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

Over 100 Organizations Throughout NYS Demand Comprehensive State Plan and Immediate Action From Governor Hochul to Address Influx of New Arrivals to NY

Coalition for the Homeless, The Legal Aid Society, and Growing Coalition Call on Governor to Step Up

NEW YORK, NY, August 14, 2023 - Today, the Coalition for the Homeless, The Legal Aid Society and a coalition of more than 100 organizations from around New York State representing advocates, services providers, and faith groups issued a [letter](#) to Governor Kathy Hochul urging her to develop a comprehensive statewide decompression and resettlement plan for the asylum seekers and other new arrivals coming to New York.

The [letter](#) calls on Governor Hochul to create a state plan that: (1) immediately identifies and secures new locations to alleviate the shelter capacity crisis so that families and individuals are not relegated to sleeping on the streets; and (2) helps reduce the skyrocketing shelter census to house homeless New Yorkers and create more capacity in the existing system.

“New York City has been shouldering too much of the burden, and it is well past time for Governor Hochul to step up and take a leadership role in meeting this moment as a true test of our commitment to our values as a community,” said **Coalition for the Homeless Executive Director Dave Giffen**. “New York needs much more from Governor Hochul, who has been far too content to take a back seat while resources go unused, counties fight among themselves, and people suffer.”

“Governor Hochul has so far failed to galvanize the full weight of State government to ensure the humane treatment of new arrivals to New York City and the City’s compliance with all Right to Shelter court orders and local laws,” said **Adriene Holder, Chief Attorney of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “This moment demands urgency from the Hochul Administration, and we call on the Governor for increased resources in the form of funding, facilities, staffing, coordination and more, as legally obligated under New York State’s Constitution.”

The [letter](#) urges Governor Hochul to utilize the authority and resources of her office to immediately take four specific and concrete actions that will help ensure sufficient capacity for all new arrivals and New Yorkers in need of shelter. Those steps are:

1. **Invoke New York Executive Law 29-a or other applicable provisions of law to invalidate executive orders in counties that have refused to accept new arrivals; alternatively, have the State intervene in pending cases to overturn the obstructive executive orders.** Gov. Hochul previously characterized these executive orders as “bigoted policies based on fear and intimidation” inconsistent with New York’s core values – as memorialized in Article XVII of the New York State Constitution, which explicitly states that “the aid, care and support of the needy” are public concerns. We applaud the Governor’s statement and beseech her to take the necessary corresponding actions to bring direction and order to this chaotic and unacceptable situation. Doing so would immediately open up a significant number of hotel rooms for new arrivals, keeping them safe and off the streets.
2. **Reach out to mayors and county executives throughout the state to encourage them to receive new arrivals.** As Governor of a state in a time of crisis – one that unfortunately follows closely on the heels of the COVID-19 crisis that also challenged us as a state – Governor Hochul is uniquely positioned to set the tone for counties and localities throughout New York. Again, we look to her to use her leadership, and the authority and resources of her office, to rally support to address this statewide humanitarian crisis.
3. **Identify more State-owned facilities that can serve as temporary housing for new arrivals.** As noted above, we appreciate that the State has provided a few sites, such as Creedmoor Psychiatric Center, the JFK seasonal mail sorting building, the Lincoln Correctional Facility in NYC, and now Randall’s Island, to serve as emergency housing facilities for new arrivals. However, it is imperative that the full inventory of State-owned facilities throughout New York, including armories, be quickly and thoroughly assessed so that appropriate facilities can be identified and made rapidly available to address the critical and immediate need for additional temporary housing.
4. **Help coordinate the relocation of the new arrivals to the facilities and localities described above.** Again, this is a situation that impacts all New Yorkers and all of us as compassionate human beings who believe that *no one* should be relegated to sleeping on the streets. A humanitarian crisis of this magnitude clearly requires a level of leadership and coordination that can only come from the Governor’s office. We urge Governor Hochul to appoint someone with the authority and resources to quickly and effectively coordinate, in cooperation with New York City officials and relevant stakeholders statewide, the placement of new arrivals in appropriate temporary housing facilities throughout the state.

The full letter can be read [here](#). Signatories include:

Coalition for the Homeless
The Legal Aid Society
Homeless Services United
Make the Road New York
Coalition for Homeless Youth
Community Service Society of New York
Mount Vernon United Tenants
Citizens Committee for Children
Housing Rights Initiative
Housing Works, Inc.
Urban Pathways
Catholic Charities – Archdiocese of New York Homebase
Met Council on Housing
Riverside Edgecombe Neighborhood Association
Win
Housing Justice for All
Da Homeless Hero
Strong Economy For All Coalition
Supportive Housing Network of NY

For the Many
Cooper Square Committee
NYCNOWC Red de Cooperativas de Nueva York
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
CASA in Action
The Corporation for Supportive Housing
Caribbean Equality Project
Workplace Project
Columbia County Sanctuary Movement
Care For the Homeless
Alliance for Quality Education
Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ)
Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus, Inc.
Pratt Center for Community Development
New York State Council of Churches
Tenants & Neighbors
Project Hospitality
Cabrini Mission Foundation
Syracuse Tenants Union
Neighbors Together
Envision Freedom Fund
(HRX) The Community Harm Reduction Project
Transnational Villages Network – Red de Pueblos Transnacionales
New York Communities for Change
Release Aging People in Prison
Fifth Avenue Committee
Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc.
Center for Popular Democracy Action
Sanctuary for Families
Chinese-American Planning Council
The Health & Housing Consortium
Working Families Party – Nassau County
Long Island Activists
Health x Housing Lab at NYU Langone Health
The Children’s Village
West Hill Refugee Welcome Center
Hunger Free America
Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing
Citizen Action of New York
United Neighborhood Houses
New York City Employment and Training Coalition
Saratoga Immigration Coalition
BronxWorks, Inc.
The Institute for Family Health
The Partnership to End Homelessness
Queens Community House
Public Health Solutions
Samaritan Daytop Village, Inc
Parents Supporting Parents NY

Arab-American Family Support Center
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center
Sisters of Mercy Justice Team
Community Voices Heard
Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development (ANHD)
Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation
SCO Family of Services
NAKASEC
The Gathering for Justice
Brandworkers
Day Care Council of New York
Workers United NY NJ Regional Joint Board
Open New York
Volunteers of America – Greater New York
New York Working Families Party
Equality New York
MinKwon Center for Community Action
Covenant House New York
Jewish Family Services of Western New York
American Civic Association
New York Civil Liberties Union, NYCLU/ACLU of New York
Acacia Network
Jackson Heights Immigration Solidarity Network (JHISN)
New York City Youth Action Board
Hope's Door
Capital Area Council of Churches
Saving Justice Newsletter
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Albany
Henry Street Settlement
NICE – New Immigrant Community Empowerment
Evergreen Health
Center for Community Alternatives
United Federation of Teachers
United Madrassi Association Inc.
Rising Ground, Inc.
Hudson/Catskill Housing Coalition
Roads to Success
University Settlement
Open Hearts Initiative

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