



**New York City Alliance  
Against Sexual Assault**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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[New York] Tomorrow April 27<sup>th</sup> at 11am, in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault will join Denim Day NYC at the steps of City Hall in solidarity with survivors of sexual assault who are often invisible.

Mary Haviland, Executive Director states “sexual violence is one of the most pervasive crimes yet it is highly under-reported because of social and cultural stigma associated with it. Hence victims of sexual assault are often invisible. In particular, young women of color, LGBTQI people, individuals with disabilities are at higher risk

She adds, “we have to reduce disparities in access to support services for victims and further deconstruct soc take responsibilities in preventing violence as a community. Denim Day brings together advocates, elected officials, and other partners to speak out against sexual violence.”

Denim Day NYC is a coalition of community agencies, elected officials, students, and volunteers united to promote awareness around the issue of sexual assault. Denim Day grew out of a case in which a rape conviction was overturned because the judge reasoned the victim’s tight jeans meant that she had to have helped her assailant remove them, implying consent. People were outraged all over the world and wearing jeans became an international symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes and myths surrounding sexual assault. Denim Day started in Los Angeles and has grown into an international movement. Denim Day NYC started in 2010 with a collaborative of three agencies and has grown to more than 40 agencies uniting to promote awareness around the issue of sexual assault.

A group of students and local dancers will gather around Cadman Plaza Park, to walk over the Brooklyn bridge On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Denim Day NYC



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DDNYC puts a spotlight on the invisibility of the survivor with our “I am not invisible” campaign. Survivors can feel invisible to the perpetrators who objectify them. Sexual abuse survivors can feel that who they are as a person has been invalidated and they have just become the sum of parts; they have been rendered invisible. Their spirit, soul, essence ceased to matter along with their right to self-determination.

There are also stereotypes of the kind of person that we think of who are sexually abused, but we know that not to be true; there are invisible populations that suffer abuse: young, old, rich, poor, African American, Asian, Latino, White, disabled, men, LGBTQ, immigrants, and the list goes on...

Today we ask you to go to our website and take our pledge, a vote in solidarity with the survivors so that our campaign can reach even more people with positive messages of hope and most of all, see ALL people, as who they are, whole, individuals with the right to make their own decisions about their own body.