



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **The New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project Announces New Executive Director**

#### **For Immediate Release**

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It is with tremendous excitement that the Anti-Violence Project announces that Sharon Stapel, Esq. will join the staff as the agency's new Executive Director on July 7, 2008.

Ms. Stapel comes to the Anti-Violence Project from South Brooklyn Legal Services (SBLS) where she served as the Director of the Family/Domestic Violence Unit. Prior to working at SBLS, Ms. Stapel supervised the Legal Aid Society's family law units in the Bronx and Harlem and co-supervised the city-wide Domestic Violence Project, which she created as a NAPIL/Equal Justice Fellow in the Bronx in 1998 and obtained funding to expand city-wide in 2000. Ms. Stapel has worked with thousands of survivors of violence since she began twenty years ago as a hotline volunteer at a domestic violence shelter and she has dedicated her career to anti-violence work.

Ms. Stapel is also involved in numerous city, state and national coalitions including: the NYC LGBTQ Domestic Violence Task Force, the New York State LGBT Domestic Violence Network, the American Bar Association's ***Legal Assistance and Education for LGBT Victims of Domestic Violence Project***, the Lawyers Committee Against Domestic Violence, and the NYC Bar Association's Domestic Violence Committee. Through these coalitions, Ms. Stapel has

worked to create legislative and policy change to advance and protect the rights of LGBT communities. Ms. Stapel was an adjunct professor of law at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law from 2004 to 2005 and an adjunct assistant professor at Hunter College from 2005 to 2006. Throughout her esteemed career, Ms. Stapel has specialized in working with and on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence and has trained and written extensively about these issues.

This is an exciting time for the Anti-Violence Project and we are thrilled to welcome Ms. Stapel as the agency's new Executive Director. We look forward to working together in the future to continue the Anti-Violence Project's critical work to ensure that all individuals have the right to live without fear.

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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.

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