



# From Harm to Healing: Reframing Domestic Violence Through a Public-Health Lens

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## Panelists



### Saloni Sethi

**Saloni Sethi (they/she)** serves as the Commissioner for the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV), bringing over two decades of experience across the private, nonprofit, and public sectors to a critical leadership role focused on improving the lives of survivors at the city level. They lead the office's work to ensure that diverse groups of gender violence survivors have meaningful access to support both within and outside of carceral systems and is focused on centering racial equity and multiple pathways to healing in program and policy development.

Their own lived experiences deeply inform Saloni's work. They are passionate about anti-violence and anti-poverty work that addresses intersecting issues of power, privilege, and oppression through collective, collaborative, and intentional efforts to undo harm and ensure justice for the most vulnerable in our communities. Before Their current role, Saloni worked as the First Deputy Commissioner at ENDGBV, the Deputy Executive Director at the Office of Crime Victim Supports

at the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, and as the Deputy Director of Economic Empowerment Programs at Sanctuary for Families.

Commissioner Sethi received an MSW from the Silver School of Social Work at New York University and a BA in Economics and BS in Mathematics from the University of Chicago.



### Marlon Peterson

**Marlon Peterson** is a writer, author, and advocate for human justice and equity. As Executive Director of College & Community Fellowship (CCF), he leads a team dedicated to empowering women impacted by the legal system, helping them access education, opportunity, and independence.

Raised in Brooklyn by Trinidadian immigrants, Marlon's leadership is shaped by lived experience. During a decade of incarceration, he earned an associate's degree in Criminal Justice and mentored others inside. Since his release 15 years ago, he has emerged as a national voice for criminal justice reform, launching community-based initiatives such as H.O.L.L.A. (How Our Lives Link Altogether) and YO SOS (Youth Organizing to Save

Our Streets).

He is an Open Society Justice Fellow, Senior Atlantic Fellow, and member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network. Named one of Ebony Magazine's 100 Most Influential Black Leaders, Marlon is also an inductee to the NYU School of Professional Studies Hall of Fame. He serves on the boards of Families for Freedom, where he is board chair, and New Yorkers Against Gun Violence.

Marlon is the author of *Bird Uncaged: An Abolitionist's Freedom Song*, and his TED Talk, "Am I Not Human? A Call for Criminal Justice Reform," has reached more than 1.3 million viewers. Through his writing, DEcarcerated Podcast, and global speaking engagements, he amplifies stories of resilience and transformation, challenging systems while affirming the power of redemption and human dignity.

A graduate of New York University's School of Professional Studies, where he earned a BA in Social Sciences, Marlon also holds an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice. His guiding belief is that education only matters when it leads to action.



## **Priyanka Datta, M.D.**

**Dr. Priyanka Datta** is an Emergency Medicine Attending Physician and Director of the Clinical Forensic Medicine Fellowship at NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County. She leads the hospital's forensic and emergency medicine programs, integrating trauma-informed care, evidence-based documentation, and strong partnerships with Family Justice Centers and advocacy organizations to support survivors of domestic violence.

Specializing in the intersection of emergency care and forensic medicine, Dr. Datta has been instrumental in advancing the recognition and documentation of strangulation injuries and strengthening the medical response to intimate partner violence. She collaborates closely with the NYC Mayor's Office to End Gender-Based Violence and the District Attorney's Offices of New York and Brooklyn, training thousands of law enforcement officers and prosecutors across the city.

Dr. Datta earned her medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, completed her Emergency Medicine residency at SUNY Downstate College of Medicine, and pursued a fellowship in Clinical Forensic Medicine at Kings County Hospital Center.

A dedicated educator and advocate, she is now establishing a forensic follow-up clinic at Kings County Hospital for survivors of domestic violence, set to open in the coming weeks. Through her expertise, compassion, and cross-disciplinary leadership, Dr. Datta is transforming how emergency departments care for survivors of gender-based violence.

## **Moderator**



## **Dawn S. Walker, MPA**

**Dawn S. Walker** is a communications strategist and equity advocate whose work bridges government, higher education, and healthcare. As Vice President of Communications & Marketing at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, she leads initiatives that amplify institutional impact and advance inclusive narratives.

A former Deputy Press Secretary to NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Dawn previously served as a board member of College & Community Fellowship (CCF), an organization that supports women impacted by the criminal legal system in achieving higher education and rebuilding their lives. She is also a co-founding partner of Women's City Network, which fosters mentorship and civic engagement among women in public service, and a former Trustee of the New York Foundation, a philanthropy advancing grassroots justice and community empowerment.

Dawn earned her Master of Public Administration (MPA) from CUNY Baruch, and her BA from SUNY Old Westbury. She is currently a Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) candidate in the School of Public Health at SUNY Downstate.

In hosting this conversation, she brings a deep commitment to survivor-centered dialogue, intersectional understanding, and institutional accountability.