

**DPI/NGO Chat Series: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 – 2:30-4PM**  
United Nations Department of Information (DPI) Non-governmental Organization  
(NGO) Resource Center on 801 First Avenue – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Entrance is on East 45<sup>th</sup> Street

## **Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Violence**

Concept Note by Carl Murrell & Margo LaZaro

**Intro:** Swati Dave – UN/DPI

**Co-facilitators:**

**Carl Murrell, Bahai' International Center**

**Margo LaZaro, NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY**

**Guest Speakers:**

**Marlon Walker with ConnectNYC**

**Sharene Roig with ConnectNYC**

Domestic violence is a global pandemic. According to United Nations Statistics Division, seven out of ten women suffer from abuse and violence in their lifetime. Studies also show that a lot of the violence is not inflicted by strangers, but by loved ones at home. We hear of horrific incidences of domestic physical abuse from world over, domestic violence does also encompass psychological and emotional abuse. With the latter, victims often blame themselves for their situation. Domestic violence is also inflicted on children and men and it is often a secret kept behind closed doors within families across a wide spectrum of societies. However, this strengthens our resolve to say all forms of violence MUST stop. As part of civil society, it is imperative that we stand together to *Break the Cycle of Domestic Violence*.

At the DPI/NGO Tuesday Chat Series on 14 November 2017, we will hear ConnectNYC, an organization that works extensively in helping victims of domestic abuse. ConnectNYC understands and believes that domestic violence impacts individuals and families and the communities in which they live and work in. Community involvement is integral to CONNECT's mission of preventing and eliminating domestic abuse. CONNECT created the Community Empowerment Program to support and facilitate community based solutions.

To fully achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its mandate to "Leave No One Behind"- the domestic violence must end. The United Nations has undertaken several initiatives to respond to this crisis. Two of the targets for [SDG 5](#), [SDG 3](#) and [SDG 16](#) have specific targets that underscore the protection of all lives against violence. Additionally, initiatives such as the [Beijing Platform of Action](#), the [Vienna Declaration and Program for Action](#), the [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women](#), the mandate of the [Special Rapporteur](#) on Violence against Women, Commission on the Status of Women (the [Agreed Conclusions](#)), General Recommendations [12](#) and [19](#) of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women ([CEDAW](#)) are also in place to continue the fight to eliminate domestic violence.

Experts underscore the significant role NGOs play in curbing domestic violence. Currently, many NGOs across the globe are working towards ending domestic violence by remaining active in influencing jurisdictional processes and by providing victims and survivors with services. However, there is a dire need for a stronger presence of NGOs in many parts of the world. To mitigate domestic violence, NGOs can take direct action by increasing their outreach efforts beyond local communities, and push authorities for more accountability. Furthermore, NGOs can collaborate with other organizations who work in the field of ending domestic violence, which could help in increasing their outreach efforts and have a stronger and effective presence in parliamentary actions.

Aside from being participants at legislative processes calling for prevention policies, NGOs can also marshal the masses to come together to stand against domestic violence and enhance efforts to provide support for victims. Undertaking such activism can help in changing attitudes towards domestic violence in societies and diverse cultures and stimulate public opinion favoring stricter laws against perpetrators of such crimes.