

JULY 28-29

# CALL TO ACTION: A VIRTUAL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN *for Police Reform*

## CAMPAIGN FOR POLICE REFORM

*State Level Advocacy*

*State legislators are responsible for proposing legislation that impacts communities throughout the state.*

For 65 years, the National Association of Social Workers and the NYC Chapter, have been advocating for the needs of the most vulnerable. Our professional Code of Ethics holds us accountable and entrusts upon us the charge to advocate for social justice and elevate those who are oppressed and marginalized. It is the ethical and professional duty of every social worker to address societal problems, challenge social injustice, and to ultimately respect the inherent dignity and worth of all people regardless of race, religion, immigration status, gender identity, or sexual orientation. NASW-NYC firmly believes that police reform is intimately connected to the larger call for social justice, racial equity, and criminal justice reform. To this end, we are calling on ALL social workers, advocates, and allies to join us in our efforts towards reform and systemic accountability through advocating for passage of the following three legislations which aim to provide racial and criminal justice reform for Black Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and Trans Women of Color.

### **WHO**

TARGET AUDIENCE FOR PHONE  
CALLS/EMAILS/SOCIAL MEDIA:  
STATE ASSEMBLY PERSONS,  
STATE SENATORS

### **WHY**

State legislators are responsible for proposing legislation that impacts communities throughout the state. In addition, the legislature controls and regulates the finances of local municipalities. That means the legislature has control over local and state police budgets. As such, they can put forth legislation or resolutions that address crucial issues in law enforcement, including reallocation of funds from police to other community services, use of force restrictions, requirements for body cameras, police oversight requirements, and more.

### **HOW**

*You'll be calling New York state legislators to recommend four key actions legislators in New York can take to address police reform in our state.*



# 4 KEY LEGISLATIONS FOR NY LEGISLATORS

## 1. Repeal Walking While Trans Ban- Assembly Bill 654 (Paulin) and Senate Bill 2253 (Hoylman)

### Overview of the Bill:

The Loitering for the Purpose of Prostitution law, also known as the #WalkingWhileTrans law, has resulted in widespread police profiling, unjust arrests, police harassment and police violence – particularly in LGBTQ communities, immigrant communities, and Black and Latinx communities. In 2018, there was a 120% increase in arrests under the statute, with 47% of all arrests across New York State happening in Queens. Black and Latinx women, including transgender people, remain the most impacted.

- According to data from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, in 2018, 91% of people arrested under the statute were Black and Latinx people, and 80% identified as women.
- Further compounding the problem of discriminatory and arbitrary arrests, more than 60% of transgender New Yorkers recently surveyed had previously been subject to police harassment and misconduct, including incidences of sexual assault, that discouraged them from seeking assistance from law enforcement all together. (from [the Human Rights Council](#))

### Justification of Legislation:

Repeal New York State’s Loitering for the Purpose of Prostitution law, also known as the #WalkingWhileTrans ban, which has resulted in widespread police profiling, unjust arrests, police harassment, and police violence—particularly in LGBTQ communities, immigrants communities, and Black and Latinx communities.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND INFO ON REPEALING #WALKINGWHILETRANS BAN:**

[The Human Rights Council](#)

[NYSenate.Gov Information](#)

## 2. Racial Equity Assessment in Legislation- REAL Bill A2116 (Pichardo) & S1739 (Sepulveda)

### Overview of the Bill:

In New York State, various local laws, policies, and procedures contribute to deep-rooted institutional racism that marginalizes oppressed populations. People of color experience disproportionate adverse outcomes from public institutions and social systems, including the education, housing, criminal justice, and child welfare systems that serve their communities. This is often the result of legislation that is passed to ameliorate social issues without consideration from lawmakers about the racial inequities that may result upon enactment.

