

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

LEGISLATIVE RECORD OFFICIAL SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

HEARING BODY:	Committee on Women and Gender Equity, New York City Council
HEARING DATE:	September 30, 2026
SUBMISSION TYPE:	Formal Legislative Record Entry & Public Testimony Packet

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

FULL NAME:	Mildred Ramos
TITLE / ROLE:	Executive Leader in Non-Profit Operations & Human Services
ADVOCACY VOICE:	Survivor & Independent Advocate
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DOCUMENT TITLE & SUBJECT MATTER

Primary Title: Policy Brief & Legislative Action Plan: Dismantling Systemic Oppression & Inter-Jurisdictional Protections for Displaced Minors & Trafficking Survivors

Subject Keywords: Youth Human Trafficking; Inter-Jurisdictional Oversight; NYC ACS / NYS OCFS Reform; Central Nervous System Trauma; Fibromyalgia; Cross-Border Extradition; Survivor-Led Governance; Housing Stability & Economic Restitution.

INCLUDED SUBMISSION PACKET CONTENTS

- **Section 1:** Official Submission Cover Sheet & Formal Transmittal Cover Letter
- **Section 2:** Policy Brief & 7-Point Tri-Jurisdictional Legislative Action Plan
- **Section 3:** Official Written Transcript of 2-Minute Oral Testimony
- **Section 4:** Media-Ready Press Release (AP Style) & Digital Advocacy Copy

SUMMARY OF 7 LEGISLATIVE DEMANDS SUBMITTED FOR RECORD

1. **Extradition & Prosecution:** Locate, extradite, and prosecute abusers across state/territorial boundaries.
2. **Independent Oversight Commission:** Establish multi-agency body with paid seats for lived-experience leaders.
3. **Housing & Economic Restitution:** Eliminate administrative barriers for housing and create recovery pathways.
4. **Mandatory Cross-Border Tracking:** Binding MOUs linking NYC ACS, NYS OCFS, Newark DCP&P, and PR Dept. de la Familia.
5. **First-Responder CNS Training:** Mandatory citywide training on central nervous system trauma so somatic pain is met with stabilization, not forced hospitalization.
6. **Statutory Independent Legal Representation:** Mandate an independent legal advocate (Defensor Judicial) for relocated minor victims.
7. **Treaty Loophole & Statute of Limitations Reform:** Eliminate extraterritorial immunity and pass federal H.R. 5560 reform.

Statement of Record & Affirmation: I hereby submit these documents for permanent inclusion in the official public record of the NYC Council Committee on Women and Gender Equity. The facts, testimony, and policy mandates contained herein reflect the truth of my lived experience and professional expertise as an executive leader in human services.

MILDRED RAMOS

Executive Leader in Non-Profit Operations & Human Services

Survivor & Independent Advocate | www.mildredramos.com | contact@mildredramos.com

September 30, 2026

Committee on Women and Gender Equity
New York City Council
City Hall Park
New York, NY 10007

RE: Formal Transmittal of Testimony & Policy Brief – Inter-Jurisdictional Protections for Displaced Minors & Trafficking Survivors

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity,

I am submitting my formal Policy Brief, Legislative Action Plan, and public oral testimony for entry into the permanent legislative record of the New York City Council ahead of the September 30, 2026 hearing.

As an executive leader in non-profit operations and human services coming forward as a survivor and independent advocate, I present these materials to address critical, unaddressed systemic gaps in youth human trafficking oversight, child welfare tracking, and cross-border survivor protections between mainland U.S. municipalities and territories.

The attached documents establish the direct operational and biological links between state abandonment, unmonitored minor trafficking, central nervous system dysregulation (Fibromyalgia), first-responder escalation, and persistent institutional blackballing that has left me completely without an income for six years. Most importantly, this submission outlines seven concrete, actionable legislative demands:

- **Extradition & Prosecution:** Active tracking, extradition, and criminal prosecution of abusers across state and territorial lines.
- **Independent Oversight Commission:** Enacting municipal legislation to establish a multi-agency commission with permanent, compensated board seats held by lived-experience leaders.
- **Housing Accessibility & Economic Support:** Establishing direct pipelines for immediate housing stability and economic recovery pathways for blackballed survivors.
- **Mandatory Cross-Border Tracking:** Binding MOUs linking NYC ACS, NYS OCFS, Newark DCP&P, and Puerto Rico's Departamento de la Familia.
- **First-Responder CNS Training:** Mandatory citywide training on central nervous system trauma to replace forced hospitalization with medical stabilization.
- **Statutory Independent Legal Representation:** Mandating a Defensor Judicial for relocated minor victims.
- **Treaty Loophole & Statute of Limitations Reform:** Closing extraterritorial loopholes and passing federal H.R. 5560 reform.

