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Turning Point Condemns the Murder of Nazish Noorani, Calls on Community to Act

The board and staff of Turning Point for Women and Families mourns the premeditated, cold blooded murder of Nazish Noorani on Tuesday August 16 and give our most heartfelt condolences to her grieving family and all those who loved her.

We also call upon everyone, but particularly the community of New York-area Muslims to actively work to prevent such an act from happening again. The killing violated the peaceful observance of the holy month of Ramadan. Let us remember that Islam, like other religions, condemns abuse in all its forms, including the physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and financial abuse we see in domestic violence.

Police have charged Ms. Noorani's husband Kashif Parvaiz with her murder after he reportedly confessed to hiring an accomplice who fired the shots that killed his wife. The 27 year old mother, an immigrant from Pakistan, left two sons, 3 & 5 years old.

In a chilling text message that Ms. Noorani sent her brother, she wrote that her husband "wants to kill me." She also texted that the children were afraid of their father and that it was impossible to talk with him without him responding with abuse. In February, charges that Parvaiz had abused a former girlfriend were dismissed after the woman decided not to pursue the case.

"Parvaiz left many warning signs that he was a dangerous man who was a threat to those closest to him," said Robina Niaz, Executive Director of Turning Point. "A history of abuse precedes such violent actions...all of us need to learn to read these signs, and more importantly, act on them so that vulnerable women and children have the support they need to safely leave violently abusive marriages."

"Unfortunately, this not an isolated act," said Rabia Iqbal, a Turning Point board member who herself left an abusive marriage. "It is difficult to acknowledge violence in our homes but we must to ensure the healthy future of our families and children."

Turning Point encourages those concerned about Ms. Noorani's children to contribute to the memorial fund her family established, www.Nazishmemorialfund.org

Turning Point for Women and Families, based in Queens, is the first community based agency to directly address domestic violence in the New York Muslim community. It addresses domestic violence through direct services for women and children, community outreach and education, referrals and advocacy. It also runs a youth program for Muslim girls. For more information about Turning Point please visit www.turningpoint-ny.org.