

# THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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

## ***Statement in Response to Transfers of Incarcerated Women from New York City Jails to State Prisons***

**(NEW YORK, NY) - Tina Luongo, Attorney-In-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**, issued the following statement in response to reports that over 200 incarcerated women who are awaiting trial in New York City will be transferred from New York City jails to Bedford Hills Correctional Facility or Taconic Correctional Facility, which are run by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS):

“This decision will create new harms for these women, disrupting their access to due process, their children, families and support networks. It throws into chaos a carefully calibrated web of services which ensures that women are prepared for reentry back into society upon release. These New Yorkers, who are being detained pre-trial, will be moved to state prisons that are not equipped to hold people defending criminal charges, and that do not comport with New York City Board of Correction standards.

Moreover, our transgender and non-binary clients will not have access to the same resources in the custody of DOCCS, and we are extremely concerned that these clients will be mis-housed and generally not cared for.

This move is rushed, ill-conceived and will surely inflict further trauma on our clients. We again demand decarceration, and are considering litigation should Governor Hochul and Mayor de Blasio proceed with these transfers.”

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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)*