**2018 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 2018****.*

1. **End Mass Incarceration**: reduce number of prisons/jails, people incarcerated & lengths incarcerated: 2018 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. 4353](http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A04353&term=2017&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y)/ S. 3095A, 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. As a start, NY must fully implement and expand the enacted 2017 raise the age law.
4. [***#FREEnewyork***](https://www.justleadershipusa.org/freenewyork/): adopt bold speedy trial, bail, and discovery law reform, along with expanded funding for legal representation in order to ensure fairness, dramatically reduce the number of people in jail and prison, 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 (including [A. 3506](http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=%0D%0A&leg_video=&bn=A.+3506+&term=2017&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y)B / [S. 3040B](http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S03040&term=2017&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y)), and people convicted of the most violent offenses.
6. **Promote Community Empowerment, Education, Reconstruction, and Control**: 2018 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. ***Enhance Visits & Family/Community Ties***: Restore 7-day visiting at medium security prisons, [A. 7241](http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A07241&term=2017&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y), restore free bus program, [A. 7016](http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=%0D%0A&leg_video=&bn=A.+7016&term=2017&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y), and ensure incarcerated people are held closer to their children, loved ones, and community.
10. **End State Violence and Torture, and Shift Away from the Punishment Paradigm**: 2018 Priorities:
11. [***HALT Solitary Confinement Act***](http://nycaic.org/), [A. 3080 / S. 4784](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 across the state.
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**: 2018 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, including [A. 7274](http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A07274&term=2017&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y) / [S. 5624A](http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S05624&term=2017&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Committee%26nbspVotes=Y&Floor%26nbspVotes=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y); 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 program