

June 25, 2020

Hon. Carl Heastie, Assembly Speaker
New York State Assembly
188 State Street, Legislative Office Building, Room 932
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Majority Leader
New York State Senate
188 State Street, Legislative Office Building, Room 907
Albany, NY 12247

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie,

We understand that the legislature may reconvene in July to consider emergency legislation, including legislation that will begin to address the deeply entrenched structural racism in New York's criminal legal system.

We commend the state legislature for acting swiftly to repeal 50a and enact the STAT Act, even as these reforms are long overdue. However, if the legislature is committed to addressing other forms of violence embedded in the system and that leave generational trauma and scars across the Black community, including Black immigrants, Black incarcerated people, and Black LGBTQIA+ people, *your efforts must go further.*

We need bold and immediate change that pulls power away from systems that have made clear that Black lives, Black pain, Black existence, and Black humanity do not matter. We are in the streets. We are marching. We are risking our lives to challenge systemic oppression. We are your constituencies and we are calling on you to do more to ensure that Black lives matter. To that end, we are calling on you to proactively address racist state violence from policing to courts to jails and prisons.

That is why we call on you to reconvene the legislature in July and pass a slate of bills to peel away at the devastation wrought on Black New Yorkers by a system of mass criminalization and state violence. This slate includes:

- **Elder Parole:** S.2144 (Hoylman) / A.9040 (De La Rosa)
- **Fair & Timely Parole:** S.497 (Rivera) / A.4346 (Weprin)
- **The HALT Solitary Confinement Act:** S.1623 (Sepúlveda) / A.2500 (Aubry)
- **Repeal the #WalkingWhileTrans Ban:** S.2253 (Hoylman) / A.654 (Paulin)
- **Protect Our Courts Act:** S.00425 (Hoylman) / A.02176 (Solages)

We are also calling on you to indefinitely delay implementation of **bail reform rollbacks** and to oppose any efforts to expand pretrial jailing that will expose thousands of more Black people to the violence and extraordinary health risks of New York's jails.

The time is now to begin to address the violence of the police, jails, and prisons that have proven deadly to too many Black New Yorkers.

Signed,

1. Action Together Rochester
2. Advocates for the Incarcerated at Fordham Law School
3. African Services Committee
4. Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign
5. Ali Forney Center
6. Amida Care
7. Amnesty International Brooklyn Local Group 27
8. Appellate Advocates
9. Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
10. Asociación de Mujeres Progresistas Inc.
11. Association of Legal Aid Attorneys (UAW 2325)
12. Barriers Know More Poverty Prevention Foundation
13. Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Long Island
14. Black and Pink NYC
15. Black Diaries, Inc.
16. Black Lives Matter Hudson Valley
17. Black Trans News LLC
18. Black Youth Project (BYP) 100 - NYC
19. Brooklyn Community Bail Fund
20. Brooklyn Defender Services
21. BronxConnect
22. The Bronx Defenders
23. Broome County Peace Action
24. Broome Tioga Green Party
25. The Brotherhood/Sister Sol
26. Call BlackLine
27. Campaign for New York Health
28. Campaign for Youth Justice
29. Campaign to End The New Jim Crow
30. Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration

31. Center for Appellate Litigation
32. Center for Bronx Nonprofits
33. Center for Community Alternatives
34. Center for Constitutional Rights
35. Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law at NYU Law
36. Children's Haven: A Place of Healing & Hope, Inc.
37. Circles of Support
38. Citizen Action of New York
39. City University of New York (CUNY) Law School
40. City Voices
41. City Wide Tenant Union of Rochester
42. Close Rosie's
43. College & Community Fellowship
44. Columbia County Sanctuary Movement
45. Community Service Society of New York
46. Correctional Association of New York
47. Criminal Justice Task Force, RocACTS
48. Defenders Clinic at CUNY School of Law
49. The Door-A Center for Alternatives
50. Drug Policy Alliance
51. Empire State Indivisible
52. Enough Is Enough
53. Exodus Transitional Community
54. Experiencing God Ministries
55. First Unitarian Church of Rochester, Criminal Justice Ministry
56. Flying Squirrel Community Space
57. Fortune Society
58. Free the People WNY
59. Friends of Island Academy
60. FWD.us
61. Gangstas Making Astronomical Community Changes, Inc. (GMACC)
62. The Gathering for Justice
63. Genesee County Public Defender
64. Girls for Gender Equity
65. Girls Inc. of Long Island
66. Granny Peace Brigade
67. Greater Rochester LGBTQ Caucus
68. Harlem United
69. Housing Justice for All
70. Housing Works

