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

***Legal Aid Statement on Reporting of Collusion Between ICE and NYC Correction Officers to Facilitate Deportations, in Violation of New York City's Detainer Law***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to [reporting](#) of collusion between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and New York City Department of Correction (DOC) officers to facilitate the deportation of incarcerated immigrants:

“It is explicitly against the [New York City Detainer Law](#) and DOC’s own policy for City officials to cooperate with ICE to detain and deport immigrants. When staff violate those policies with impunity, it propagates a culture of collusion and xenophobia.

“Our clients and all immigrant New Yorkers have the right to live their lives without the constant fear that ICE is lurking in the shadows to trap them while they least expect it.

“New York City must live up to its promise of welcoming all immigrants and stop this police-to-deportation pipeline immediately by passing [legislation](#) proposed by the City Council to close loopholes in the detainer laws.

“Moreover, the DOC and ICE officers involved in these egregious emails must be held accountable, and we ask those entities to immediately inform the public of what disciplinary actions, if any, have been taken against the officers named in the article.”

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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)*