Our Fair City: A Comprehensive Blueprint for Gender and Sexual Justice in New York City
A Report by the Center for Gender & Sexuality Law

10 Key Facts about Gender and Sexual Injustice in NYC

1. NYC has only one Title IX administrator for more than 1 million students in over 1,700 public schools despite strongly worded federal law prohibiting sex discrimination (including sex and gender-based harassment) in public education.

2. Students endure an epidemic of sex-based bullying in NYC schools: 70.5% of NYC public school students grades 6-12 reported that they witnessed sexual teasing in their schools (e.g., "slut" and "fag"); 63% reported seeing purposeful touching, pinching, or brushing against a person sexually; and 60% reported observing sexually suggestive looks, gestures, or body language. A full 39% reported witnessing someone being leaned over or cornered.

3. Nearly a quarter of New York City's elders live in poverty. LGBTQ older adults are even more likely to be impoverished and face hunger and malnutrition.

4. Although it's estimated that at least 40% of NYC's homeless youth are LGBTQ, there are currently only 253 beds dedicated for LGBTQ youth in the city's shelter system. A conservative estimate would require at least 6 times that many beds to reasonably meet the actual need. There are at least 1,520 LGBTQ homeless youth on the street every night.

5. From 2005-2013, 30% of prostitution-related arrests were brought under the vague and overbroad criminal statute, Loitering for the Purposes of Prostitution. The "evidence" for these arrests typically includes wearing a short skirt, engaging in conversation with people walking by, or standing in an area where there isn't a bus stop, taxi stand, or open store – none of these behaviors should be considered, or are, criminal. In 2013, just 12% of those arrested for loitering with an intent to engage in prostitution were white, while 61% were Black and 25% were Latino. These figures are strikingly similar to the data demonstrating the racial bias inherent in the stop-and-frisk policy.

6. While both New York City and New York State law prohibit sexual orientation based discrimination in employment, workplace bias against gay men and lesbians remains unacceptably common. In NYC, where the youth unemployment is nearly 20%, LGBTQ youth face even steeper obstacles to finding work since they are vulnerable to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Nationally, 21% of LGBTQ respondents in a PEW study reported being discriminated against in hiring, pay, or promotions. Employment discrimination against transgender workers in New York State results in costs of $1.5 to $7 million in Medicaid and housing expenditures each year.

7. The NYPD does not have an official policy prohibiting police officers from engaging in sexual misconduct toward civilians (for example, extorting sexual favors for leniency, rape of suspects in police facilities, sexually assaulting civilians when they request police assistance) nor is there even adequate training on this issue at the police academy.

8. Between October 2005 and December 2010, one in five of the adults detained in NYC by the federal govern-ment (ICE) for alleged immigration infractions were parents whose children were U.S. citizens. Almost all of these parents (87%) were deported. Many of these children end up in the foster care system because of their parents' deportation. With approximately 28,000 children in New York City foster care in 2011, at an annual cost of $36,000 per child, these deportations cost the city $12.6 million in foster care services alone.

9. While the overall crime rate in New York City has dropped impressively in recent years, the incidence of sexual and gender-based violence has remained stubbornly and unacceptably high. In 2012, 1,162 rapes were reported in NYC, a rise of 6.4% from the previous year, whereas the murder rate in 2012 dropped almost 19% that same year. In 2012, 30,428 domestic violence reports were filed with the NYPD, marking a troubling in-crease over prior years. There were 62 family-related homicides in 2013 and 86% of these cases had no current order of protection.

10. While HIV has become a manageable, chronic disease for more affluent New Yorkers, for low income New Yorkers the epidemic is getting worse. The NYC Health Department's most recent data show that the over-whelming majority of males living with HIV/AIDS are low-income men of color. The demographics for women newly diagnosed with HIV are even worse: close to 90% are low-income women of color. And while the gay community celebrates amazing victories gaining the right to marry in New York State and 17 other jurisdictions, men who have sex with men comprise over 80% of new diagnoses, and one in five HIV positive men report having had unprotected anal intercourse with a male partner in the previous 12 months, a number that is rising, not shrinking.

Our Fair City: A Comprehensive Blueprint for Gender and Sexual Justice in New York City documents everyday incidents of gender and sexual injustice that push already vulnerable New Yorkers to the margins of society. Written in close collaboration with dozens of advocacy and direct-service organizations, *Our Fair City* offers the de Blasio administration comprehensive analysis of the many ways city policies and practices perpetuate gender and sexual discrimination, as well as recommendations for immediate and near term actions to eliminate such injustices.

Read the full report at web.law.columbia.edu/gender-sexuality/our-fair-city

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The Center for Gender & Sexuality Law and the Sexuality and Gender Law Clinic have established Columbia Law School as the leading law school in the country for the study of gender and sexuality law and policy. Through our faculty's scholarship, our teaching, and our commitment to training lawyers to serve the public interest, we take seriously the role of the law in shaping and framing public values.