**2017 PRIORITIZED PLATFORM FOR CHALLENGING INCARCERATION IN NEW YORK**

*The system of incarceration in New York continues to destroy people, families, and communities. Rooted in the ongoing legacy of slavery, Jim Crow segregation, and ghettoization, New York’s policing, jails, and prisons are at their core driven by racism, dehumanization, and otherization. Black people in particular are targeted for criminalization, policing, incarceration, and other state violence and torture. These systems also target women, queer, transgender, and gender non-conforming people; Latino, Native American, and Muslim people; people with mental health needs; poor people of all backgrounds; and other marginalized people. New York State must dismantle this racist and patriarchal incarceration system and reconstruct our State through caring and empowered communities with control over the decisions and resources that affect our own lives. We also commit ourselves to standing up for our Muslim and immigrant sisters and brothers, and all LGBTQ people, any time they come under attack. This platform represents our commitment to standing together as one community, fighting for human rights for all. As meaningful steps toward this necessary transformation, we call on New York legislators and the Governor, as well as the NYC Council and Mayor and all local governments to: 1) End Mass Incarceration; 2) Promote Community Empowerment; 3) End State Violence and Torture; and 4) End Structural Racism and all Intersectional Identity-Based Oppression. While we support a fuller platform of policy changes as important steps within each of these categories, this year we call upon New York policy-makers to enact and effectively implement* ***all of the following prioritized measures in 2017****.*

1. **End Mass Incarceration**: reduce number of prisons/jails, people incarcerated & lengths incarcerated: 2017 Priorities:
2. [***Parole***](http://rappcampaign.com/)[***Reform***](https://nationinside.org/campaign/parole-reform-campaign/): require Board to release people who demonstrate their readiness & specify what denied applicants can do to be released, SAFE Parole Act, [A. 4053](http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A04353&term=2017&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y) / [S. 3095](https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2017/S3095), and ensure parole decisions are based on risk & rehabilitation, [A. 1909](http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A01909&term=2017&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y).
3. [***Raise the Age***](http://raisetheageny.com/): raise the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to at least 18 for all children and all crimes, and keep all children out of adult jails and prisons.
4. ***Bail Reform***: fundamentally transform the bail/pre-trial detention system to dramatically reduce the number of people in jail, stop jail expansion, end pre-trial detention in almost all cases, end poverty-based detention, and refrain from using risk assessment instruments or other approaches that claim to predict dangerousness and reinforce existing inequalities.
5. ***Revamp all sentencing***:end life without parole, reduce all prison sentences, stop re-incarceration on technical violations, and expand alternatives to incarceration, diversion, Supervised Injection Facilities, other community resources, and restorative and transformative justice for all people, including people with mental health needs, people who use drugs, and people convicted of the most violent offenses.
6. **Promote Community Empowerment, Education, Reconstruction, and Control**: 2017 Priorities:
7. ***Voting Rights for All***: provide right to vote for all people incarcerated in prisons and jails, and who are on parole.
8. [***Tuition Assistance Program******(TAP) restoration***](http://turnonthetapny.org/): [A. 3995](http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A03995&term=2017&Summary=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y), restore financial aid eligibility of incarcerated people for college.
9. ***Visits & Family Ties***: withdraw proposal to cut visit days in NY prisons, & expand opportunities for family/community ties.
10. **End State Violence and Torture, and Shift Away from the Punishment Paradigm**: 2017 Priorities:
11. [***HALT Solitary Confinement Act***](http://nycaic.org/), [A. 3080 / S. 3824](http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A03080&term=2017&Summary=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y): end the torture of solitary confinement for all people and create more humane and effective alternatives.
12. ***Close*** [***Rikers***](http://www.closerikers.org/) ***and*** [***Attica***](https://beyondattica.org/): close this abusive jail and prison immediately and permanently, and stop systemic brutality, racism, and abuse in all jails and prisons.
13. **End Structural Racism, Ensure a Focus on Women and LGBTI people, and Protect the Human Rights of All People – including Groups Disproportionately Harmed by the Punishment System**: 2017 Priorities:
14. [***Racial Justice***](http://www.cflj.org/): establish [Truth**,** Justice, and Reconciliation Commission](http://www.cflj.org/cflj/The-Need-for-A-Commission.pdf), and reparations, for the harms of mass incarceration, policing, segregation, and slavery; and utilize racial and ethnic impact statements to prohibit any justice policy that would exacerbate racial disparities.
15. [***Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act (DVSJA)***](http://dvsja.org/), [A. 3110](http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A03110&term=2017&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y) / [S. 3440](http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S03340&term=2017&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y): grant judges discretion to sentence DV survivors convicted of offenses caused by that violence to shorter sentences or alternative-to-incarceration programs.

**TO ENDORSE THIS PLATFORM AND BECOME PART OF THIS COLLECTIVE, EMAIL**: [challengingincarceration@gmail.com](mailto:challengingincarceration@gmail.com)

**RSVP for a May 10 Day of Action in Albany to support this platform**: [may10dayofactionRSVP@gmail.com](mailto:may10dayofactionRSVP@gmail.com)

**The following campaigns, coalitions, and groups are currently endorsing the platform:**

"All Things Harlem / “Still Here” Harlem

Productions, Inc."

Alliance of Families for Justice

Amawalk Quaker Meeting

Beacon Prison Action

Books Through Bars (NYC)

The Bronx Freedom Fund

Brooklyn Defenders Services

Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC)

Campaign to End the New Jim Crow - NYC

Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration

Center for Community Alternatives

Center for Law and Justice

Citizens Against Recidivism

Community Service Society

Correctional Association of New York

Criminal Justice Caucus at the Columbia School of Social Work

Drug Policy Alliance

Education From The Inside Out

FACES NY Inc.

Freedom Socialist Party of NYC

Herstory Writers Workshop

Hope Lives for Lifers Project

Hour Children, Inc.

Incarcerated Nation Corporation (INC)

Ithaca Prisoner Justice Network

Jails Action Coalition (JAC)

Jericho Movement

John Brown Lives!

Just LeadershipUSA (JLUSA)

Justice United in the Southern Tier (JUST)

Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS

Legal Aid Society

LIFE Progressive Services Group Inc.

Life to Life

National Action Network NYC Chapter - Second Chance Committee

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – NYS (Criminal Justice)

National Council for Incarcerated/Formerly Incarcerated Women & Girls

National Lawyers Guild-NYC Chapter

National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)

Network Support Services Inc.

New York State Prisoner Justice Network (NYSPJN)

On the Count, WBAI

Osborne Association

Parole Justice New York

Parole Preparation Project (PPP)

Peace and Justice Task Force of All Souls Unitarian Church

Photo Patch Foundation

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Release Aging People in Prison

Rochester Prison Education Project

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) New York State

SURJ - Beacon

SURJ - Buffalo

SURJ - Capital District

SURJ - Hudson

SURJ - Ithaca

SURJ - North Country

SURJ - NYC

The Raging Grannies

The Sentencing Project

The Social Justice Committee of the Oratory Church of St. Boniface

Urban Justice Center

Women & Justice Project

Youth Activists, Youth Allies Network (Ya-Ya Network)