Dear Incoming Student:

Welcome to Harvard Law School! We are writing to let you know about an important student group called Students Organized for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (STOPDV). STOPDV represents Harvard Law students who are committed to raising awareness about issues of domestic violence and sexual assault and to educating themselves and others about violence against women. We hope that next year you will choose to join us by participating in our activities or serving as a 1L representative on our Executive Board.

STOPDV’s goals include:

- **Educating and training** HLS students about domestic violence and sexual assault;
- **Examining** sexual and domestic violence in both a global and local context through a series of conferences, speakers and advocacy projects;
- **Serving as a resource** to enable HLS students to work on domestic and sexual violence issues from a variety of perspectives, including through direct legal advocacy, awareness raising, research opportunities and organizing on a local and national level;
- **Advocating and raising funds** for local domestic violence and sexual assault prevention programs and services, as well as for services affected by Hurricane Katrina.

How you can participate in STOPDV:

- **Research** on sexual exploitation and abuse, lethality indicators in domestic violence homicides and acquaintance rape prevention;
- **Outreach** for October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Pass out purple ribbons, distribute DV statistics, collect petition signatures, raise money for DV shelters;
- **Advocate** for legislation that will provide greater safety to domestic violence victims and hold batterers accountable, and for improved campus sexual assault policies and prevention programs;
- **Volunteer** at a local women’s shelter;
- **Learn and Connect** by meeting other HLS students, hearing from speakers and watching films. Recent activities include a panel entitled “Domestic Violence Services after Katrina,” in which directors of the major domestic violence shelters in New Orleans discussed current needs and plans for rebuilding their service system; and the screening of the Academy Award-Winning documentary, “Born into Brothels,” followed by a discussion with the film’s creator.

We wish you the best of luck during your time at Harvard and we hope that you will choose to participate in STOPDV activities. Please come check our table at the Student Organizations Fair or contact stopdv@law.harvard.edu to join on our email list.

Best,

Lisa Cloutier
STOPDV President