



Battered Women's Resource Center
Voices of Women Organizing Project
Po Box 20181, Greeley Square Station, New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212-696-1481 Fax: 212-696-1482
www.vowbwrc.org info@vowbwrc.org

The Battered Women's Resource Center
helps women in New York City in several important ways:

- ✓ Women who are survivors of domestic violence and are looking for opportunities to stand up and make a difference will enhance their skills and confidence through our *Voices of Women (VOW) Organizing Project*. Survivors become powerful advocates who can influence policy affecting battered women and children. Participating in VOW is the next level in the healing process for many women & further enables them to **reclaim their independence**. VOW takes a **proactive and preventive approach** to working with battered women. This results in the **need for less social services**. VOW members document system failures, develop policy papers and recommendations for improvements, meet with high level policy makers, commissioners and elected officials and train service providers to better meet the needs of battered women and their children.
- ✓ Our advocacy efforts improve services and the systems' response to women currently being battered and their children. VOW's advocacy has resulted in more housing options for battered women through the NYC Housing Authority; a better understanding of the needs of battered women by hundreds of staff members of City agencies, social services, child welfare & criminal justice systems and medical students; and improved services for disabled callers to the domestic violence hotline. **Efforts to end domestic violence in our communities need to be informed by those most affected by it.**
- ✓ VOW members efforts to **educate the public, especially teenagers, prevent domestic violence**. VOW members, all survivors of domestic violence trained in public speaking, are available to speak to teens, college students, community based programs, head start and day care centers, tenant associations, hospitals, etc. VOW members provide a moving and effective portrait of domestic violence, the failures of the systems to adequately respond and practical advice from someone "who has been there". Many of our members were abused in their relationships as teens and are eager to **help young people avoid similar experiences**.
- ✓ VOW supports survivors so that **trained, effective speakers** are available to testify at hearings and press conferences on short notice. Our members have testified on a range of issues affecting battered women, including: the critical need for affordable housing; the effects of housing discrimination; the need for a fatality review board; needed improvements to the Child Welfare System (ACS), etc.