



# National Coalition For Men (NCFM)

Since 1977

932 C Street, Suite B, San Diego, CA 92101 / 619-231-1909 / [ncfm.org](http://ncfm.org) / 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation

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March 13, 2014

Michael J. Garcia, Esq.  
City Attorney  
City of Glendale  
613 East Broadway, Suite 220  
Glendale, CA 91206  
[COGLegal@ci.glendale.ca.us](mailto:COGLegal@ci.glendale.ca.us)

Ms. Denise Miller  
Chairwoman  
City of Glendale Commission on the Status of Women  
613 East Broadway, Suite 220  
Glendale, CA 91206  
[women@ci.glendale.ca.us](mailto:women@ci.glendale.ca.us)

Mr. Nelson Nio  
Shield Self Defense  
333 Washington Boulevard, #234  
Marina del Rey, CA 90292  
[info@shieldselfdefense.com](mailto:info@shieldselfdefense.com)

Re: City of Glendale Commission on the Status of Women's Self-Defense Classes for Women and Girls

Dear Sirs and Madam:

I am president of the National Coalition For Men (NCFM). NCFM is a nonprofit educational organization that raises awareness about how sex discrimination adversely affects men and women. NCFM is the oldest and largest men and women's equal rights organization in the world. You can learn more about NCFM by visiting our website at [www.ncfm.org](http://www.ncfm.org).

I am writing because NCFM is troubled by the no-men-or-boys-allowed self-defense classes City of Glendale, its Commission on the Status of Women, and Shield Self Defense has planned for April 9th and 16th on government property. As shown on the attached advertisement, these gender exclusive classes are being touted as "Self-Defense Classes for Women & Girls," and "FREE self-defense session for women and girls ages 12 and up." The advertisement reminds the reader that "April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month."

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If these government entities and private business proceed with these no-men-or-boys-allowed self-defense classes, or were to host similar no-women-or-girls-allowed self-defense classes, they would violate a host of Federal and California anti-discrimination laws. Such female-exclusive or male-exclusive actions by government and private actors violate the equal protection clauses of the U.S. Constitution and California Constitution, California Government Code section 11135, or California Civil Code sections 51 (codification of the Unruh Civil Rights Act) and 51.5. Simply advertising self-defense classes for only women and girls, or for only men and boys, may also violate anti-discrimination laws, just as if the City of Glendale advertised a job opening for a police officer or librarian as being available to only male applicants.

While not possessing the legal moment that the above anti-discrimination laws have, if the City of Glendale actually goes ahead with its no-men-or-boys-allowed self-defense classes on public property, the City would also be violating its own "Employee Code Of Ethics." The City's Employee Code Of Ethics includes the following:

We are personally committed to each of these core values:

...

Respect - Maintaining a high regard for everyone.

...

Compassion - Exercising care and courtesy while being helpful, sensitive, empathetic, and understanding of everyone's needs

...

#### Guiding Principles of Ethical Conduct

2. Be fair and impartial with all decision making.

...

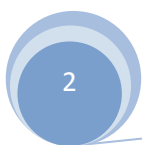
4. Provide superior service and maintain a high regard for everyone without favoritism or prejudice

But if the City were to host no-men-or-boys-allowed self-defense classes, or no-women-or-girls-allowed self-defense classes, the City and its employees, contrary to its Employee Code of Ethics, would not maintain a high regard for the excluded sex, would not be helpful, sensitive, empathetic, or understanding of the excluded sex, would not be fair and impartial to the excluded sex in deciding to host no-men-or-boys-allowed or no-women-or-girls-allowed self-defense classes, or would not provide superior service or maintain a high regard for people without favoritism for or prejudice against certain people's sex.

It is especially troubling that the City, its Commission on the Status of Women, and Shield Self Defense would deny men and boys access to their self defense classes in April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Why the City, its Commission on the Status of Women, and Shield Self Defense do not want men and boys to be just as prepared as women and girls to defend themselves against sexual assault is outrageous.

Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault, not just women and girls. In fact, last week police arrested 38-year-old Gabriel Campos-Martinez for killing his former lover, 66-year-old Hervey Coronado Medellin of Los Angeles, a former flight attendant, whose severed head was found underneath the famed Hollywood sign overlooking Los Angeles in 2012. Mr. Coronado Medellin might be alive today if he was able to participate in free self-defense classes as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

John Manly is one of three male students at a Redlands high school whom teacher Laura Elizabeth Whitehurst was accused of sexually assaulting. Ms. Whitehurst recently pled guilty. Boys like John Manly likely could have benefitted from a self-defense class to prevent sexual assaults. So too would the two boys whom Los Angeles Unified School District teacher Gabriela Cortez pled guilty to sexually assaulting while those young boys were students of Ms. Cortez.



While the City and its Commission on the Status of Women must comply with the U.S. Constitution and California Constitution, and California Government Code section 11135, Shield Self Defense, as a business, must comply with California Civil Code section 51 and 51.5 and their prohibition against treating people unequally based on sex. Civil Code section 52 provides the remedies for violations of sections 51 and 52, which include minimum statutory damages of \$4,000 for each and every offense and attorneys' fees to prevailing plaintiffs - and to only prevailing plaintiffs. *Engel v. Worthington* (1997) 60 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 628 (attorneys' fees award mandatory under Civil Code section 52 for prevailing plaintiff in Unruh Act case); *Turner v. Assoc. of American Medical Colleges* (2011) 193 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 1047 (prevailing defendants are not entitled to attorneys' fees under Civil Code section 52). And if anyone at Shield Self Defense is licensed by the State of California, those licensees must comply with California Business & Professions Code section 125.6 and not discriminate against anyone based on their sex while providing their licensed services.

