FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Francis-Olvera Administration welcomes the successful vote on the Referendum to Establish a New GU272 Legacy and Create the Reconciliation Contribution, and congratulates the GU272 Advocacy Team on their spirited and successful campaign. This referendum represents a meaningful step forward in atoning for Georgetown University’s legacy of slavery by honoring the 272 enslaved individuals sold by the University, and benefiting their living descendants. The process of translating this proposal into action will continue through school officials, and must receive final approval from the Board of Directors. If implemented by University officials, the measures advanced in this referendum would put Georgetown on the right side of history and constitute the first reparations policy in the nation.

The students of Georgetown have indicated their clear support for the University to take reparative action in order to address the outstanding moral debt incurred by the University’s decision to engage in and profit off slavery. Despite our excitement at this outcome, it is important to emphasize that the results of this vote (as with any student referendum) are non-binding, and the GU272 proposal will require approval by the Georgetown Board of Directors before becoming policy. Norman, Aleida, and the entire administration look forward to continuing to work with members of the student body and school officials to ensure and fight for the implementation of these measures.

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