



New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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8 Extraordinary Professionals Dedicated to Serving Victims of Sexual Assault Will Be Recognized at the 5th Annual Celebration of Excellence

[New York] On Friday March 14, 2014, the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault (the Alliance) will be joined by colleagues, friends, and supporters to celebrate its 5th Annual Celebration of Excellence. This

The Celebration is to honor and commemorate extraordinary professionals who are receiving the **Lydia Martinez Multidisciplinary Collaboration Awards** who are involved in the coordinated response efforts of sexual violence New York City. For those of who are not familiar with Lydia Martinez, as a Special Victims Detective, she spearheaded multidisciplinary initiatives aimed at improving systems response to victims, and helped to set benchmarks for excellent law enforcement response in the area of sexual violence. In her honor, 2014 Awardees include:

- **Johanna Hernandez**, *Supervisor of the Child Abuse / Sex Crimes Bureau, Bronx DA's Office*
- **Dr. Lorraine Giordano**, *SAFE / Crime Victims Treatment Center, Mt. Sinai Roosevelt Hospital*
- **Richard Santangelo**, *Special Victims Squad - Queens, Retired / NYPD*
- **Tobie Buford**, *Volunteer Advocate / Bronx Sexual Assault Response Team*
- **Edwina Kee**, *Social Worker / Crime Victims Treatment Center, Mt. Sinai Roosevelt Hospital*
- **Danielle Elleman, Mora Fernandez & Chauntel Gerdes**, *Sexual Violence Preventionists / Project Envision*

This year, the Alliance will also feature a special keynote speaker **Anu Bhagwati**, Executive Director of Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) who will talk about sexual violence in military in the United State.

Mary Haviland, Executive Director of the Alliance states "Nearly 1 in 5 women have been raped in their lifetime while 1 in 71 men have been raped in their lifetime. Yet it is one of the most under-reported crimes. 2 in 3 rape cases do not get reported. Sexual Violence is a serious public health issue and we have to address it as a whole community in order to end it."

Tickets are still available for

The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault

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The mission of the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault is to prevent sexual violence and reduce the harm it causes through education, research and advocacy.