

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New Yorkers to Rally against Catcalls, Groping, and Assault on Saturday**

New York City – By age 12, nearly one in four girls experience unwanted sexual comments, leers, stalking, and groping at the hands of strangers while in public spaces. By age 19, the percentage rises to nearly 90. Many LGBTQ individuals also face harassment and violence in public spaces simply because of their sexual orientation or gender expression.

Hundreds of New Yorkers will come together and rally against this harassment on Saturday, March 24, at Judson Memorial Church, 1 p.m. More than a dozen community leaders, educators, and college and high school students will share stories and ideas for creating safer communities.

City Council Member Julissa Ferreras, chair of the City Council Women's Issues Committee, who organized a City Council hearing on street harassment in 2010, will speak first.

"We must stand together against street harassment, particularly harassment of women, girls, and the LGBTQ community, because it limits their rights and freedoms to simply walk around the city," stated Council Member Julissa Ferreras. "The first step to ending street harassment is first acknowledging that there is, in fact, a problem. We must begin to change societal attitudes that allow women to be treated as second class citizens or as nothing more than sexual objects."

Other speakers include Linda Sarsour, the Executive Director of the Arab American League; Lucia Riviuccio, Director of Steps to End Family Violence; Natalie Richman of Hollaback; and Illeana Jimenez, a Fulbright Scholar and Teacher at Elizabeth Irwin High School. Three students will share their stories.

The rally is just one of dozens of events occurring worldwide in March for International Anti-Street Harassment Week, a program of Stop Street Harassment. Rallies, discussions, street theater, and forums on the topic are also occurring in 21 countries, including Argentina, Canada, Germany, Egypt, and India.

"Street harassment is a pervasive form of violence that threatens girls, women, and LGBTQ folks every day of the year," said Oraia Reid, Executive Director of RightRides for Women's Safety, and one of the organizers of the rally. "RightRides is proud to stand in solidarity this week with thousands of activists and organizations around the world to challenge social norms around sexual harassment. Together, we can speak out with a clear message that street harassment is unacceptable."

The rally runs from 1-3 p.m. at Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square South.

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*[RightRides for Women's Safety](#) builds safer communities by ending gender-based harassment and sexual assault. Since 2004, RightRides has worked towards this goal through community organizing and offering direct service, safety education and advocacy programs.*

*Stop Street Harassment is a virtual resource center where visitors can access lists of [statistics](#), [articles](#), [films](#), and [campaigns](#) around street harassment as well as [ideas for action](#). Stop Street Harassment provides people with a place to [share their stories](#). [International Anti-Street Harassment Week](#) is one of Stop Street Harassment's campaigns.*