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

## ***The Legal Aid Society Condemns NYPD Violence Against Queer Liberation March***

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement today condemning the New York City Police Department (NYPD) violence towards the Queer Liberation March for Black Lives and Against Police Brutality this past weekend. Peaceful protestors took to the streets on Sunday - New York City's Pride - to resist white supremacy and police violence and to celebrate the LGBTQ+ leaders who resisted these same systems of state oppression and violence 51 years ago.

However, instead of being permitted to express Pride, they were met with pepper spray and physical assaults by the NYPD. These attacks by the NYPD are part of a broader pattern of silencing protest since the murder of George Floyd on May 25 and provide further impetus for the urgent need to defund the NYPD.

"Seeing the videos and the images from the NYPD attack that occurred during Queer Liberation March that took place on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, are utterly heartbreaking. The fact that these videos and images are eerily similar to the Stonewall Uprising that occurred 51 years ago, is simply not okay. These attacks that occur against people of color, as well as against the LGBTQIA+ community, is why we want to defund the police. We will continue to fight for the people within our LGBTQIA+ community, as well as for black and brown communities, who continue to be targets of police violence," said **Marissa Kubicki, who identifies as a lesbian staff member and is a Licensed Master Social Worker in Legal Aid Society's Criminal Defense Practice (pronouns she/her/hers).**

Background: If you were falsely arrested or were the victim of police violence during the Queer Liberation March, get more information about your rights at <https://legalaidnyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/protest-interactive.pdf> or contact The Legal Aid Society at [nycprotests@legal-aid.org](mailto:nycprotests@legal-aid.org) or (212) 298-3303.

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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. [www.legalaidnyc.org](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*