

February 8, 2021

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the 180,000 members of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), I write to express our strong support of Kristen Clarke for Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the US Department of Justice (DOJ).

The Department of Justice is the nation's top law enforcement agency. It not only serves as a backstop for our fundamental civil rights, but as an entity for advancing fair and impartial justice for everyone in this country. The department must be comprised of leaders committed to ending discrimination; addressing white supremacy and hate violence; and advancing racial, gender, disability, ethnic, religious, immigrant, and LGBTQ justice. As such, there is no better candidate to lead the Civil Rights Division than Kristen Clarke.

Clarke is a deeply qualified and passionate civil rights leader with an unparalleled depth and breadth of experience. At Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Clarke has worked to promote fair housing and community development, economic justice, voting rights, equal educational opportunity, criminal justice, judicial diversity, and beyond. Clarke formerly served as the head of the Civil Rights Bureau for the New York State Attorney General's Office, where she led broad civil rights enforcement, including the issues of criminal justice, education and housing discrimination, fair lending, barriers to reentry, voting rights, immigrants' rights, gender inequality, disability rights, reproductive access, and LGBTQ equality. Under her leadership, the Bureau secured landmark agreements with banks to address unlawful redlining, employers to address barriers to reentry for people with criminal backgrounds, police departments on reforms to policies and practices, major retailers on racial profiling of consumers, and one of the country's largest school districts concerning issues relating to the school-to-prison pipeline. At the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), Clarke lead the organization's work in the areas of voting rights and election law. Prior to joining LDF, she worked at DOJ as a federal prosecutor in the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division, handling police misconduct, police brutality, hate crimes, and human trafficking cases. She also worked on voting rights and redistricting cases through the Division's Voting Section. Consistent throughout her distinguished career is a focus on strengthening democracy and ensuring justice.

As the nation grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, Black, Latino, Asian and Native American communities bear the brunt of its economic and health damages, as do women broadly. The devastation of this moment compels us to reimagine what kind of America we want to become after the pandemic – one that is more just and equitable for all people. To achieve that future requires leadership at DOJ to ensure the safety of our communities and strengthen our civil rights protections. Kristen Clarke is the right person to defend and advance these critical values.

A central tenet of NCJW is *tzedek, tzedek tirdof*, or the pursuit of justice. We carry out this commitment by working to ensure that all have access to civil and constitutional rights,

particularly women, children, and families and other vulnerable communities. Given her life's work, Kristen Clarke will support our mission and restore integrity, independence, and the pursuit of justice to this critical federal agency.

NCJW urges the Senate Judiciary Committee swiftly confirm Kristen Clarke as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Please let me know if you have any questions or want to discuss our support further.

Sincerely,



Jody Rabhan
Chief Policy Officer
National Council of Jewish Women