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*****MEDIA ADVISORY FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH*****

***Electeds, 13th Forward Coalition, and Over 100 New Yorkers
To Call on Legislature to Finally End Modern-Day Slavery
For Incarcerated New Yorkers during Advocacy Day in Albany***

(ALBANY, NY) — Over 100 New Yorkers, including elected officials and advocates with [13th Forward](#), a statewide coalition working to abolish slavery for all New Yorkers and end exploitation in New York’s prison labor system, will rally on Wednesday, February 8th in Albany to celebrate Black History Month and in support of legislation that would finally end slavery for all incarcerated New Yorkers.

The [No Slavery in NY Act](#) would amend the state constitution to abolish slavery without exception. The current lack of state constitutional protection has allowed New York to build a prison system so dependent on human exploitation and degradation that it is akin to modern-day slavery. Its companion legislation, the [Fairness and Opportunity For Incarcerated Workers Act](#) would ensure that all workers in New York, including those who are incarcerated, receive basic labor protections, a fair wage, and be protected against forced labor by threat of punishment.

WHAT: [13th Forward](#) Advocacy Day, to include a rally and press conference at the Million Dollar Staircase at 11am with over 100 people from across New York State in celebration of Black History Month and to call for the end of slavery as punishment for a crime. Worship Pastor Angela Lockett with Forefront Church Brooklyn will lead lawmakers and advocates through the Civil Rights hymn “We Shall Overcome,” and an art piece by incarcerated artist Lamar Little will be showcased. The day will also include legislative visits and a sticker campaign highlighting the large number of goods made by incarcerated New Yorkers, who toil without

workers' rights or fair wages, in use at the State Capitol.

WHO: Senator Zellnor Myrie, Assemblymember Harvey Epstein, Senator Julia Salazar, Senator Cordell Cleare, Assemblymember Demond Meeks, Senator Kristen Gonzalez, Assemblymember Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, Senator Robert Jackson, Assemblymember Juan Ardila, Assemblymember Phara Souffrant, and The 13th Forward Coalition, led by The Legal Aid Society, Citizen Action of New York, Color Of Change, The New York Civil Liberties Union, A Little Piece of Light, and Wilfredo Laracuenta.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 8th, 10:30am-11:30am

WHERE: New York State Capitol, Million Dollar Staircase Floor 3

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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 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