

Good morning and thank you for giving victims a voice today. My name is Jennifer Harrison and I am the founder of Victims Rights NY. Sadly I was thrown into this world and forced to become an expert on the issues we are here to discuss when on January 15, 2005 both my boyfriend of 6 years and his best friend were murdered. Three brothers were arrested and charged but justice was not served as two of those brothers, both who had records, were freed in a sweetheart deal. Ultimately only one person served just 9.5 years for killing two people. That brother was released in 2014 and they all spend every holiday together as a family. At 27 years old, while all of my friends were planning weddings and having babies I sat in courtrooms listening to the defense vilify the love of my life and learning how completely broken our system is for victims. It was life changing. Through that horrible experience I connected with support groups on both the national and local level. I became an advocate against some of the atrocities I witnessed and tried to help other survivors of homicide victims connect with the resources they need to navigate through this endless nightmare. I have been doing so for over 18 years. I became more politically involved and got louder in 2017 when I learned of "Bail Reform" and other dangerous and deadly "social justice" reforms. Nobody wanted to listen to us, the victims who have to live with the consequences of these decisions for the rest of our lives, when we warned of the harm this would cause. Victims have no voice in politics or government. So I want to thank this committee from the very bottom of my heart for giving victims a voice today. We live in a completely upside down world where somehow those of us thrown into it, through no choice or fault of our own have become the villains for simply wanting justice while those that have intentionally inflicted harm on others have become victims. In our newfound "progressive society" all empathy, compassion and logic have been replaced by a depraved indifference towards human life. And it is not just happening here in NY but in many places across the country. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to shed some light on what is happening here in hopes it will make a difference everywhere.

From day one Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg announced he would not prosecute even very violent crimes in his now infamous Day One Memo. We saw immediate results. A career criminal had his charges reduced when one of his assistant district attorneys knowingly omitted that a weapon was involved in a robbery. Two police officers were shot and killed, a 19 year old girl was murdered while working at Burger King and multiple police officers were shot in separate incidents. Things have not gotten better, only progressively worse. Bragg's office has downgraded 52% of felonies and even when his office decides to prosecute a case they only have about a 50% conviction rate. No one is safer as he promised as a result of his delusion and diversions. And do not be fooled by cherry picked crime numbers. Violent crimes in NYC were up in 2022 from 2021 by 14.7 percent. You will hear many horrible stories, we read about them almost daily. Like Madeline Brame, Bragg released a woman who participated in the brutal murder of her son who was a US Veteran on time served after only 14 months. In Alvin Bragg's NY you can literally get away with murder. But don't you dare defend yourself or his office will prosecute you as the criminal while victimizing your attacker. Just as he did with bodega clerk Jose Alba while the woman who stabbed him still has not been charged with a crime. I have victims calling me almost on a daily basis who are completely distraught with the way they have been or are being treated by the public defenders in Bragg's office. They are being told the office does not have the resources to prosecute their case. We have heard nothing about murdered victims Krystal Baron Nieves, Michelle Go, Christina Lee's cases. Christina Lee was brutally murdered by a mentally ill homeless man who was supposed to be under supervised release in a shelter run by a non-profit. Who was supervising this emotionally disturbed man? How did this happen? The Manhattan DAs office has the authority to investigate and indict or make recommendations in situations like this that will keep NYers safe and prevent it from happening again. Why hasn't either been done? Does Bragg's office not have the resources for

this either? I have heard from victims of domestic violence and hate crimes that have not been charged who are also unable to get the support services they are not only entitled to but that the Manhattan DA's office receives federal and state funding to provide. Why are they not providing these services efficiently? And why is Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg flagrantly violating the federal "Crack House" statute codified in 21 USC § 856 which makes it a felony to knowingly open, lease, rent, use, or maintain any place for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, or using any controlled substance.

<https://definitions.uslegal.com/c/crack-house-statute/>

Over 65 Assistant District Attorney's left the office in the first half of 2022. Most were experienced, veteran prosecutors. Only a select few are left in that office to fight for victims. What resources is Alvin Bragg using to replace those that left instead of using it as a scapegoat to not prosecute cases? It is a very scary time to be here. God forbid you or your family are victimized, who do you have to fight for you?

One victim I work with who did not want her name used since she is still being stalked and lives in constant fear while the Manhattan District Attorney refuses to help had a recent case pending and wanted her experience documented. This is what she witnessed:

- Egregious mishandling of evidence:

She made Control Calls at the direction of, and in the presence of, a Special Victims detective — and was then subsequently arrested with the Control Calls used as evidence against her due to the mass dysfunction within the DA's office

The Result: It Is Not Safe To Report Sexual Assault in the State of New York

- Lack of accountability:

When a prosecutor discovered that mistake and tried to help her, he was eventually forced out and resigned.

