



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: February 9, 2010
Contact: Sonia Ossorio
212.627.9898

NOW-NYC Urges New York Senate to Expel Hiram Monserrate *Elected Leaders Must Be Held to the Highest Standard*

New York, NY, February 9, 2010 – The National Organization for Women - New York City fully endorses the Senate Select Committee’s recommendation of expulsion for Senator Hiram Monserrate and urges Senate members to consider the New York Legislature’s long-held commitment and many accomplishments that have led to our proud “zero tolerance policy” for domestic violence, when they cast their vote.

“Allowing Hiram Monserrate to remain a lawmaker in a state with an established zero tolerance domestic violence policy is a slap in the face to all New Yorkers and to the distinguished record of the New York State Legislature, which has passed more than 100 anti-domestic violence bills,” said Sonia Ossorio, Executive Director, NOW-NYC.

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. “This high-profile case of intimate partner violence sheds a harsh spotlight on a crime that is ravaging our community. I hope the New York Senate has the courage to vote Hiram Monserrate out of office and maintain its distinguished record fighting domestic violence.”

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 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.

###