



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **The New York City Anti-Violence Project Condemns Bias Crime in Bushwick, Brooklyn**

#### **For Immediate Release**

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New York-The New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP) was saddened and outraged to learn of the hate violence incident early on Sunday morning in Bushwick, Brooklyn in which two brothers from Ecuador were attacked by four people who yelled anti-gay and anti-Hispanic epithets. Our thoughts go out to the victims and their family and we remain ready to assist the family in any way we can.

The New York Police Department's Hate Crimes Task Force and the Kings County District Attorney's Office have characterized this crime as a hate crime. "In this case, the use of anti-gay and anti-Latino epithets clearly expresses hatred based on identity, regardless of the victims' actual sexual orientation," said Sharon Stapel, Executive Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project. "An attack on an individual because of their perceived or actual identity is an attack on that person, their family and the community. It cannot be tolerated."

AVP will be helping to organize a vigil for the victims and to denounce hate violence and encourages supporters to visit our website, [avp.org](http://avp.org), or our [Facebook page](#) for more information.

"We at the Anti-Violence Project know too well that many people continue to be victims of violence because of their identity – whether that violence is a result of hatred of race, ethnicity

or sexual orientation,” said Stapel, “and we urge New York City communities to come together to denounce this violence and work together to create a safer city for all communities.”

The Anti-Violence Project encourages anyone who has information about this deplorable act to come forward to the police or by calling our free and confidential 24 hour bilingual hotline at 212-714-1141. Violence predicated on hatred of perceived or actual sexual orientation and ethnicity is not acceptable and we commend Speaker Quinn’s office, the NYPD and the DA’s Office for working so quickly to provide support to the victims and their families.

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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**