

NYSCADV

NEW YORK STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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To the Editor;

Father's Day is upon us! The day in which we tend to celebrate and honor dads, and the impact of fathers on our lives. As a dad/dads, I/we acknowledge the roles that dads can play to be a positive force in our families and our communities.

Gender-based violence is both widespread and common. In NY alone, domestic violence occurs in 1 – 5 homes, and is prevalent in 1 – 3 teen and young adult dating relationships. As fathers of both daughters and sons, we are deeply troubled by this statistic. None of us, as dads, want to have our daughters or sons be exposed to domestic violence in our homes or the homes of their friends, nor do we want our daughters and sons to experience dating violence in their relationships. We want our daughters, and *all* daughters, to be strong and powerful people; and for our sons, *all* sons, to be the kind of men that we'd have our daughters or sons date. As dads, we have a particular opportunity and responsibility to help raise our daughters to be this kind of strong powerful people and our sons to be kind, respectful and equitable.

We understand that gender-based violence to be based on gender inequality and as such, one of the most effective efforts to prevent gender-based violence is promoting and advancing gender equality. Fathers, as men, can help to promote gender equality in significant ways; but as fathers, we can also support our children, and promote additional efforts to achieve gender equality.

On this father's day, we call on all dads to join us in "Because We're Dads" an initiative launched by the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) and _____ (local program) to reach and mobilize dads to take an active role in promoting gender equality. This is one of the best ways that we, as dads, can be a dad.

More information about the initiative can be found here: <https://www.nyscadv.org/what-we-do/prevention-toolkit/because-were-dads.html>

Happy Father's Day!

Signed.....