



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NOW-NYC Urges Senate to Vote to Remove Hiram Monserrate *Elected Leaders Must Be Held to the Highest Standard*

New York, NY, January 14, 2010 – The National Organization for Women of New York City firmly supports the Senate Select Committee’s recommendation of expulsion and urges the New York State Senate leadership to promptly bring Senator Hiram Monserrate’s removal from office to a vote.

“We urge Majority Leader Sampson to move quickly to bring this to a vote,” said Sonia Ossorio, president of the National Organization for Women of New York City. “The full Senate deserves the right to vote on Hiram Monserrate’s worthiness to continue to serve the people of New York.”

The New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence states that well over 100 pieces of legislation regarding domestic violence have been signed into law over the last ten years, and elected officials must be held to the highest standard set forth by this comprehensive body of law.

Ossorio also states: “Domestic violence is a crime that is poisonous to our community and families. Allowing an elected leader to walk away from the crime of assaulting his intimate partner would be an outrageous travesty of justice and the wrong message to the community.”

A 2008 report by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, reports that nearly half of fatal violence against women (44%) was confirmed to be the result of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). In 2005, nearly 4,000 NYC women were treated in emergency departments for injuries that they acknowledged were due to IPV. Many more were treated for assault injuries of unknown origin.

“The amount of domestic violence in our city is staggering,” Ossorio said. “The problem transcends class, race and age. Prevention, protection and prosecution are the ways in which we can begin to see a change. This high-profile case of intimate partner violence sheds a harsh spotlight on a crime that is ravaging our community. We went after crack dealers with harsh sentences during the crack epidemic, we need to go after abusers as vigorously.”

The National Organization for Women is the nation’s largest organization working to advance women’s rights and improve women’s lives. The New York City Chapter of NOW, founded in 1966, is one of the largest chapters in the country with over 5,000 members locally and 35,000 statewide. NOW-NYC works to protect women’s reproductive choices, end violence against women and eliminate sex discrimination in our schools, workplaces, and the justice system in New York.

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