



Association of
Greek
American
Professional
Women



Symposium on

Domestic Violence, Gender, and Culture: Shining a Light

Sponsors:

- Association of Greek American Professional Women (AGAPW)
- The Sexuality, Women & Gender Project (SWG) – Counseling & Clinical Psychology Program, Teachers College, Columbia University
- The Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Community Affairs, Teachers College, Columbia University

When: Thursday, October 17th, 2013, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Where: Millbank Chapel Auditorium

125 Zankel Building, Teachers College, Columbia University
525 West 120th Street (between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue)
New York, NY 10027

Program:

Media Presentation, Panel Discussion, Wine Reception

Panelists:

- **Yi-Hui Chang**, ATR-BC – Dean Hope Center of Educational and Psychological Services at Teachers College, Columbia University
- **Jennifer DeCarli**, Esq., LMSW – Executive Director Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence (www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence)
- **Sethu Nair** – Manager of Communications & Outreach at Sakhi for South Asian Women (www.sakhi.org)
- **Stephanie Spanos**, M.D. – Attending Psychiatrist, Hawthorne Cedar Knolls Girls’ Unit; Agapi Circles; Elpides
- **Sujata Warrior**, Ph.D. – Director, NYC Program, NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Moderators:

- **Aurelie Athan**, Ph.D. – MA Program Coordinator, Department of Clinical Psychology; Sexuality, Women, and Gender Project, Teachers College, Columbia University; AGAPW, Board of Directors
- **Katerina (Katia) Stefanatou**, B.S. – UNICEF; AGAPW, Focus on Youth Committee

This is a complimentary event, but RSVP is required as space is limited. Please RSVP [here](#) (you will be redirected to the Eventbrite secure connection). For further information, please contact info@agapw.org.

Histories and Missions of Co-Sponsors and Participating Organizations

Association of Greek American Professional Women (AGAPW) is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization under Section 402 of the Non-for-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York. It was founded in New York City in March of 2010. It is an independent organization started and run by women. The organization is seeking to expand career opportunities and promote community and leadership building among Greek-American professional women by forging collaborations among ourselves and establishing partnerships with other organizations inside and outside the Greek-American community. Please visit www.agapw.org.

Sexuality Women & Gender Project (SWG) was created in 2012 to envision and implement the next wave of theories and practices to improve well-being in persons at the intersection of the above identities and social locations. This forum is located at Teachers College, Columbia University, a world-renowned training ground for the next generation of educators, researchers, practitioners, administrators, and activists. SWG's mission is to play a vital role in the creation of research initiatives, innovative curriculum, and institutional programming on campus and with partners beyond. SWG organizes didactic lectures, events, and colloquia open to students and the New York City community. SWG is concurrently developing masters- and doctoral-level certification programs, actively collaborating with TC departments to integrate sexuality and gender lenses into course offerings, and networking with outside organizations to establish fieldwork and internship placements. SWG's long term vision is to elaborate a comprehensive research agenda that will generate and disseminate theory as well as attract cutting-edge scholars (www.swgproject.org).

The Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Community Affairs was created in January 2001, in response to recommendations of the President's 1999 Taskforce Report. The Office for Diversity and Community leads the President's and College's initiatives concerning community, diversity, civility, equity, and anti-discrimination. The Office, working with others in the College, addresses issues from faculty, staff, students, and alumni. These concerns may overlap with equity, discrimination, due process, retaliation. The philosophy is to encourage the College community to listen, learn, educate, and work together in positive ways. At the same time, the Office focuses on systemic issues by addressing policy and procedural concerns. In September 2008 President Susan Fuhrman recognizing and supporting the work as central to TC's mission elevated the office to a Vice Presidential Appointment. Diversity, community and civility are integral to our institution and touch every corner of our community. They are also the office of the Title IX coordinator. Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that prohibits sex and gender discrimination, including sexual harassment and gender-based misconduct, in educational programs and institutions. The Teachers College, Columbia University Title IX Coordinator is Janice Robinson, Vice President for Diversity and Community Affairs, 128 Zankel – phone: 212-678-3391, email: jrobinson@tc.edu. The Office of Diversity and Community Affairs is proud to serve the students, faculty, professional and union staff and alumni that together make up the TC community (www.tc.columbia.edu/diversity).

Sakhi for South Asian Women exists to end violence against women. We unite survivors, communities, and institutions to eradicate domestic violence as we work together to create strong and healthy communities. Sakhi uses an integrated approach that combines support and empowerment through service delivery, community engagement, advocacy, and policy initiatives. Founded in 1989 by a group of five South Asian women from diverse professional fields such as banking, film, law, and public health, Sakhi, meaning "woman friend," was created to fill a critical need — in spite of an abundance of religious and cultural centers, professional associations, and ethnic-specific groups within New York's large South Asian immigrant population, there was no place for women to address the silenced subject of domestic violence. Through Sakhi's efforts to serve survivors and mobilize community members to condemn abuse, Sakhi has changed the conversation on domestic violence in our community. Margaret Abraham, author of *Speaking the Unspeakable: Marital Violence Among South Asian Immigrants in the United States*, has noted, "What Sakhi did was bring together issues around ethnicity and gender, which were previously not discussed in our communities. They shifted domestic violence from a private family problem to a public social issue." Sakhi structured its programming to follow a two-pronged approach in addressing domestic violence within the South Asian community: we create a safe place with a full range of culturally-sensitive, language-specific information, support, services, and advocacy for South Asian women facing abuse in their lives; and, we work to inform, actively engage, and mobilize the South Asian community in the movement to end violence against women forever. Sakhi serves South Asian women who trace their backgrounds to countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the South Asian Diaspora (including the West Indies and Africa). These women come from diverse backgrounds including age range, religion, ethnic origin, economic and educational background, language spoken, and immigration status. After 22 years of working with and being an integral part of our community, we at Sakhi know that in order for families to be healthy and happy, violence and oppression must be eliminated at the heart and root of our communities. We know that community members themselves must be aware of, and participate in, the dialogue in order for true and sustainable change to occur. Our vision of a society without domestic violence lies within the community's ability to take ownership in the fight to end violence against women (www.sakhi.org).