This October, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) has partnered with the New York State Department of State (DOS) to develop and distribute an informational video for appearance enhancement professionals. The video provides guidance and information for hair stylists, manicurists, barbers, and others who provide similar services, about how to talk to clients who may be victims of domestic violence. This campaign aims to empower these professionals who develop long-term, trusting relationships with their clients and are uniquely positioned to offer support and to share the New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline number: 800-942-6906.

In addition to the video, written materials include the I Am ABLE card, which encourages bystanders to be Aware, to Believe, to Listen to and Empower victims, as well as a new business card that includes the Hotline number and information. These resources are available on the OPDV and DOS websites, and are part of OPDV’s October/Domestic Violence Awareness Month toolkit for use throughout the year. They can be used by anyone looking to raise awareness, empower bystanders and share information about the Hotline.