



March 8, 2021

Contact:

Redmond Haskins
The Legal Aid Society
(929) 441-2384
rhaskins@legal-aid.org

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

Statement on the City's Solitary Confinement Practices

(NEW YORK, NY) – Mary Lynne Werlwas, Director of the Prisoners' Rights Project at The Legal Aid Society, issued the following statement on the City's solitary confinement practices:

“The proposed rule re-branding isolated confinement in the City jails spends one page ending the punitive segregation regime, and 40 pages creating a new one that replicates some of the most inhumane features of the current system. Practices like chaining people to desks all day, calling small two-person cages a substitute for common space, or subjecting people to punishment on the basis of vague or secret assessments of ‘criminogenic’ risk that could keep them in restrictive settings indefinitely, cannot be called progress. While some programming elements in the new rules could, with visionary leadership and experienced staffing, reduce idle time in confinement, they will require intensive oversight and support to be implemented faithfully.”

###

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>