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

Legal Aid Statement on International Transgender Day of Visibility

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society today issued the following statement on International Transgender Day of Visibility:

“Today we honor the victories and accomplishments of transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary people here at The Legal Aid Society and across our communities. We also stand in solidarity with TGNCNB youth and advocates across the country fighting against cruel and inhumane laws rooted in transphobia and hate. Over 100 bills attacking trans people have been introduced in state legislatures since 2020. Just this week, Arkansas passed a law that bans gender-affirming care for youth and permits private insurers to refuse to cover such care for anyone of any age. Other states, like Tennessee, have passed or are considering passing bills that ban trans youth from sports. And while we in New York are not faced with such bills, there is still much work to be done.

Legal Aid’s LGBTQ+ Unit, in coalition with many internal and external advocates, has helped coordinate Equality NY’s lobbying day on April 6, in particular helping to prepare panels and materials in support of a bill that would finally require that prisons and jails house people in facilities most closely aligned with their gender identity unless the person chooses otherwise. Our LGBTQ+ Unit is also working with our Prisoners’ Rights Project to fight for access to gender-aligned housing and medically necessary care in Rikers and in the State prison system.

Additionally, our LGBTQ+ Unit and our Criminal Appeals Bureau are initiating a project to conduct outreach to TGNCNB people who may be eligible for relief under the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act. We are also proud to continue our work with our partners at Sylvia Rivera Law Project and Bronx Defenders on the Trans Freedom Can't Wait campaign: <https://www.transfreedomcantwait.com/>.”

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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 145 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