



Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg
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March 11, 2022

Dear Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to urge you to drop the charges against Tracy McCarter, who is being criminalized for her survival of domestic violence.

We are heartened to hear of your public commitment to reduce your Office's prosecution rate. The effects of such a policy could spare millions of New Yorkers and their families from emotional, physical and financial distress.

However, while you work to reduce the stream of New Yorkers being incarcerated for "non-violent" charges, we urge you to reconsider your office's stance of prosecuting criminalized survivors of gender-based violence and others charged for so-called violent offenses.

It's all too common for survivors of domestic violence to be prosecuted for experiencing domestic violence and daring to survive it. A [national study](#) found that 86% of women who have ever been jailed also report surviving sexual assault and 77% percent have experienced partner violence. Tracy McCarter's prosecution is an egregious example of this. Ms. McCarter, a grandmother, nurse and Black woman, has already endured seven months of incarceration at Rikers Island during a deadly pandemic, 17 months on an electronic ankle shackle, and immeasurable trauma.

Being subjected to your office's unjust prosecution has been retraumatizing for Tracy, and has negatively affected her family, job, education, and ability to move around safely in the city she calls home.

During your campaign, you spoke out against the prosecution of Tracy McCarter, unequivocally committing to #StandWithTracy and [stating](#) that "[p]rosecuting a domestic violence survivor who acted in self-defense is unjust." We demand you stand by the campaign [promise](#) you made to "decline to prosecute survivors of domestic violence."

Please correct [the grave misstep](#) that occurred in McCarter's prosecution, and acknowledge the evidence and history of domestic violence that supported McCarter's self-defense claims against abuse. We urge you to do the right thing: **Stand with survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, and with other incarcerated people surviving and convicted of acts of violence, and use your prosecutorial discretion to drop her charges TODAY.**

Sincerely,

The Legal Aid Society
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Girls for Gender Equity
Freedom Agenda
Survivors Justice Project
New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Release Aging People in Prison/RAPP Campaign
Survived and Punished NY
VOCAL-NY
Women's Prison Association
5 Boro Defenders
Court Watch NYC of Envision Freedom Fund
Dream Corps JUSTICE
Coyote RI
Decriminalize Sex Work
Equinox, Inc.
FairHaven Farm
Freedom To Thrive
Hope's Door
Hudson River Doulas
Law Office of Rosemarie Barnett PLLC
Love & Protect
National Council of Currently and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls
California Coalition for Women Prisoners
Campaign to Free Maddesyn George
Nicole Addimando Community Defense Committee
Parole Preparation Project
Police Reform Organizing Project
Project Hajra
Syracuse Peace Council
The Retreat
The SOAR Institute
Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan
Vera House, Inc.
Young Long Island for Justice