PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Day One partners with New York City youth to end dating abuse and domestic violence through preventive education, legal advocacy, supportive services and leadership development. Each program operates on an empowerment model that invests young people in maintaining safe relationships for themselves and their peers. All services for youth are free and available in English and Spanish.

Community Education
Day One’s preventive program uses role-plays and interactive tools to educate youth and train adults to respond to dating violence and domestic sex trafficking. Presentations in schools, youth programs and foster care facilities teach teens how to examine controlling behavior and gender dynamics that could lead to relationship abuse. We also train young people about exercising their rights and responsibilities under the law. Day One builds skills among adults—such as faculty, parents, law enforcement, child protective workers and social service providers—to identify the risk factors for dating abuse and domestic sex trafficking of youth, deliver tips on safety planning, learn effective interviewing techniques, make appropriate referrals and offer supportive guidance to youth. Day One has educated more than 100,000 people since 2003.

To schedule a workshop, visit our website at www.dayoneny.org or contact our Program Operations Coordinator at educator@dayoneny.org.

Direct Services
Day One provides counseling and case management as well as legal advice and direct representation to young people aged 24 and under. We specialize in meeting the unique challenges of teens leaving abusive relationships, such as designing a safety plan specific to a school setting or providing assistance for young adults in need of public benefits or housing. An attorney might help a teen transfer to another school to escape her abuser or connect a student with shelter or immigration assistance. Day One helps clients obtain criminal and family court orders of protection and related orders for custody, visitation and child support. Day One also conducts legislative advocacy to expand young people’s eligibility for and access to legal remedies. Over 2,000 youth have received direct services from Day One.

To make a client referral, visit our website or contact Associate Director of Social Services Natalie Rentas (counseling) at nrentas@dayoneny.org or Director of Law and Policy Andrew Sta Ana (legal) at astaana@dayoneny.org.

Youth Voices Network
Survivors of dating abuse have united to form the Youth Voices Network. This group shares their first-hand accounts of relationship abuse with others, with the aim of teaching young people the signs of dating abuse and how to prevent it, letting other young victims know that they are not alone and directing survivors to helpful resources.

To become a member of YVN, visit our website or contact Associate Director of Social Services Natalie Rentas at nrentas@dayoneny.org.

“He hit me so hard that I blacked out, but still managed to hold on to our two-year old daughter without letting her fall. That’s when I knew I needed help.”

“Day One helped me to get a final order of protection, full custody of my child and child support. I didn’t think that I’d ever be in control of my own life. I feel as if I have a second chance.”

- Tamara, 21