



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 29, 2020

Contact: Ashley C. Sawyer | 718-857-1393 ext. 124 | media@ggenyc.org

GIRLS FOR GENDER EQUITY OPPOSES THE NYPD'S "NEW YOUTH STRATEGY"

The expansion of the NYPD's role harms all young people, especially girls of color in New York City public schools, and is not responsive to student needs.

Girls for Gender Equity (GGE) stands in firm opposition to the recently announced New York Police Department (NYPD) strategy that grows the surveillance of youth and expands the NYPD's contact with young people through the new Youth Coordination Officers. This initiative will result in the continuation of unnecessarily entrenching law enforcement in the day to day lives of young people, particularly youth of color. Further, it reinforces a harmful narrative that our children need to be policed rather than educated.

We are especially outraged by the focus on boosting information sharing between School Safety Agents and borough commands – a strategy that will amplify the surveillance and control of young people in and out of their schools. There is a [strong connection between the presence](#) of police in schools and the racially discriminatory arrests which build and sustain the School-to-Prison Pipeline. This initiative exacerbates the ongoing harm to the education of girls of color presented by the hyper policing of New York City schools. The [data](#) demonstrates that in the year 2019, 1,118 Black girls under the age of 18 were arrested in New York City: Black girls make up 21% of all the girls in the City, but 58% of all girls arrested. Further, during the 2018-2019 school year, Black girls were targeted and stopped by police over 2,500 times in their schools – including one case where a girl as young as six was placed in handcuffs in her school by an NYPD officer.

The hyper criminalization of young people must end, and that does not mean reinventing the role of police. Young people need more supportive, caring adults in their schools and communities who are teachers, counselors, social workers, and restorative justice practitioners. When young people have the resources to thrive – housing, food, clothing, quality culturally relevant



education, after-school activities, access to athletic and art programs, and the love and support of their community – our communities are safer.

We demand that the City of New York invest in meeting the needs of young people rather than shepherding them into precincts, courts, jails, prisons, and probation.

For more information on the impact of policing on girls of color in NYC, see our policy brief "[School Policing Disparities for Black Girls](#)"



2019 map representing the number of arrests of Black girls under the age of 18