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## **NRCDV to Join NY Task Force on Domestic Violence During COVID-19 Pandemic**

ALBANY, NEW YORK – New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has appointed Farzana Safiullah, CEO of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV), to the newly formed [Pandemic Emergency Taskforce on Domestic Violence](#) which was launched by the Secretary to the Governor, Melissa Derosa and the New York State Council on Women & Girls.

“NRCDV is delighted to join Governor Cuomo’s task force to offer survivor centered strategies to enhance domestic violence services to survivors in the state of New York,” said Farzana Safiullah. “We join a panel of experts from a wide array of organizations that serve survivors and advocates. The mission of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence is to strengthen and transform efforts to end domestic violence and I am thrilled to participate in the task force that is looking at transforming traditional responses to survivors of domestic violence.”

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the necessary social distancing guidelines, domestic violence victims are even more vulnerable and unsafe while isolated at home without being able to get away from their abuser.

The task force has been created due to a spike in reported domestic violence incidents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Calls to New York state's domestic violence hotline have increased 30 percent in April compared to last year, and calls increased 18 percent from February to March 2020. State Police report domestic violence incident calls increased 15 percent in March compared to last year. The NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services states that large police departments outside of New York City have reported a 12 percent increase in intimate partner victimizations for the first quarter of 2020.

About NRCDV: The [National Resource Center on Domestic Violence](#) celebrates 25 years of strengthening the capacity of programs responding to domestic violence survivors and their families by promoting effective programs, policies, research and engagement in prevention. Established with funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), NRCDV’s mission is to strengthen and transform efforts to end domestic violence. NRCDV is proud to collaborate with other activists and organizations committed to gender, racial, economic and social justice. NRCDV is committed to leading boldly in centering and amplifying the voices of traditionally marginalized communities in their work to attain safe and thriving communities for all.

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