

# THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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

## *Statement from The Legal Aid Society on Juneteenth*

**(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement on Juneteenth:

“On this day 156 years ago, thousands of isolated enslaved Black people in remote areas of Texas who had not been made aware of emancipation were finally freed. This came almost two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation. Today, we remember and honor the Black Americans who were liberated from the deplorable evil of chattel slavery.

Juneteenth is also a moment to acknowledge the stain that slavery has left on almost every facet of life, and how freedom and justice continue to be delayed for Black people in New York City, New York State, and around the country.

This is why we fight everyday against the disproportionate impact of mass incarceration; discriminatory housing policies; disparities in child welfare, education, employment, and healthcare; racial profiling and over-policing of our communities; draconian immigration laws, an inherently biased juvenile justice system; and many other racist policies that persist at a national, state and local level.

Lastly, this Juneteenth, we rededicate ourselves to fighting to address structural racism in the courts, community and even our own workplace, and, equally important, to celebrate the perseverance and contributions of our Black clients and colleagues.”

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