

LEGAL MOMENTUM ABOUT US

MISSION:

Legal Momentum's mission is to ensure economic and personal security for all women and girls by advancing equity in education, the workplace, and the courts. We provide an expert legal voice to seek justice for women.

HERE'S WHAT WE DO:

PROMOTE SAFETY & EQUALITY IN EDUCATION FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

Rights Now! is a Peer Educator Empowerment Program that trains young women of color to identify and respond to sexual violence and sex-based discrimination. After completing training, the Peer Educators facilitate workshops for community organizations in New York City. The workshops build knowledge and confidence as participants learn about the impacts power, privilege, and oppression have on their lives. The workshops are activity- and dialog-based and inform girls of their legal rights.

One in five young women on college campuses will be a victim of some kind of sexual abuse, and social media and handy cell phones serve as vehicles to broadcast sexual violence to schoolmates and peers. As a result, most victims do not even consider the criminal justice system as a viable option for reporting, leaving the offender free to re-offend. Legal Momentum visits campuses to educate students about their Title IX rights and works with student advocacy groups.

EMPOWER WORKING WOMEN AGAINST DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT

Legal Momentum's model domestic violence policy—*This Workplace is a DV-Free Zone*—outlines best practices for employers to accommodate and protect women who experience domestic and sexual violence in or outside the workplace. Legal Momentum works with employers to implement the policy effectively and educate their employees.

Legal Momentum's *Working Women's Empowerment Initiative* addresses sexual harassment, as well as other workplace rights. We are working with Cornell's ILR School and other partners to further develop the initiative, which will include:

- The *Working Women's Empowerment Toolkit*, a plain-language guide on workplace rights that provides targeted information for low-wage and immigrant women, including a section on sexual harassment.
- Workshops for women to educate them about their rights as accessibly as possible.
- Legal Momentum's *Call to Action on Sexual Harassment*, which focusses on the most vulnerable women.
- Working with experts to develop creative policy and legislative strategies to help low-wage and immigrant women report sexual harassment and other forms of workplace discrimination.

WORK TO END SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF AT-RISK YOUTH

Legal Momentum organized a national coalition of human trafficking victim service providers to launch initiatives, legal challenges, and policy reforms to end the abuse of at-risk youth and women nationally. In February 2017, together with pro-bono partners Boies, Schiller and Flexner, Legal Momentum filed a lawsuit in Florida against the website Backpage.com for facilitating online commercial sexual exploitation of vulnerable women and children. Backpage moved to dismiss the case and asked the Court to stay discovery. In August, 2017, the Magistrate Judge refused to stay discovery. Backpage has appealed that decision. Legal Momentum is also actively working on federal legislation that would amend the Communications Decency Act to enable trafficking victims to sue websites that facilitate trafficking.

IMPROVE LAWS TO ADDRESS NEW FORMS OF ONLINE VIOLENCE

Sextortion (extortion where sexual acts or images are demanded rather than money) often targets young girls and women. Legal Momentum is working with pro bono partners Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe and state legislatures around the country to close legal loopholes to criminalize this new cyber-violence. To date, laws have passed in Utah, Arkansas, Texas, and California, and legislation is pending in New York, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, and in Congress.

COMBAT GENDER BIAS IN THE COURTS

Legal Momentum's award-winning *National Judicial Education Program* (NJEP) is the national source for judicial education on sexual violence, educating judges, attorneys, and justice system professionals. NJEP's mission is to institutionalize and expand education on sexual assault for all judges and justice-system professionals, in order to ensure fairness in sexual assault and domestic violence cases. NJEP focuses primarily on sexual assault and the intersection of sexual assault and domestic violence, and creates resources and provides training to promote fair adjudication of these cases.

THE LEGAL MOMENTUM HELPLINE

Legal Momentum's Helpline provides free legal information, assistance, and referrals to women and girls who have been subjected to sexual assault, domestic violence, or sex discrimination in education or employment. You can reach the Helpline by phone: 212-925-6635, ext. 650, by email: help@legalmomentum.org, or use the online help request form at www.legalmomentum.org/get-help. The Helpline is available in English and Spanish.