I commend the Committee on Women and Gender Equity for providing the platform to bring these systemic failures to light and entering these survivor-led solutions into the official city record.

Respectfully submitted,

Mildred Ramos

Executive Leader in Non-Profit Operations & Human
Services
Survivor & Independent Advocate

POLICY BRIEF & LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN

SUBJECT: Dismantling Systemic Oppression: Inter-Jurisdictional Protections for Displaced Minors & Trafficking Survivors

DATE:	September 30, 2026
FROM:	Mildred Ramos, Executive Leader in Non-Profit Operations & Human Services, Survivor & Independent Advocate
RECIPIENT:	Committee on Women and Gender Equity, New York City Council
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

When minor victims of felony sex crimes—including abduction, localized trafficking, and severe sexual violence—are relocated from mainland U.S. municipalities (such as New York City or Newark, NJ) to Puerto Rico while investigations are pending, they face compounded systemic oppression. Institutional negligence across law enforcement, municipal child welfare (NYC ACS), state oversight bodies (NYS OCFS), and family structures routinely fails to protect young victims, enabling state-to-territorial trafficking without legal oversight. Lived experience trumps and supersedes institutional theatrics, proving that lived experience must lead policy. Systemic abandonment and subsequent institutional retaliation directly cause severe biological damage, forced displacement, housing loss, and total economic collapse.

Decades of unaddressed, catastrophic trauma frequently manifest as Fibromyalgia—a severe central nervous system condition characterized by central sensitization, spasticity, speech hesitation under stress, and acute somatic pain responses. This policy brief demands that gates and doors open to reunify families, provide specialized care, reinstate economic stability, and house survivors of trafficking and trauma. It outlines an actionable roadmap to establish an Independent Oversight Commission with survivor leadership at the decision-making table, secure the extradition and prosecution of perpetrators, eliminate cross-border tracking and international treaty loopholes, enforce state-level OCFS oversight, pass federal statute of limitations reform (H.R. 5560), end institutional blackballing, and deploy mandatory trauma-informed first-responder training.

2. SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION, INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE & CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM IMPACT

- **Executive Leadership & Advocacy Voice:** As an executive leader in non-profit operations and human services coming forward as a survivor and independent advocate, I address these systemic gaps in survivor protection and youth human trafficking oversight directly from both lived experience and professional operational knowledge.
- **Abduction, Localized Trafficking & Record:** In 1987, as a 16-year-old girl, I was abducted in Washington Heights, forced into two separate apartments inside the building, physically attacked, beaten, and lost consciousness several times while being subjected to severe sexual violence by an adult Dominican man, an adult Jamaican man, a Colombian boy, and a group of diverse boys forced to participate under their direction. I was examined at North Central Bronx Hospital and reported the crime to the NYPD's 46th Precinct.
- **Municipal & State Abandonment (ACS & OCFS):** Despite formal records, NYC ACS and NYS OCFS failed to act. Case stalling permitted me to be trafficked to Arecibo, Puerto Rico—without legal advocacy, tracking, or state care—housed solely by a minor friend.
- **Untold Stories of Puerto Rico & Corrupt Systemic Abandonment:** In Puerto Rico, one-third of the population lives with Fibromyalgia as reported by *El Diario de Puerto Rico*, amid severe medical shortages—and I deeply worry that the people living there will face even worse conditions than what I have endured. These are the untold stories of Puerto Rico—where our children are sold into modern-day slavery and our people left without healthcare while traffickers accelerate gentrification and politicians are silenced by corruption.

2. SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION (CONTINUED)

- **Biological Toll & Fibromyalgia Diagnosis:** Unaddressed catastrophic trauma permanently damaged my central nervous system, causing late-onset Fibromyalgia with severe somatic pain, spasticity, and speech hesitation under stress.
- **First-Responder Failure, Forced Hospitalization & Economic Suppression:**
 - *Systemic Blackballing:* Rather than protection, I faced decades of institutional lawfare. Systemic blackballing has left me completely without an income for six years.
 - *First-Responder Escalation:* During a recent Newark emergency, first responders misidentified my physiological trauma as non-compliance. I was forced into a hospital—an experience that deeply re-traumatized me.
 - *Hospitalization & Home Loss:* The second time I was forced to go, I do not recall everything that happened. I remember walking in, being put on an IV, and later waking up to speak with a doctor on a screen. I was discharged alone to spend Thanksgiving dinner isolated in my home, ultimately resulting in the total loss of my family home and stability.
- **Exploitation of Jurisdictional Loopholes:** Perpetrators routinely exploit state-territorial transfers, jurisdictional gaps, and international treaty protections—such as non-extradition clauses and procedural bars—to evade prosecution, leaving isolated minors in Puerto Rico and abroad completely shielded from justice while abusers walk free.

3. COLLABORATIVE TRI-JURISDICTIONAL & LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN

1. **Extradition & Criminal Prosecution of Abusers:** Locate, extradite, and prosecute my abusers, closing jurisdictional loopholes that allow perpetrators to evade accountability across state and territorial boundaries.
2. **Establishment of an Inter-Jurisdictional Oversight Commission:** Establish a multi-agency body with permanent, paid seats for survivors with lived experience to monitor, enforce, and audit all tri-jurisdictional policy mandates.
3. **Housing Accessibility, Recovery & Economic Restitution:** Eliminate administrative barriers to guarantee immediate housing stability and establish direct economic recovery pathways for survivors facing systemic blackballing.
4. **Mandatory Cross-Border Tracking & NYS OCFS State Oversight:** Link NYC ACS, NYS OCFS, Newark DCP&P, and Puerto Rico's Departamento de la Familia through formal binding MOUs to trigger mandatory tracking whenever a minor victim with an open sexual assault case is relocated.
5. **Inter-Agency First-Responder & CNS Training:** Require citywide training on central nervous system trauma so somatic pain, spasticity, and speech hesitation under stress are met with medical stabilization, not forced hospitalization or hostility.
6. **Statutory Independent Legal Representation (Defensor Judicial):** Mandate the statutory appointment of an independent legal advocate (Defensor Judicial) for any minor living in Puerto Rico who was the victim of an unprosecuted felony sexual assault or trafficking in another jurisdiction.
7. **Elimination of International Treaty Loopholes & Statute of Limitations Reform:** Enact federal legislation ensuring no international treaty or jurisdictional boundary can ever be invoked to grant immunity, and co-sponsor/pass federal H.R. 5560 reform supported by NYC Council resolutions.

DOCUMENT FILED FOR OFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE RECORD — NYC COUNCIL

2-MINUTE ORAL TESTIMONY TRANSCRIPT

OFFICIAL STATEMENT DELIVERED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

SPEAKER:	Mildred Ramos, Executive Leader & Independent Advocate
HEARING DATE:	September 30, 2026
RECORD STATUS:	Entered into Permanent Legislative Record

Introduction & Trafficking Account (0:00 – 0:45)

Good morning, Chair and members of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity. My name is Mildred Ramos. I am an executive leader in non-profit operations and human services, coming forward today as a survivor and independent advocate to address systemic gaps in survivor protection and youth human trafficking oversight. Proof that lived experience must lead policy.

In 1987, as a 16-year-old girl, I was abducted in Washington Heights, forced into two separate apartments inside the building, physically attacked, beaten, and lost consciousness several times while being subjected to severe sexual violence by an adult Dominican man, an adult Jamaican man, a Colombian boy, and a group of diverse boys forced to participate under their direction. I was examined at North Central Bronx Hospital and reported the crime to the 46th Precinct. Despite formal records, NYC ACS and NYS OCFS failed to act. Case stalling permitted me to be trafficked to Arecibo, Puerto Rico—without legal advocacy, tracking, or state care—housed solely by a minor friend. Unaddressed catastrophic trauma permanently damaged my central nervous system, causing late-onset Fibromyalgia with severe somatic pain, spasticity, and speech hesitation under stress.

Emergency Escalation, Territorial Truth & Core Demands (0:45 – 1:35)

Rather than protection, I faced decades of institutional lawfare. Systemic blackballing has left me **completely without an income for six years**. During a recent Newark emergency, first responders misidentified my physiological trauma as non-compliance. I was forced into a hospital—an experience that deeply re-traumatized me. The second time I was forced to go, I do not recall everything that happened. I remember walking in, being put on an IV, and later waking up to speak with a doctor on a screen. I was discharged alone to spend Thanksgiving dinner isolated in my home, ultimately resulting in the total loss of my family home and stability.

