



MEDIA ADVISORY  
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## **Transgender Woman Brutally Beaten in Queens Bias Attack – Press Conference Scheduled for Tuesday, 6/30/09 at 3 pm on Steps of City Hall**

**Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund Demands that Queens DA Fully Investigate Hate Crime**

**WHO:** Hate crime victim Leslie Mora, TLDEF executive director Michael Silverman, advocacy groups, elected officials and community members.

**WHAT:** Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund (TLDEF) will hold a press conference to decry the assault of Leslie Mora, a 27-year-old Latina transgender woman who was savagely beaten with a belt while her attackers called her a “faggot.” The press conference will feature Ms. Mora as she recounts the story of her brutal attack in Queens. TLDEF Executive Director will also be on-site to demand that law enforcement investigate Ms. Mora’s assault as a hate crime and call upon the New York State Senate to return to work and immediately pass pending transgender-inclusive hate crimes legislation.

**WHERE:** Steps of City Hall, New York, New York

**WHEN:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009, 3:00 pm

**WHY:** "During LGBT Pride month, we hear the story of a transgender woman brutally beaten with a belt while being called a ‘faggot’ in a hate-motivated attack. The Queens County District Attorney must fully investigate this as a hate crime and bring all appropriate charges," said TLDEF executive director Michael Silverman. "Transgender people face tremendous amounts of violence in their daily lives. Every month in the United States, a transgender person is murdered. It is time for our state Senators to get back to work and pass the transgender hate crimes legislation pending in the Senate," he added.

"I was attacked because I am transgender," said Leslie Mora, the hate crime victim. "I am telling my story to make sure that this does not happen to other transgender people and because I want to see the people who did this to me brought to justice."

Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund is committed to ending discrimination based upon gender identity and expression, and to achieving equality for transgender people through public education, test-case litigation, direct legal services, community organizing and public policy efforts.