

# BREAKING NEWS



**July 7, 2010**

## **The New York City Anti-Violence Project condemns ongoing murders of transgender and gender non-conforming people in Puerto Rico**

The New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP) is angered and saddened by a series of horrific murders of transgender and gender non-conforming people in Puerto Rico. This morning, the body of a woman was found in the Embankment area of Loiza. She had suffered multiple gunshot wounds and her body was dumped beside a car.

AVP is monitoring the details of this heinous crime as they emerge and working in coalition with community leaders, local politicians and organizations to address this violence. This murder is the third of its kind that we know of in the past year against transgender and gender non-conforming people and the other victims include Ángel “Angie” González Oquendo, a woman named Ashley from Corozal, and Jorge Steven López Mercado a resident of Caguas.

AVP encourages anyone who has experienced or been affected by an assault or threats of violence to contact our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-714-1141** and speak with a trained counselor if you are seeking support. All services are free and confidential.

More information about The New York City Anti-Violence Project can be found at our website: [www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org) and Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/antiviolence](http://www.facebook.com/antiviolence) .