

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 12, 2025**

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**ADAMS ADMINISTRATION MARKS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH (TDVAM) WITH LETTER TO NYC PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

*NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) hosts **Intergenerational Healthy Relationship Summit** to build healthier communities*

*ENDGBV partners with NYC Public Schools to share free city-wide resources to 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders during **Respect for All Week***

NEW YORK – In a letter to 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders at NYC Public Schools today, the Adams Administration underscored the importance of building and maintaining healthy relationships to mark **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM)**.

**About one in nine teens in NYC have experienced physical violence in a dating relationship**, according to the NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey, and the city is dedicated to lowering those numbers as part of its commitment to public safety. The Adams administration has made one of the largest—if not the largest—investment in free voluntary programming for people who have been harmful or abusive.

ENDGBV will host a free **Intergenerational Healthy Relationship Summit** to empower New Yorkers to connect to community-based organizations and engage in activities that build more supportive connections through workshops, panels and a resource fair.

[>>>Register for the Intergenerational Healthy Relationship Summit<<<](#)

WHEN: Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

WHERE: 208 W. 13<sup>th</sup> St., Manhattan

TIME: 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*Anyone under 18 attending without a chaperone should [have this consent form signed](#).*

Other resources available to students include:

- **[Respect First](#)** – A free program for young people (ages 13-21) that helps them understand their actions and make positive decisions in relationships. Participants also receive a **stipend**. This program is currently available in the Bronx, with plans to expand citywide.
- **[Respect For All \(RFA\)](#)** – An initiative in New York City Public Schools which promotes inclusive, safe environments where all students feel valued and supported. Families can also access helpful resources. **Respect for All Week is February 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>.**
- **[NYC Hope Directory](#)** has resources – including **Day One**, an organization that helps young people (ages 24 and under) prevent and escape dating

abuse and domestic violence. an organization that helps young people (ages 24 and under) prevent and escape dating abuse and domestic violence.

“It’s important for us to break cycles of violence as early as possible,” said **Saloni Sethi, Commissioner of the NYC Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence**, who co-authored the letter to students. “By reaching out directly to students in school, we are meeting them where they are and encouraging them to have early conversations about building healthy relationships to set them up for success inside and outside the classroom.”

“As we acknowledge Respect for All Week and Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, it is essential to remember that the important work of supporting our students and combatting domestic and gender-based violence must continue year-round in our schools and our communities,” said **Schools Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos**, who co-authored the letter to students. “I am grateful to our partners across the city who are helping to make sure our students know about the resources available to them.”

### **About the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence**

The Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) develops policies and programs, provides training and prevention education, conducts research and evaluations, and performs community outreach. We collaborate with City agencies and community stakeholders to ensure access to inclusive services for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence (GBV). GBV can include intimate partner and family violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. ENDGBV also operates the New York City Family Justice Centers, co-located multidisciplinary service centers providing vital social services, civil legal, and criminal justice assistance for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence and their children—all under one roof. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/ENDGBV](https://nyc.gov/ENDGBV). Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

### **About New York City Public Schools**

New York City Public Schools is a testament to the history and impact of urban education in the United States. With over 1,600 schools spread across five boroughs, the system is made up of approximately 1.1 million students and staff, making it the largest public school system in the nation. These schools employ more than 75,000 teachers who deliver a rich tapestry of educational experiences to a student body that reflects the city’s vibrant and diverse cultural heritage. This network of educational institutions represents not just the scale of New York City’s commitment to public education, but also its dedication to fostering a learning environment that is as dynamic and diverse as the city itself.

**Dear Students,**

Building and maintaining healthy relationships is key to your success—not just in school, but in life. This February, we're recognizing **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM)** and giving you important tools that can empower you to create strong, healthy relationships and safer communities in our city.

When we think about healthy relationships, a few key words stand out: **communication, respect, responsibility, consent, independence, boundaries, safety, trust, and equality.**

Unfortunately, not everyone experiences relationships based on these values. Recent data from the NYC Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that **about 1 in 9 teens in NYC** have experienced **physical violence** in a dating relationship. Some groups, like **LGBTQ+ youth and pregnant or parenting teens**, are at even higher risk of abuse.

If you or someone you know is in an unhealthy or violent relationship, we have resources available:

- **Respect First** – A free program for young people (ages 13-21) that helps them understand their actions and make positive decisions. Participants also receive a **stipend**. Currently available in the Bronx, with plans to expand citywide. **Register at [tinyurl.com/RegisterRespectFirst](https://tinyurl.com/RegisterRespectFirst).**
- **Respect For All (RFA)** – An initiative in NYC schools which promotes inclusive, safe environments where all students feel valued and supported. Families can also access helpful resources. **Respect for All Week is February 10th – 14th.**
- **NYC Hope Directory** has resources – including **Day One**, an organization that helps young people (ages 24 and under) prevent and escape dating abuse and domestic violence. **Go to [tinyurl.com/NYCHopeDirectory](https://tinyurl.com/NYCHopeDirectory).**

Follow us **@nycendgbv** across **Instagram, Facebook and X!** We'll be sharing important info all month, including what healthy relationships look like and how to spot the warning signs of an unhealthy one.

## Upcoming Event:

**February 13th – Register for the free Intergenerational Healthy Relationships Summit at [tinyurl.com/IHRSummit](https://tinyurl.com/IHRSummit).** Hosted by the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence and the Youth Leadership Council. You’ll learn valuable skills for building strong relationships. **Free food provided!** If you're under 18 and coming without a chaperone, be sure to get a **consent form linked on the registration page signed by a parent or guardian.**

**You deserve safe, healthy relationships that respect your individuality and help you grow.** Let’s work together to build the skills that will set you up for success in the future.

Best,



**Saloni Sethi**

*Commissioner*

NYC Mayor’s Office to End Domestic  
and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV)



**Melissa Aviles-Ramos**

Chancellor

New York City Public Schools