

November 21, 2024

Contact:

Alejandra Lopez
The Legal Aid Society
ailopez@legal-aid.org

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

Legal Aid Statement on President-Elect Donald Trump’s Plan to Employ the Military as “Non-Enforcement” to Detain and Deport Immigrants and New ICE Detention Center in New Jersey

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to [reports](#) that President-elect Donald Trump plans to declare a “national emergency” to deploy and give U.S. military service members “non-enforcement” duties to carry out his mass deportation agenda, and [reports](#) of a new ICE detention center in New Jersey, which is expected to open next year and would likely detain New Yorkers:

“President-elect Trump’s xenophobic plan to employ the military to effectuate mass deportations will devastate communities and separate families here in New York City. It has already led to widespread fear, suffering, and destabilization for our non-citizen clients and their loved ones.

“The people we serve are now fearful of submitting asylum applications that they are entitled to under United States immigration law. They are scared to report themselves to local law enforcement as victims of crime, labor rights violations, and trafficking. Even those who were born in the United States are worried that their U.S. citizenship will be questioned or revoked. This is not making our communities safer, it is driving vulnerable individuals further into the shadows.

“While we await the Trump 2.0 Administration and their re-tooled efforts to harm non-citizens in our communities, The Legal Aid Society is ready to fight to defend the rights of all New Yorkers to live safely and with dignity.

“We call upon local and state officials to take immediate action to address how New York will protect non-citizens. Before the upcoming inauguration, lawmakers must take bold steps to ensure that local and state law enforcement and our National Guard will not be complicit in the detention and deportation of New Yorkers.”

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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 nearly 150 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. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>.