NCFM wants men and women to be treated equally, and we work very hard to achieve this goal. In fact, NCFM Vice-President Marc Angelucci represented the plaintiffs in the landmark equal rights case of *Woods v. Horton* (2008) 167 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 658, which held that it was unconstitutional to exclude male victims of domestic violence from victims' services receiving state funding based on the victims' sex. NCFM Secretary Alfred Rava represented the plaintiffs in the milestone California Supreme Court case of *Angelucci v. Century Supper Club* (2007) 41 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 160, which held that discrimination victims did not have to first assert their right to equal treatment to the discriminating business in order to have standing for an Unruh Civil Rights Act claim. Despite your planned no-men-or-boys-allowed self-defense classes, NCFM thinks the progressive City of Glendale, its Commission on the Status of Women, and Shield Self Defense also want men and women to be treated equally.

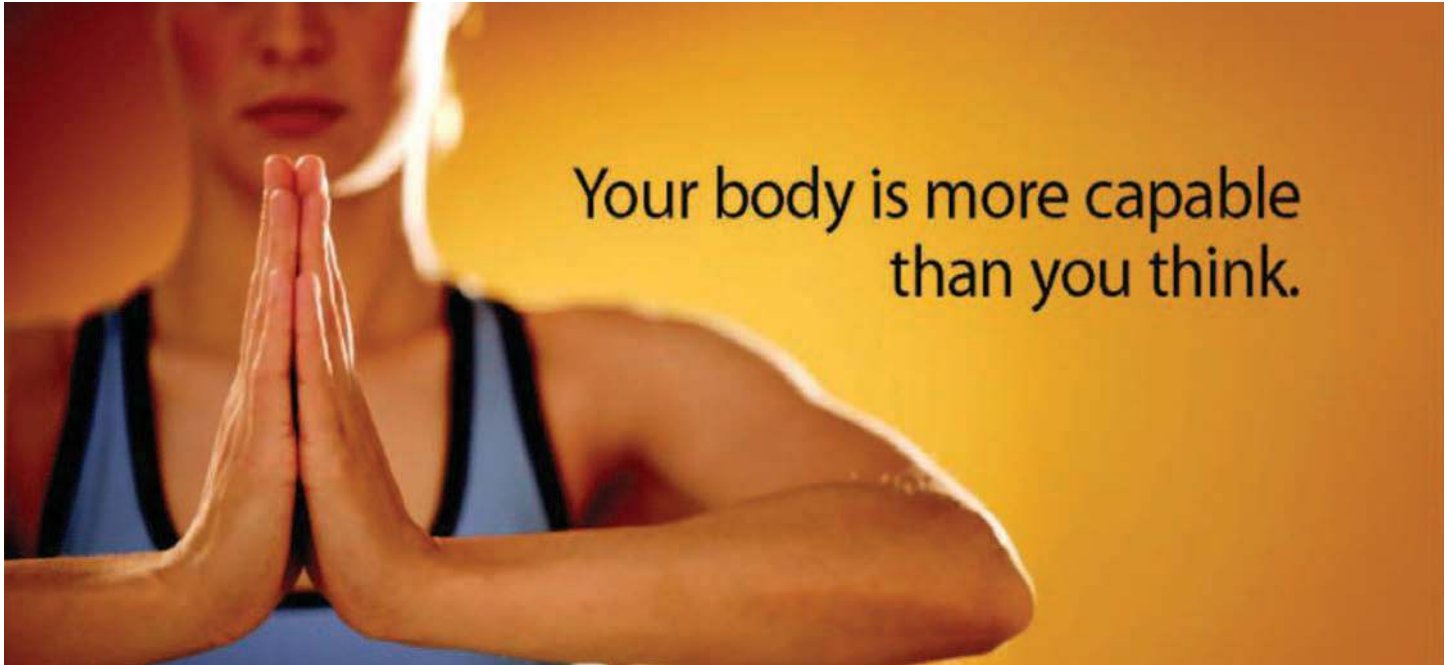
Therefore, NCFM asks the City of Glendale, its Commission on the Status of Women, and Shield Self Defense to treat men, boys, women, and girls equally by not excluding men and boys - or women and girls - from any self-defense classes hosted by the City on government property or anywhere else. Please immediately make these classes available for men and boys, as well as for women and girls, and change all advertisements to reflect that you will be treating men, boys, women, and girls equally by having self-defense classes for everyone, no matter their sex. I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,



Harry A. Crouch  
President, NCFM

# Self-Defense Classes for Women & Girls



Your body is more capable  
than you think.

## Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Glendale Community College, Student Center Conference Room (SC212)

1500 N. Verdugo Rd., Glendale, 91208

Free parking available at Lot C Structure, Levels 1 & 2 (Entrance on Mountain Ave.)

## Wednesday, April 16, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Glendale Police Department, Large Community Room

131 N. Isabel St., Glendale, 91206

Free parking available in the Civic Center Parking Lot (Entrance on Wilson, between Isabel St. and Glendale Ave.)

- **FREE self-defense session for women and girls ages 12 and up**
- **Classes are not cumulative - can attend one or more**
  - **Wear exercise attire and athletic shoes**
  - **Space is limited - reserve your spot now**

*Classes made available by the Glendale Commission on the Status of Women, and taught by SHIELD Self-Defense Training, a martial-arts-based women's self-defense program.*

## **April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

To RSVP or for more information: **818.548.2000** or **women@ci.glendale.ca.us**