The Result: If the DA makes a mistake, the victim is blamed and then denied help from DA's office

- Failure to enforce Orders of Protection:

Her ex was arrested for violating her OOP but released without being charged

The Result: Endangering the safety of DV victims by leaving them open to retaliation

- Failure to uphold Victims Rights:

She was not given a chance to have a meaningful discussion with the prosecutor

when her ex was arrested/ Then not notified of his release

The Result: Treating people who are alone & scared like they are invisible or don't matter

- Ignorance of common criminal tactics:

The prosecutors were unfamiliar with U-Visa fraud, [where a "victim" of DV and the victim's family are issued U-Visas, which is a pathway to citizenship]. When she pointed out this common scam, she was treated like a racist for merely mentioning the obvious.

The Result: How dangerous is this, given the steady influx of migrants and the difficult economic times we are experiencing, for the DA's office to overlook this most basic type of fraud?

- Blatant hypocrisy on race/religion/ hate crimes:

When she showed the prosecutors three years of Anti-Semitic insults by her ex and explained how personal property was stolen from her, she was treated as though she was being dramatic & manipulative. Note:

One of the items taken

connected her to her great-great-great uncle, who left one of the only diaries from the Holocaust, a quote from which is famously used in books, museums, and institutions all over the world.

The Result: Selective prosecutions by the DA / Selective self-victimhood by the DA

- Mistreatment of the disabled or impaired:

When she told the DA's office that the intimidation and fear she is experiencing is impacting her oncology treatment, her concerns were dismissed as her looking for sympathy.

The Result: Lack of protection & resources for vulnerable New Yorkers.

Alvin Bragg is not a champion for the little guy. His dereliction of duty and malfeasance has cost Nyers their lives and retraumatized the victims he is supposed to protect. He does not have the "resources" to take very violent people off of the streets yet he has the resources to prosecute a former President on charges everyone else decided he couldn't be prosecuted for? \$200 Million of resources that it costs taxpayers for just one day? He has given excuse after excuse to not prosecute violent criminals, forsaking not only their distraught and forever changed victims but the entire justice system. When Alvin Bragg indicted President Trump on charges no other prosecutor thought could or should be done he proved when there is a will there's a way. No more excuses. He needs to stop using his office as an extension of legal aid and start doing his job by prosecuting all criminals, without the politics and ideology. NYers deserve better. They deserve to feel safe. And all real victims deserve justice and at the very least to be treated with the respect he has seriously lacked.

We have compiled and have attached a comprehensive "Victims Rights Reform Agenda" we hope to implement not only here in NY but that address many issues victims experience across the country. This list is constantly evolving and there is so much more that can be done both at local, state and federal levels. I am attaching the agenda along with the crime data highlighting Alvin Bragg's dereliction of duty, and failures of

some of the programs Bragg and a few NY Congressmen including Dan Goldman support.

Manhattan Crime Stats in Bragg's first year in office in 2022:

- Index Crime up 25.57% borough-wide
- Violent Crime up 11.73%

NYPD in Manhattan broken into 22 precincts with 2 administrative bureaus (Manhattan North and Manhattan South). Major crime up in 21 out of 22 precincts

**Manhattan South (commercial heart of the city):**

- Murder up 40%
- Rape up 12.10%
- Robbery up 26.29%
- Felony Assault up 11.54%
- Violent Crime up 18.32%
- Index Crimes up 34.55%

**Manhattan North:**

- Murder down 35.82%
- Rape up 29.63%
- Robbery up 9.89%
- Felony Assault up 4.5%
- Violent Crime up 6.68%
- Index Crimes up 15.28%

**Alvin Bragg's Day One Memo:**

<https://www.manhattanda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Day-One-Letter-Policies-1.03.2022.pdf>

**Alvin Bragg's overreliance on dismissals and refusal to prosecute:**

Alvin Bragg dismissed more felony cases in 2022 in his first year than any time since 2013.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Felony Cases Dismissed</b>	<b>%</b>
2013	2662	23%
2014	2914	25%
2015	2750	24%
2016	2726	24%

2017	2363	22%
2018	2296	23%
2019	2479	25%
2020	1473	33%
2021	3257	38%
2022	3417	42%

Alvin Bragg is decline to prosecute cases at arrest screenings as a historical rate:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Arrests Screened</b>	<b>Arrests Declined to Prosecute</b>	<b>% Declined to Prosecute</b>
2013	102997	3179	3.1%
2014	99814	2913	2.9%
2015	86606	2268	2.6%



2016	78195	2413	3.1%
2017	68346	2674	3.9%
2018	55105	4240	7.7%
2019	46123	4209	9.1%
2020	27398	3061	11.2%
2021	32895	2498	7.6%
2022	37638	4093	10.9%
2023 YTD	11298	1550	13.7%

All data from: <https://data.manhattanda.org/>



**Daniel Goldman**  @danielsg... · 22h ...

The work @Avenues4Justice does to divert young people away from the criminal justice system is invaluable.

