



THE CAMPAIGN TO END THE NEW JIM CROW



“NO TO PRISONS, YES TO CARING COMMUNITIES”

A Project of the Riverside Church Prison Ministry in collaboration with All Things Harlem, American Friends Service Committee - NYMRO, Attica is All of Us, Campaign to End the Death Penalty, Center for Constitutional Rights, Religious Society of Friends Morningside Meeting, Think Outside the Cell Foundation ... and many individuals

HIGHLIGHTED FACTS

- The US leads the world in incarceration: **over 2.4 million people** behind bars -- a **500% increase** over the past thirty years. The US has 5 percent of the world population yet approximately **25 percent of its prisoners**

- More than **60% of the people in prison** are people of color. For **Black males in their twenties, 1 in every 8** is in prison or jail on any given day. **Three-fourths of all persons in prison for drug offenses** are people of color.

- With the emergence of “**Secure Communities**”, and other race based injustices, **1 in 6 Latino men** born today can **expect to be incarcerated in their lifetime**.

- Prisons have exploded with the "war on drugs": more than 500,000 people—nearly a quarter of all those incarcerated—are incarcerated as the result of a drug conviction. **The number of drug offenders in state prisons has increased thirteen-fold since 1980.**

- In 2008, 37 percent of Black high-school dropouts were incarcerated. If these trends hold, **68 percent of African-American** male high school dropouts born from 1975 to 1979 will spend time living in prison at some point in their lives.

- Nationally, approximately **5.3 million Americans** are denied the right to vote because of laws that prohibit voting by people with felony convictions. Felony disenfranchisement has resulted in **an estimated 13% of Black men** being unable to vote.

- In 2009, the **Federal government held over 380, 000 people in immigration custody.**

- Prisons devastate our communities: over the last two decades, state spending on prisons grew at **six times the spending on higher education**. Nearly **\$70 billion** is spent annually on prisons, probation, parole and detention centers.

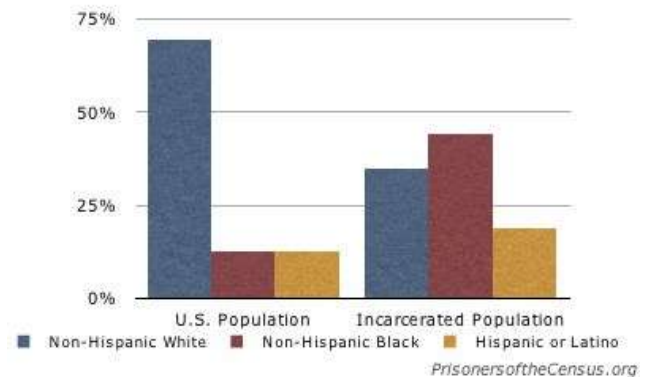
- From 1997 to 2007, the number of **women in prison** has grown by **832 percent** to **over 65 thousand** in state or federal custody. Two-thirds of these women were the **primary caregiver to minor children**.

- Although **Latino women make up only 9% of the U.S. population**, they represent **32% of women in federal prisons**.

- In 2009, there were **7.2 million people** under some form of **correctional supervision**.

- Today there are **over 92 thousand juveniles in federal, state and local custody**.

Racial disparity between U.S. and incarcerated populations



Sources: *Daedalus; Drug Policy Alliance; NAACP; Sentencing Project; Women's Prison Association; Prison Policy Initiative*

OUR PLATFORM

Mass incarceration and the New Jim Crow will end when communities of color fully understand that this is our struggle and that we must work together with our allies to dismantle this new caste system

Mass incarceration and the New Jim Crow will end when we confront and challenge the racial bias in our laws, policing practices, prosecutorial discretion, adjudication and sentencing

Mass incarceration and the New Jim Crow will end when we no longer use criminal convictions to deny people the right to vote, access to housing, education, employment and other human rights

Mass incarceration and the New Jim Crow will end when we focus on improving the conditions of people instead of locking them up for their responses to their conditions

OUR VISION

“Our vision is for a grassroots, bottom-up human rights movement that is committed to ending mass incarceration entirely. This means more than a reduction in the rates of incarceration. It means a fundamental shift from a punitive model to a healing and transformative model of justice—a model that does not criminalize people for public health problems like drug addiction, and does not criminalize poverty. Our movement is rooted in the awareness that every human being has value and dignity and is entitled to basic civil and human rights, including the right to vote, the right to work, the right to shelter, the right to education, the right to health care and the right to food. In our vision, we as a nation finally come to embrace civil and human rights for all people, no matter who they are or what they have done.

Our movement carries with it a vision of a society in which we value education over incarceration, jobs over jail, and a society that finds better uses for 1 trillion dollars than waging a drug war on its poorest and most vulnerable members. Our movement is one in which the voices of those who have been locked up, locked out and left behind can be heard loud and clear. We are committed to boldly employing nonviolent strategies for large-scale change, inspiring others through deeds, not words.”

Michelle Alexander

OUR MISSION

“We challenge the culture of racism, repression and retribution that sustains mass incarceration. We seek to remove the structural injustices inflicted on the incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, their families and the communities from which they come. We seek human rights for all members of our society non-violently, in opposition to our current system of justice, which is inherently violent.”

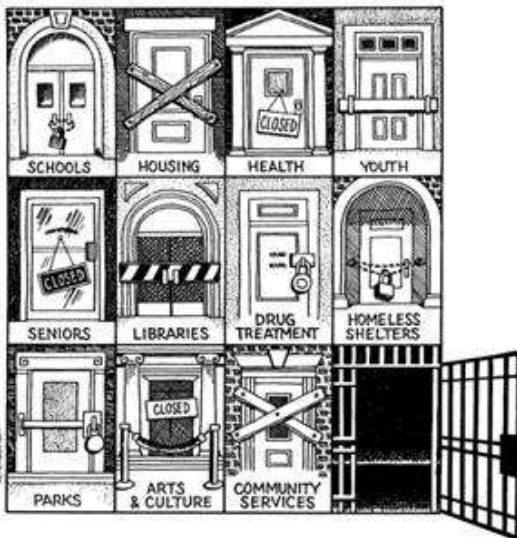
OUR POSITION

“Mass incarceration and the racist practices of the New Jim Crow as manifested in all the collateral consequences imposed on individuals and communities will be dismantled with a grassroots, bottom-up effort led by those most directly affected and supported by their allies.”

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



- ✓ Start a study group for: THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS by Michelle Alexander (visit our website for the study guide)
- ✓ Organize or join community watch programs to monitor the police
- ✓ Challenge your legislators to end all collateral consequences to a criminal conviction
- ✓ Demand that criminal justice policies and practices be racially neutral
- ✓ Support efforts to shift the criminal justice paradigm away from punishment and retribution to healing and transformation
- ✓ Petition your representatives to redirect prison resources to community development
- ✓ **BUILD THE MOVEMENT:** bring your expertise, skills, ideas and interests to the Campaign (visit our website, find us on Facebook, attend our meetings)



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