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THE NEW YORK WOMEN'S FOUNDATION APPLAUDS THE LEADERSHIP OF SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO AND THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

From 28 years of serving New York City's women and girls in greatest need, The New York Women's Foundation recognizes the value that girls, young women and gender fluid youth of color bring to the City and the importance of providing support and resources for them to thrive.

New York, NY— The New York Women's Foundation (NYWF) congratulates Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and The New York City Council on the successful launch of the Young Women's Initiative, the first of its kind. This initiative embodies Speaker Mark-Viverito's fierce vision and commitment to girls, young women and gender fluid youth of color across New York City, and as a Co-Chair of the initiative, NYWF looks forward to continued partnership under her leadership.

The Young Women's Initiative is an opportunity to build and strengthen cross-sectoral partnership to support New York City's girls, young women, and gender fluid youth of color, who face tremendous obstacles including societal and institutional disinvestment, high rates of sexual violence, and inadequate health resources. Despite these barriers, they embody a spirit of resiliency as the next generation of leaders in this City and beyond. The YWI was announced at NYWF's Celebrating Women Breakfast last May, alongside NYWF's Girls & Young Women of Color Initiative, a 7-year, multi-million dollar investment, engages stakeholders across all sectors to leverage new resources, as well as expertise and wisdom, to ensure that girls, young women, and gender fluid youth of color have every opportunity to succeed and take their right place as key actors in their families, communities, and the City at large.

[NYWF's new report, *Voices from the Field: Blueprint for Investing in Girls and Young Women*](#), cites the importance of gender-specific and gender-competent programming for NYC's 800,000 low-income girls and young women, engaging them as co-authors of solutions to the challenges they face in their lives, and demanding equitable investment in programs and support for girls and young women. NYWF is thrilled that the Young Women's Initiative is in alignment with these recommendations and represents progress towards ensuring that every New York City girl, young woman, and youth of color can grow up in health, safety and economic security.

"I applaud Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and The New York City Council on their steadfast vision and delivery of the Young Women's Initiative, which declares that the lives of girls, young women, and gender fluid youth of color deserve greater attention and investment. The New York Women's Foundation is proud to partner with the Young Women's Initiative under Speaker Mark-Viverito's leadership, and remains committed to advancing the lives of girls, young women, and gender fluid youth across New York City as we have for the past 28 years." **Ana Oliveira, President & CEO, The New York Women's Foundation**

About The New York Women's Foundation:

The New York Women's Foundation is a voice for women and a force for change. We are a cross-cultural alliance of women catalyzing partnerships and leveraging human and financial capital to achieve sustained economic security and justice for women and girls. With fierce determination, we mobilize hearts, minds and resources to create an equitable and just future for women, families and communities in New York City. For more information, visit www.nywf.org.