WASHINGTON—U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder’s National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence, a key part of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Defending Childhood initiative, will gather testimony from national experts and Miami residents on the impact of community violence on children in urban and immigrant neighborhoods.


WHERE: University of Miami Newman Alumni Center
Multi-Purpose Room
6200 San Amaro Drive
Coral Gables, Fla.
OPEN PRESS

NOTE: There will be an opportunity for reporters to question task force members and invited witnesses on Tuesday, March 20, at 10:30 a.m. EST. All media MUST RSVP to Starr.Stepp@usdoj.gov. The onsite contact for media logistics is Alex Walden (408-771-5768). All media must present government-issued photo ID (such as a driver’s license), as well as valid media credentials.

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012

5:00-7:00 p.m. EST  Public Testimony
The task force will hear from professionals and community members.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012

8:30 a.m. EST  Opening Remarks
Wifredo A. Ferrer, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Florida
(-More-)
8:30 a.m. EST  Opening Remarks (continued)
Joe Torre, co-chair, Founder of the Joe Torre Safe At Home®
Foundation and a witness to domestic violence as a child
Robert Listenbee, Jr., co-chair, Chief of the Juvenile Unit of the
Defender Association of Philadelphia
Marilyn Roberts, Deputy Administrator for Programs, Office of
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Bernard P. Perlmutter, Director of Children & Youth Law Clinic,
University of Miami School of Law
The Honorable Cindy S. Lederman, Presiding Judge, Juvenile
Court of Miami-Dade County

9:00 a.m. EST  The Child Welfare System and Children’s Exposure to
Violence
Bryan Samuels, Commissioner of the Administration on Children,
Youth and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services

9:30 a.m. EST  Interrupting the Cycle of Violence: Local Leaders’ Panel
The Honorable Dwight Jones, Mayor of Richmond, Va.
The Honorable Mark Luttrell, Jr., Mayor of Shelby County, Tenn.
Witnesses will describe the creative solutions they are
implementing to address high rates of violence and to improve
economic and social conditions in their communities.

10:45 a.m. EST  Children’s Experiences of Violence in Highly Impacted
Communities
Roy Martin, Senior Youth Development Specialist, Youth
Development Network, Boston Public Health Commission
Maj. Eddie Levins, Executive Sponsor, Charlotte-Mecklenburg
Police Department, N.C.
Sarah Greene, Program Administrator, Criminal Justice
Partnerships, Mecklenburg County, N.C.
Dawn L. Brown, Executive Director, Girls and Gangs
Witnesses will discuss the physical and psychological impact on
children living in communities with high levels of violence and
factors that have a strong influence on the various outcomes these
children experience.

1:00 p.m. EST  Immigrant and At-Risk Youth Exposed to Violence: Creating
Successful Responses
Laura Kallus, Executive Director, PanZOu Project, Inc.
Carolyn Reyes, Senior Staff Attorney, Legal Services for Children
Lyn Tan, Program Director, Immigrant and Refugee Community
Organization
Dr. Michael de Arellano, Professor and Licensed Clinical
Psychologist, National Crime Victims Research and
Treatment Center, Medical University of South Carolina
(-More-)
1:00 p.m. EST  Immigrant and At-Risk Youth Exposed to Violence: Creating Successful Responses (Continued)

Witnesses will provide information on the challenges the children of immigrants face in their schools, communities and families and will discuss promising practices to address these challenges.

2:30 p.m. EST  Working Meeting
5:15 p.m. EST  Closing Remarks

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2012

8:45 a.m.-noon EST  Interactive Discussion on Children Exposed to Violence
Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., Director, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Facilitator
The Honorable Michael J. Ryan, Judge, Cleveland Municipal Court
Vicki Spriggs, Chief Executive Officer, Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates

Witnesses will debate and discuss the complex ethical, emotional, legal and public policy questions raised by children’s exposure to violence, as highlighted in a hypothetical story.

1:15 p.m.  Working Meeting
3:00 p.m.  Closing Remarks

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