located at 635 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.

This year, the Anti-Violence Project is privileged to present a Courage Award to the following individuals and organizations for their commitment, visibility, activism and advocacy around issues pertaining to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities: actor **Alan Cumming** for his promotion of LGBTQH rights and his work, both nationally and internationally, on behalf of LGBTQH organizations; **Willow House**, one of Safe Horizon's domestic violence shelters, for their work with LGBTQ victims of violence and their ongoing partnership with the Anti-Violence Project in finding safe placements for our clients; **Mercedes-Benz USA**, for their longtime and steadfast support of the Anti-Violence Project's work, LGBTQ communities and Mercedes-Benz's LGBTQ employees; and **Bash'd: A Gay Rap Opera**, which has helped to bring national attention to the issue of hate violence through an innovative, artistic and compelling theater event.

The Anti-Violence Project's Courage Awards were created over a decade ago to honor outstanding individuals, organizations and corporations whose work on behalf of the LGBTQH communities—particularly on behalf of victims and survivors of bias and hate violence, police misconduct, domestic violence, sexual assault, rape and police misconduct—has made a

profound impact on all of our lives. The evening includes a cocktail reception and a gala dinner for approximately 400 attendees followed by a program featuring the award presentations.

The Anti-Violence Project was founded 28 years ago as a community response to a number of hate-motivated incidents targeting gay men in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. Today, the Anti-Violence Project is the nation's largest victim services assistance and advocacy agency for the LGBTQH communities, and the coordinator of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.

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The New York City Anti-Violence Project is dedicated to eliminating hate violence, sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected communities through counseling, advocacy, organizing and public education.

In 2007, the Anti-Violence Project served over 2,000 victims of violence. The Anti-Violence Project's Safe Dating and Internet Safe Dating Tips, as well as annual reports on hate violence and domestic violence can be accessed online at [www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org) or by calling 212-714-1184. NCAVP's annual Domestic Violence Report was released on Monday, October 20, 2008. For a copy of the report, visit [www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org).

**The Anti-Violence Project provides free and confidential assistance to LGBTQH victims and survivors of violence through its 24-hour bilingual hotline: 212-714-1141**