

**For Immediate Release**

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**NCCD to Support Attorney General's National Defending Childhood Task Force**  
*Experts Will Examine and Address the Issue of Children Exposed to Violence*

*Oakland, CA* – The National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) has been selected by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to provide technical assistance to the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence. The establishment of the Task Force was announced today at the OJJDP national conference in National Harbor, Maryland.

"We are honored and delighted to work with OJJDP to support the Task Force members in their critical work," said NCCD President Alex Busansky. "Our nation's children face epidemic levels of exposure to violence. Preventing this exposure is one of NCCD's top research priorities. We welcome the opportunity to support this important initiative."

Over the course of the year, NCCD will assist the Defending Childhood Task Force in conducting four public hearings across the country to learn from practitioners, policymakers, advocates, academics, and communities about the extent and nature of the problem of children's exposure to violence in the United States, both as victims and as witnesses. The Task Force will also identify promising practices, programming, and community strategies used to prevent and respond to children's exposure to violence.

The first hearing of the Task Force will be held in Baltimore on November 29 and 30, 2011, at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, 500 W. Baltimore Street. Subsequent hearings will take place over the next several months in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Miami, Florida; and Detroit, Michigan.

Based on the findings of the hearings, on comprehensive research, and on extensive input from experts, advocates, and impacted families and communities nationwide, the Defending Childhood Task Force will issue a final report to the Attorney General presenting its findings and comprehensive policy recommendations. The report will serve as a blueprint for preventing children's exposure to violence and for mitigating the negative effects experienced by children exposed to violence across the United States.

The members of the Task Force include the following:

**Co-chair Joe Torre, Chairman of the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation.** Mr. Torre, Major League Baseball's Executive Vice President for Baseball Operations and former manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Yankees, created his foundation to educate students, parents, teachers and school faculty about the effects of domestic violence.

**Co-chair Robert Listenbee, Jr., J.D., Chief of the Juvenile Unit of the Defender Association of Philadelphia.** Mr. Listenbee also serves as a member of the Juvenile

Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

**Father Gregory Boyle, S.J., Founder of Homeboy Industries.** Fr. Boyle was ordained as a Jesuit priest in 1984 and serves as a member of the National Gang Center Advisory Board.

**Sharon W. Cooper, M.D., CEO of Developmental & Forensic Pediatrics, P.A.** Dr. Cooper serves as a consultant and board member of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

**Sarah Deer, Citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma.** Professor Deer is an assistant professor at William Mitchell College of Law and her scholarship focuses on the intersection of tribal law and victims' rights.

**Deanne Tilton Durfee, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect.** Ms. Tilton Durfee also serves as chairperson of the National Center on Child Fatality Review.

**Thea James, M.D., Director of the Boston Medical Center Massachusetts Violence Intervention Advocacy Program.** Dr. James is assistant professor of emergency medicine at Boston Medical Center/Boston University School of Medicine.

**Kevin Jennings, CEO of Be the Change.** Mr. Jennings founded the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

**Alicia Lieberman, Ph.D., Director of the Early Trauma Treatment Network.** Dr. Lieberman is Irving B. Harris Endowed Chair of Infant Mental Health at UCSF Department of Psychiatry and director of the Child Trauma Research Program, San Francisco General Hospital.

**Robert Macy, Ph.D., Founder, Director, and President of the International Center for Disaster Resilience–Boston.** Dr. Macy is also the founder and executive director of the Boston Children's Foundation and serves as co-director of the Division of Disaster Resilience at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

**Steven Marans, Ph.D., Director of the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence.** Dr. Marans is Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry, Professor of Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine, and also serves as director of the Childhood Violent Trauma Center at Yale University.

**Jim McDonnell, Chief of Police, Long Beach Police Department, California.** Chief McDonnell teaches public policy issues at University of California, Los Angeles, and served with the Los Angeles Police Department for 28 years.

**Georgina Mendoza, J.D., Senior Deputy Attorney and Community Safety Director for the City of Salinas, Calif.** Ms. Mendoza has been involved in the California Cities Gang Prevention Network for the past four years and serves as the Salinas lead in the White House's National Forum on Youth Violence.

**Retired Major General Antonio Taguba, President of TDLS Consulting, LLC, and Chairman of Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM).** General Taguba served 34 years on active duty, including serving as Deputy Commanding General for Support, Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC)/ARCENT/Third U.S. Army, forward deployed to Kuwait and Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**About NCCD**

NCCD promotes just and equitable social systems for individuals, families, and communities through research, public policy, and practice. For more information about NCCD, please visit [www.nccd-crc.org](http://www.nccd-crc.org).

**About the Defending Childhood Initiative and the Task Force**

For more information about Attorney General Holder's Defending Childhood initiative, the Defending Childhood Task Force, and the upcoming hearings, please visit [www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood](http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood).

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