In Puerto Rico, one-third of the population lives with Fibromyalgia as reported by *El Diario de Puerto Rico*, amid severe medical shortages—and I deeply worry that the people living there will face even worse conditions than what I have endured. These are the untold stories of Puerto Rico—where our children are sold into modern-day slavery and our people left without healthcare while traffickers accelerate gentrification and politicians are silenced by corruption.

I demand five immediate actions:

- 1. Extradition & Prosecution:** Locate, extradite, and prosecute my abusers, closing jurisdictional loopholes.
- 2. Independent Oversight Commission:** Establish a multi-agency body with permanent, paid seats for survivors with lived experience.
- 3. Mandatory Cross-Border Tracking:** Link NYC ACS, NYS OCFS, Newark DCP&P, and PR Departamento de la Familia.
- 4. First-Responder CNS Training:** Require citywide training on central nervous system trauma so somatic pain is met with stabilization, not forced hospitalization or hostility.
- 5. Housing & Economic Support:** Eliminate administrative barriers to guarantee housing stability and economic recovery pathways.

Closing (1:35 – 2:00)

Without survivors leading oversight, institutions use blackballing and lawfare to protect themselves while perpetrators walk free. Establish this commission, open doors for housing and recovery, and extradite my abusers. Thank you.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

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SURVIVOR TESTIFIES BEFORE NYC COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY DEMANDING ACTION FOR DISPLACED TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

NEW YORK, NY — September 30, 2026 — Today, executive leader, advocate, and survivor Mildred Ramos delivered formal public testimony before the New York City Council Committee on Women and Gender Equity. Entering her Policy Brief and Action Plan into the permanent legislative record, Ramos exposed the systemic state failures that allow minor victims of human trafficking, abduction, and sexual violence to be displaced across state and territorial borders without oversight or protection.

Ramos's testimony detailed her 1987 abduction and localized trafficking as a 16-year-old female in Washington Heights, where she was forced into two separate apartments inside the building. During the ordeal, she was physically attacked, beaten, and lost consciousness several times while being subjected to severe sexual violence by an adult Dominican man, an adult Jamaican man, a Colombian boy, and a group of diverse boys forced to participate under their direction. Despite formal medical records at North Central Bronx Hospital and a report filed with the NYPD's 46th Precinct, institutional inaction by child welfare bodies permitted her unmonitored transfer and trafficking to Arecibo, Puerto Rico, without legal advocacy or protective tracking.

"Lived experience trumps and supersedes institutional theatrics," said Mildred Ramos during her address to the Committee. "This is not an attack on any nation, community, or culture—it is solely the truth regarding the horrors I was forced to overcome. Decades of institutional abandonment directly caused central nervous system dysregulation, leaving me with late-onset Fibromyalgia. Rather than receiving protection, survivors face institutional lawfare, first-responder escalation, forced hospitalizations, and persistent blackballing that has left me completely without an income for six years."

Ramos highlighted the broader context of territorial neglect, noting that in Puerto Rico, one-third of the population lives with Fibromyalgia as reported by *El Diario de Puerto Rico*. "These are the untold stories of Puerto Rico," Ramos stated, "where our children are sold into modern-day slavery and our people left without healthcare while traffickers accelerate gentrification and politicians are silenced by corruption."

Ramos commended the Committee on Women and Gender Equity for providing the platform to bring these systemic failures to light and entering the survivor-led demands into the city's official record. The complete Policy Brief is available at www.mildredramos.com.

DIGITAL ADVOCACY COPY & SOCIAL STATEMENT

"Today, I stood before the NYC Council Committee on Women and Gender Equity to deliver my official testimony and enter my Policy Brief into the permanent record. To be clear: this statement is not an attack on any nation, community, or culture—it is solely the truth of the horrors I was forced to overcome, the institutional blackballing that stripped my income for six years, and the systemic failure that transfers displaced minors across borders without protection. Lived experience must lead policy. Full brief & demands at www.mildredramos.com. #LivedExperience #TraffickingSurvivors #NYCCouncil #PuertoRico #FibromyalgiaAwareness"