



September 28, 2009

COMMUNITY ALERT: HELL'S KITCHEN BIAS ATTACK

The New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP) has learned of a bias attack in New York's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood which occurred in the early morning hours on Saturday, September 26, 2009. During this incident, three men were physically assaulted by an individual using anti-gay epithets and hate language toward the victims.

AVP is also concerned about allegations of police inaction by the responding members of the NYPD. The victims have reported that the officers at the scene refused to take a report of the incident. AVP believes that every person who calls the police has the right to expect that the police will fully pursue all allegations. AVP has learned that the police are investigating the incident that occurred and the police response to the incident. We are encouraged by Commissioner Kelly's commitment to investigate and urge the NYPD to make a thorough assessment of how it responds to anti-LGBT hate violence. AVP is working with the Hate Crimes Task Force and the New York City Council Speaker's Office and continues to investigate this attack.

AVP wants people to know that even if they do not feel like they can call the police, they can always call the Anti-Violence Project. Anyone who has experienced an assault or threats of violence should call AVP's 24-hour bilingual hotline at 212-714-1141. AVP knows that hate violence incidents such as this can affect any one of us—even if we are not the direct victims. We encourage community members to contact our hotline at 212-714-1141 and speak with a trained counselor if you feel like you need support. All services are free and confidential.

Please forward this e-mail to your friends and urge them to stay safe.