



New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault

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R&B Singer, Activist Monifah Carter Joins The NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault and Group of Youth to Prevent Sexual Violence in NYC

[New York] May 18th 2016 at 8:30 AM at Battery Gardens, the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault (“the Alliance”) will host its 7th Annual Celebration of Excellence where the Alliance honors six extraordinary professionals who have tirelessly dedicated their career to serving victims of sexual violence and further preventing in New York City.

The recipients of 2016 Lydia Martinez Multidisciplinary Collaboration Award are: Rape Crisis Professional, **Stacia Buckner**, Safe Horizon, Staten Island, Law Enforcement Officer, **Det. Victor Paribello**, NYPD Special Victims, Brooklyn, Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner, **Elmer Siong**, Elmhurst Hospital, Volunteer Advocate, **Bryan Aston**, New York Presbyterian Weill Cornell, Prosecutor, **ADA Jennifer Gaffney**, Manhattan District Attorney's Office Sex Crimes and Preventionist, **Zeinab Eyega**, Sauti Yetu. This uplifting event will also feature a short documentary of the awardees' inspiring stories in supporting the pursuit of justice and healing.

The event will feature a special Keynote Speaker, Monifah Carter who is a grammy-nominated recording artist and star of TvOne's highly successful docu-series R&B Divas Atlanta. Monifah is an East Harlem, New York native who is dedicated to advocating for the awareness and cessation of sexual violence against women and the LGBTQ community. Monifah states, "I believe emphatically that it's my responsibility as a human being and most importantly a grateful sexual assault survivor, to share my testimony of hope, healing and forgiveness. Other survivors must know they're not alone and there's life after victimization." She aims to be a voice for young adults and women who are affected by senseless violence and bullying. Monifah understands the importance of healthy self-esteem and self-image development through the healing she has attained in her own life, which has birthed her movement committed to self-love, "Evolve or Die".

This year's theme is "Working With Youth To Prevent Sexual Violence in NYC". The Alliance has been exploring creative ways to prevent sexual violence among youth in marginalized communities including South Asian, Black, and Latino/a communities. With youth leaders from each community, the Alliance aims to create a social media campaign that deconstructs social and cultural norms that perpetuate sexual violence and further raises awareness in New York City. The event will feature a group of South Asian youth who have been serving on the advisory board to the campaign. Mary Haviland, Executive Director of the Alliance offered,

“Youth from these communities have been working with a creative media team for several months. We are excited to share this work and to celebrate leaders of the sexual assault community again this year. This event gets high marks for being informative and moving. We are delighted to bring this event to the NYC community for the 7th year!”

The Celebration will also bring two woman leaders from New York City. Melissa Mark-Viverito, the Speaker of New York City Council and Commissioner of Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence, Cecile Noel will share their visions and initiatives to prevent sexual violence among youth in diverse communities.

The Alliance has been implementing innovative prevention strategies in New York City as one of the six Regional Centers of Primary Prevention since 2015. The Alliance envisions the city free from sexual violence. Tickets (\$60/ticket) can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/1XrSOc1>

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