Race Forward defines a racial equity impact assessment as a systematic examination of how different racial and ethnic groups will likely be affected by a proposed action or decision. These are used to minimize unanticipated adverse consequences in a variety of contexts, including the analysis of proposed policies, institutional practices, programs, plans and budgetary decisions. The racial equity impact assessment can be a vital tool for preventing institutional racism and for identifying new options to remedy long-standing inequities—and this is what the REAL bill seeks to do. A2116, a bill introduced by Assembly member Pichardo and S1739, a bill introduced by Senator Sepulveda, would establish a legislative committee to provide a racial equity impact assessment on all legislation that is reported favorably to the assembly.

### Justification of Legislation:

In addition to establishing a racial equity assessment committee, the bill in New York proposes to evaluate the process used to draft state policies, identify any interdepartmental gaps and inconsistencies for implementation, and make



recommendations of any new laws, regulations, or budgetary priorities that are needed to ensure and promote the desired conditions of racial equity. If passed, the bill would be an important step toward correcting historic injustices and ensure laws passed to support and benefit New Yorkers, do so for all New Yorkers. (from [NASW-NYS](#)).

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND INFO ON RACIAL EQUITY ASSESSMENT IN LEGISLATION – REAL BILL**

[NY Senate.Gov Information- A2116](#)

[NY Senate.Gov Information-S1739](#)

[NASW-NYS Press Release Re: REAL Bill](#)

# 4 KEY LEGISLATIONS FOR NY LEGISLATORS (CONT)



## 3. **Racial Equity Bill S8521B (Kennedy)/ A10319 (People-Stokes)**

### **Overview of the Bill:**

Creates a mechanism within state government by establishing the office of racial equity and social justice to act as the official state planning and coordinating office for changes in policy, practice and allocation of state resources so that race or social justice constructs do not predict an individual's success, while also improving opportunities and outcomes for all people, and performing all necessary and appropriate services required to fulfill these duties. (from [NY Senate Website](#))

### **Justification of Legislation:**

This bill would create a new office within the Executive Branch called the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice. Although the Executive and Legislature may take actions to acknowledge or support racial equity and social justice, there is not a central entity within state government specifically created to further this critical goal. Decisions made by agencies throughout the government can have an enormously positive or detrimental effect on either reducing or exacerbating disparities that already exist. Sometimes by design, but more often unintentionally, actions by the state government have a direct impact on health, educational, and socioeconomic disparities.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND INFO ON RACIAL EQUITY BILL S8521B (KENNEDY)/ A10319 (PEOPLE-STOKES) :**

[NY Senate.Gov Information](#)

## 4. **The Humane Alternatives to Long-Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act -- A.2500 (Aubry) / S.1623 (Sepulveda)**

### **Overview of the Bill:**

The use of solitary confinement in New York's jails and prisons is inhumane. Thousands of New Yorkers are subjected to prolonged solitary confinement despite the growing body of research demonstrating that it can irreparably damage an individual's health. Under state law, correctional officers have broad discretion to subject people to 23-hour isolation for prolonged periods of time, even for minor misbehavior, and including those most vulnerable to the psychological and physical harms of isolation. This discretion permits overt and implicit bias to corrupt the disciplinary process. (from [NYCLU](#))

### **Justification of Legislation:**

The HALT Solitary Confinement Act will restrict the use of segregated confinement and create alternative therapeutic and rehabilitative confinement options; limits the length of time a person may be in segregated confinement and excludes certain persons from being placed in segregated confinement and create more humane and effective alternatives to such confinement.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND INFO ON THE HUMANE ALTERNATIVES TO LONG-TERM (HALT) SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ACT:**

[NY Senate.Gov Information](#)

[New York Civil Liberties Union](#)

[New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement](#)

**FOR THE COMPLETE NASW-NYC TOOLKIT, WHICH INCLUDES INFORMATION ON FEDERAL AND LOCAL LEVEL LEGISLATION AND TIPS AND SCRIPTS TO USE, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO VISIT [WWW.NASWNYC.ORG/CALLTOACTION2020](http://WWW.NASWNYC.ORG/CALLTOACTION2020)**

**ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SPECIFIC ADVOCACY EVENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO [CARES.NASWNYC@SOCIALWORKERS.ORG](mailto:CARES.NASWNYC@SOCIALWORKERS.ORG)**