We need more community-based support programs to help at-risk young people succeed and improve their outcomes.



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<https://manhattan.institute/article/reforming-raise-the-age/>

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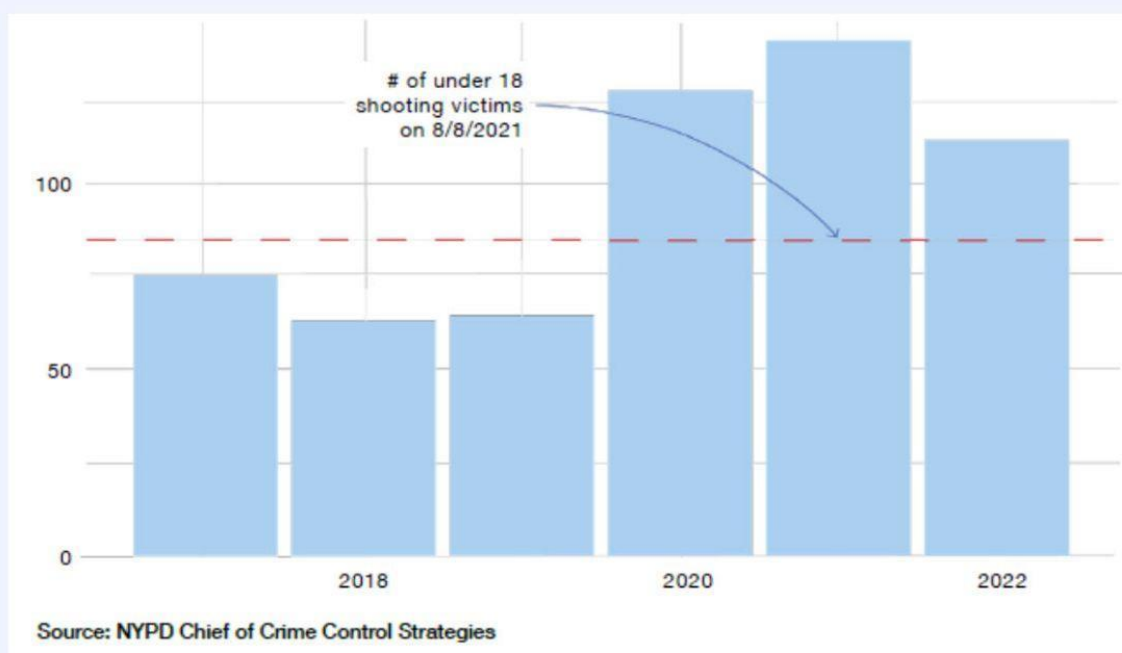
## The Results of RTA

In New York City, adolescent crime trends in the wake of RTA's enactment are concerning. Crime across the city has increased; so, too, has the adolescent recidivism rate. In the first year after RTA was enacted, 48% of 16-year-olds who were arrested once were arrested again. That's up from 39% the previous year. For felonies, it rose from 26% to 35%; and for violent felonies, from 18% to 27%.<sup>[7]</sup>

Youth gun crime in the city has also increased by almost 200%. In 2017, 30 identified shooters were under 18. In 2022, as of August, there had already been 85. Youths are also the victims of gun crime about three times as often as they were five years ago, with 36 victims under 18 in August of 2017 and 111 to the same month in 2022 (**Figure 1**).

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## NYC Youth Shooting Victimization



NYPD's Office of Crime Control Strategies found that "the relationship between youth gun arrests and subsequent shooting involvement (i.e., as an offender or victim) has grown substantially worse over the past few years."<sup>[8]</sup> In 2017, 4.4 out of every 100 individuals arrested with a gun while under 18 years old were involved in a shooting within a year. By 2020, that number had nearly tripled, to 12.9%. In 2021, it was

Sadly the list of the travesties of justice perpetuated by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg goes on and on:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10643373/Police-accuse-Alvin-Braggs-office-not-confiscating-career-criminals-gun.html>

<https://reason.com/2022/09/02/manhattan-d-a-to-prosecute-domestic-violence-victim-for-murder-after-saying-it-wasnt-murder/>

<https://nypost.com/2022/09/22/sex-fiend-gets-sweet-deal-from-manhattan-da-bragg-on-teen-rape-charge-then-attacks-5-others-sources/>

<https://jewishinsider.com/2023/01/alvin-bragg-new-york-hate-crimes-antisemitism/>

Defense attorneys have even used Bragg's memo as arguments for their clients

<https://nypost.com/2022/01/13/homeless-alleged-mugger-should-be-released-under-braggs-new-memo-lawyer/>