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**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

## ***Legal Aid Statement on Statewide Day of Action to Resist Evictions***

(NEW YORK, NY) – **Adriene Holder, Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society**, issued the following statement in support of today’s statewide Day of Action to Resist Evictions:

“Evictions serve only to exacerbate an already alarming public health emergency. New Yorkers have been devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic – with over 390,00 positive cases and over 30,000 related deaths in New York State. Moreover, many New Yorkers have also suffered exceptional economic hardship as a consequence of the emergency, with Black and Brown New Yorkers disproportionately devastated by the pandemic. By being both more likely to be an “essential” worker, increasing exposure to the virus for oneself or one’s family, coupled with consistent lack of adequate healthcare, and abysmal health disparities; Black and Brown New Yorkers have experienced a Covid-19 mortality rate twice the rate of White New Yorkers.

Housing justice is racial justice, a reality made even more evident during this pandemic. Amid the unprecedented public health crisis—which is still ongoing and with cases rising in certain states—evictions should not be a priority and we must do everything in our power to keep families in their homes. As the State continues to “reopen,” the varying eviction moratoria cannot be lifted. By allowing tenants to stay in their homes despite the financial hardships they have experienced, will lessen and hopefully prevent the social and economic catastrophe that a wave of evictions would surely generate.”

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*The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected,*

*defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>*