

Office of the Mayor
City of New York
Proclamation

Whereas, New York has always stood undeterred in its advocacy for those who are persecuted, unfailingly upholding our nation's sacred principles by continuously reexamining, improving upon, and advancing the ways in which we deliver justice. Our city's unmatched legal sector is integral to the endurance of our democracy, and the more diversified it becomes, the more effective and fairer it can be. Celebrating its 150th year, the Legal Aid Society is our country's oldest and largest public interest law firm. On the occasion of its sesquicentennial, I am pleased to recognize this time-honored nonprofit organization that has fought by my side to help make New York a more affordable, equitable, inclusive, and just city for all who live here.

Whereas, Founded in 1876 when it defended early wage-theft cases on behalf of sailors and factory workers, to representing incarcerated people during the 1971 Attica Prison Uprising, the Legal Aid Society remains a torchbearing cornerstone of American justice. It is driven by the uncompromising conviction that no one should be denied equal protection across its civil, criminal defense, juvenile rights, and pro bono practices, despite generations of deep-seated systemic barriers that have precluded the voiceless from thriving. Since its formation, its advocates and legal representatives have worked tirelessly bolstering LBGTQ+ rights, defending the accused and imprisoned, empowering people living with disabilities, preventing homelessness, supporting survivors of domestic violence, and standing with immigrants — issues that, in 2026, remain at the heart of our city's most imperative dialogues.

Whereas, I am deeply honored to join in applauding the dedicated leadership, staff, and volunteers of the Legal Aid Society, including their committed attorneys, investigators, judicial professionals, paralegals, and social workers, for their collaborative efforts in serving as a voice to uplift the voiceless. As we commemorate this momentous milestone and wish this venerable organization continued success in its pursuit of justice, we also reaffirm our city's commitment to advancing the society's noble mission.

Now therefore, I, Zohran Kwame Mamdani, Mayor of the City of New York, do hereby proclaim Sunday, March 8, 2026, in the City of New York as:

The Legal Aid Society Day

Zohran Kwame Mamdani
Mayor