



**Queens County Public Meeting with the NY Independent Redistricting Commission
Testimony of Simone Jhingoor, Co-Director of Jahajee Sisters**

November 17, 2021

I write today on behalf of Jahajee Sisters, a gender justice organization serving the Indo-Caribbean community. I write to urge the Commission to keep the Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park, and Ozone Park areas of Queens whole, to issue one set of maps, and to consider the UNITY map proposed by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Latino Justice, and the Medgar Evers College Center for Law and Social Justice.

We are part of the South Queens Redistricting Coalition. We joined this coalition because our community of interest is now split among 7 assembly districts and 4 senate districts -- creating a very serious problem for groups like mine that are fighting for the needs of our community. We need to have clear leaders to go to and we need to have strong relationships with elected officials. This becomes extremely difficult when there are so many offices to liaise with, and people suffer because of it.

We were hopeful that the Commission would unite our neighborhoods. We were very encouraged by the letters Assembly AL map but when the Commission released two sets of maps, many people were confused. Since there is such a departure from the letters plan and the names plan and between the Assembly and Senate lines, we urge the Commission to create just one map and to get behind the UNITY map. This map is a joint effort of the communities of color.

We need one Assembly, one State Senate, and one Congressional District to substantially represent our neighborhoods. **I urge you to develop one set of maps and we urge you to adopt the Unity Map.**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simone Jhingoor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Simone" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Jhingoor".

Simone Jhingoor
Co-Director, Jahajee Sisters