On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York as the founding institution of the interdisciplinary field of Children’s Studies and its Children’s Studies Center for Research, Policy and Public Service have organized this event to draw attention to the prevalence of all forms of violence against children and their maltreatment in the United States. This national consultation will discuss critical dimensions concerning the widespread use of violence against children, and ways of effectively preventing its incidence, including in the home, in schools, in the child protection systems, in the juvenile/criminal justice systems, in health and mental institutions and in other social settings.

The deleterious effects of such violence often endure throughout an individual life and even across generations. It is hoped that the event will stimulate dialogue and collaboration between the numerous public sectors and advocacy organizations involved in child protection and explore ways to prevent and eliminate violence against and maltreatment of children in the United States. In particular the findings from epigenetic and social science research need to be made more fully available to the wider professional communities, the public, the judiciary, policy makers and caretakers of children.

Key representatives from the social and behavioral sciences, the neurosciences, the judiciary, legislature, public and non-profit child protective services as well as stakeholders in civil society will be in attendance to explore these issues and ways to collaboratively work across institutional boundaries towards preventing and eliminating child maltreatment.

This project will also serve to focus on Defending Childhood, the initiative announced by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder as well as on the work on child maltreatment of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. It will further serve to bring to public wider attention the initiatives of the Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary General on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais, Esq., and the efforts of her mandate to reduce and eliminate physical, emotional and sexual maltreatment of children worldwide.

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