71. Hudson Valley Community Coalition
72. Human Rights Coalition
73. Incarcerated Nation Network
74. Indivisible Westchester
75. Innocence Project
76. Immigrant Defense Project
77. Ithaca Prisoner Justice Network
78. It Takes A Village Action Organization, Inc.
79. Jews for Racial & Economic Justice
80. Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club
81. John Jay College Institute for Justice and Opportunity
82. Junior League of Buffalo
83. Justice and Peace Resource Center
84. Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier
85. Justice League NYC
86. Justice for Families
87. JustLeadershipUSA
88. LatinoJustice PRLDEF
89. Lawyers For Children
90. Legal Action Center
91. Legal Aid Society of Nassau County
92. The Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County
93. Legal Aid Society of Westchester County
94. LIFT-NY
95. LGBT Bar Association of Greater NY
96. Long Island Progressive Coalition
97. Make the Road New York
98. Marsha P. Johnson Institute
99. Memorial United Methodist Church
100. Met Council on Housing
101. Metro Justice
102. Morningside Heights Resistance
103. Mott Haven Reformed Church
104. Nassau County DSA
105. National Action Network, NYC Chapter Second Chance Committee
106. National Association of Mental Health (NAMI) – Huntington
107. National Association of Mental Health (NAMI) – Queens
108. National Center for Law and Economic Justice
109. National Equality Action Team
110. National Trans Bar Association

111. National Trans Visibility March
112. Nazareth College Jail Project
113. Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
114. Neighbors Against White Supremacy (NAWS) Central Queens
115. Neighbors Together
116. Network Support Services Inc.
117. New Hour for Women and Children – Long Island
118. New Leaf Coalition
119. New Pride Agenda
120. New Sanctuary Coalition
121. New York City Anti-Violence Project
122. New York Civil Liberties Union
123. New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA)
124. New York Communities for Change
125. New York Immigration Coalition
126. New York State Council of Churches
127. New York State Defenders Association, Inc.
128. New York State Tenants & Neighbors
129. Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson
130. No Justice No Pride
131. No Justice Under Capitalism
132. North Bronx Racial Justice
133. Northeast Political Prisoner Coalition
134. Northern Manhattan Coalition to Immigrant Rights (NMCIR)
135. North Star Fund
136. NYCAIC #HALTsolitary Campaign
137. NYC Jericho Movement
138. NYU School of Law
139. Ocean Hill-Brownsville Coalition of Young Professionals
140. Onondaga County Bar Assoc. Assigned Counsel Program
141. The Osborne Association
142. Queens Defenders
143. Parole Preparation Project of NYC
144. Partnership for the Public Good
145. Peaceprints of Western New York
146. Positive Women's Network-USA
147. Presbytery of New York City
148. Prisoners Are People Too
149. Public Interest Resource Center, Fordham Law School
150. PUSH Buffalo

151. Racial Justice BK
152. Real Justice PAC
153. Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) Campaign
154. Religious Society of Friends
155. Returning Citizens Society
156. Rise and Resist
157. Rise Up Kingston
158. Riverside D.A.R.T
159. ROC Acts
160. Rochester Alliance Of Communities Transforming Society, Inc. (RocACTS)
161. Rochester Decarceration Research initiative
162. Rochester First Unitarian Church (Criminal Justice Ministry)
163. Rochester Never Again Action
164. Rochester Mutual Aid Network
165. ROCitizen
166. ROC DSA
167. Safe Passage Project
168. Sanctuary for Families
169. San Diego County Central Committee of the Peace and Freedom Party of California
170. Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network
171. Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (Albany Province Justice Committee)
172. Sound Justice Initiative
173. South Central Brooklyn United for Progress
174. Southern Tier Independence Center
175. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Croton-on-Hudson
176. St. Mary's Episcopal Church
177. S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc.
178. Students for Sensible Drug Policy
179. SURJ NYC
180. Tenants Political Action Committee
181. Tocsin Magazine
182. Transcending Barriers
183. Trellis
184. T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
185. Truth Pharm Inc.
186. Turning Points Resource Center
187. United Christian Leadership Ministry, Western NY
188. United Voices of Cortland
189. Uptown Progressive Action

190. Urban Justice Center
191. Uri L'Tzedek
192. Veterans for Peace, Broome County Chapter
193. Violence Intervention Program
194. VOCAL-NY
195. Westchester Coalition for Police Reform
196. Westchester for Change
197. Women's Health and Reproductive Rights
198. Women & Justice Project
199. Women's Prison Association
200. Woodhull Freedom Foundation
201. Workers Center of Central NY
202. Worth Rises
203. Yonkers Sanctuary Movement
204. Youth Arts New York
205. Youth Represent
206. YVote/Next Gen Politics