October 18, 2010

Attack at Julius Bar in the West Village

AVP has just learned of an attack which occurred at Julius Bar, New York's oldest gay bar, on West 10th Street in New York City's West Village neighborhood. On Saturday night, a man who, according to the NYPD, has a known history of luring gay men with the intent to rob and injure them attacked two people at Julius. The suspect is currently in custody.

"This most recent attack underscores our need to stop the hate speech and anti-LGBTQ vitriol that results in this kind of attack. It is unacceptable that perpetrators of anti-LGBTQ violence feel emboldened to come into any neighborhood, including gay-friendly neighborhoods, and attack LGBTQ people because of who we are," said Sharon Stapel, Executive Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project. "We must as a city, and as a country, recognize the real harm and damage that discrimination and anti-LGBTQ hate does to all of us. AVP will not tolerate this kind of violence and we call on all of our friends and allies to speak out against anti-LGBTQ speech of any kind and help us create a world in which LGBTQ people are safe and respected and no longer face this kind of harm."

AVP is working with New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn's office as well as the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force and the New York County District Attorney's Office which are still investigating this matter. AVP will continue to work with these groups as well as bar owners in New York City to respond to this ongoing violence within our neighborhoods and city.

Please visit our Facebook page to stay up to date with information about upcoming community outreach and actions.

AVP encourages you to report any anti-LGBTQ bias, including hate speech, bullying, harassment, and physical violence, to our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-714-1141** where you can speak with a trained counselor and seek the support you need. More information about the New York City Anti-Violence Project can be found at our website and Facebook page.