



# Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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OVW  
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## **OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL CLASS OF THE ADVOCACY LEARNING CENTER**

WASHINGTON – The Office on Violence Against Women announced today the inaugural class of the Advocacy Learning Center, a program created to improve the skills and abilities of advocates to be a powerful force in the movement to end violence against women. The Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women awarded a \$3.5 million technical assistance grant in Fiscal Year 2009 to Praxis International of St. Paul, Minn., to create the Advocacy Learning Center.

“The work of advocates is critical to the work of ending violence against women and providing a life line to victims,” said OVW Acting Director Catherine Pierce. “Advocates have long been a source of hope and support to survivors in the aftermath of trauma, and we will support them and create a network of strong advocates that will work together for generations to come through the Advocacy Learning Center.”

The first class of trainees assembled the week of October 25-30 and included 50 participants from 17 organizations, representing 12 states and one U.S. territory: Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Northern Mariana Islands, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington and Vermont. Working with other advocates, participants will develop new ways to define and structure advocacy, from engaging and working with survivors to strategizing and acting to change systems and community responses, and discover what has made other social change efforts successful. The full list of participants is attached to this release.

OVW, a component of the Department of Justice, provides leadership in developing the nation’s capacity to reduce violence against women through the implementation of VAWA and subsequent legislation. Created in 1995, OVW administers financial and technical assistance to communities across the country that are developing programs, policies and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

For more information, please visit [www.ovw.usdoj.gov](http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov) or [www.praxisinternational.org](http://www.praxisinternational.org).

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## Organizations Participating in the Advocacy Learning Center

### Connecticut

<b><i>Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Anna Doroghazi Tina Greaves Ayana Nadira Joanne Zannoni
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### Iowa

<b><i>Monsoon United Asian Women of Iowa</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Lata D'Mello Jennifer Srey Mira Yusef
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<b><i>Seeds of Hope</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Lucy Hrubes Beth Jackley Rose Loggins
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### Kansas

<b><i>Friends of Yates, Inc.</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Hattie King Rasmita Patro Shirley Wickliffe
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### Maine

<b><i>Battered Women's Project</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Francine Garland Stark Kristina Wallingford Karan Wotton
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<b><i>Spruce Run Association</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Amanda Cost Johnnie Walker
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### Michigan

<b><i>Relief After Violent Encounter, Inc.</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Rhoda Hacker Deborahope Hause Rachael Wineland
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**Minnesota**

<b><i>American Indian Community Housing Organization</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Bree Bussey Phoebe Smith Desiree Urrutia
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<b><i>LA-MANO, Inc.</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Linda Cano Victoria Salas
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**Missouri**

<b><i>Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Jessie Funk Alison Jones-Lockwood Monica Mahin Megan Peterson
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**New Mexico**

<b><i>Enlace Comunitario</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Elizabeth Luevano Natalie Smith
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**Northern Mariana Islands**

<b><i>Karidat-Guma' Esperansa</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Sr. Stella Mangona Keiko Odashiro Laurie Ogumoro
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**Pennsylvania**

<b><i>Bridge Project</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Karla Fonner Jodiann Solito
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**Texas**

<b><i>SafePlace</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Narissa Adams Linda Herbert Mary Laake Sandra Molinari
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**Washington**

<b><i>Tuwadug Family Services</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Marie Gouley Patty LeClair Cheryl Miller
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<b><i>Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Marisol Avila Summer Carrick Tyra Lindquist Nan Stoops
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**Vermont**

<b><i>Women's Crisis Center</i></b>	<i>Participants:</i> Alyssa Golden Vickie Sterling
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DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE USE THE CONTACTS IN THE MESSAGE OR CALL THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT 202-514-2007.