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

Legal Aid Statement on NYPD Abduction of 18-Year-Old Trans Activist Nikki Stone

(New York, NY) – **Corey Stoughton, Attorney-in-Charge of the Special Litigation Unit with the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**, today issued the following statement on the New York City Police Department (NYPD) abduction-like arrest of 18-year-old transgender activist Nikki Stone in Manhattan on Tuesday, when plainclothes officers from the Warrant Squad violently grabbed Stone and pushed her into an unmarked vehicle during a protest, without identifying themselves or sharing any information about why they were attempting to make an arrest:

“As the nation watches the federal response to the Portland protests with horror, this arrest reminds us how NYPD officers have long been implementing similarly terrorizing arrest tactics in New York City, carried out regularly by the Warrant Squad. In Black and Brown communities, the NYPD regularly make these abduction-like arrests, and it must stop immediately.

This arrest targeted a transgender woman while she was exercising her First Amendment right to protest the very abusive policing tactics the NYPD used against her. It is yet another example of the NYPD’s ongoing tolerance for and encouragement of abusive and unconstitutional enforcement tactics that are designed to intimidate and instill fear in people engaged in protest. The Mayor must immediately stop this violent and unlawful police response and start to listen to the demands of the protesters.”

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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>