

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28 – Westbury, NY – Domestic Harmony Foundation (DHF) is a one of a kind community based not-for-profit organization in Long Island, working to empower victims of domestic violence through support services such as advocacy, counseling, legal consultations, support groups, crisis intervention, financial assistance and leadership development initiatives.

On International Women's Day, Sunday, March 8th, DHF is going to have a film screening of *Dukhtar* at Clearview/Bow Tie, Herricks Cinemas - 3324 Hillside Ave, New Hyde park, NY 11040. Film will start at 11:00 am sharp followed by a Q & A session with the director of the film, Afia Nathaniel. *Dukhtar* is based on a true story, and has won 'Best Director' and 'Best Feature' awards at 2014 South Asian International Film Festival. This film sheds light and raises awareness about a very sensitive topic that some communities have been struggling for a long time.

Forced marriage occurs when a man or woman is coerced by their family or other persons in authority, to marry, without any regard for their consent. A forced marriage may involve many forms of oppression and abuse such as threats, emotional blackmail, fraud, and even bribes. Emotional and social coercion is often experienced as threatening by the individual, as distress may lead to accepting the decision that is against one's will.

Sometimes a forced marriage is mistaken as an arranged marriage. The practice of arranged marriages has been a long-standing tradition in many cultures and countries. In an arranged marriage, the families of both spouses take an active role in arranging the marriage; however, the choice whether to accept the arrangement remains with the individuals, and is valued.

For more information about Domestic Harmony Foundation (DHF) and the film screening or to get involved in helping; please visit **www.dhfnny.org** or call **(516) 385-8292**.