



## Letter to Vice President Harris, Candidate for President, from Leaders Impacted by Mass Incarceration and Criminalization

Vice President Harris,

We are leaders in the movement to reform our criminal justice system and remedy the harms of mass incarceration.

We have mobilized our friends and family—tapping into the [1 in 2 Americans](#) who have experienced incarceration in their immediate families—in many elections before. We are committed to second chances. From restoring voting rights in Florida, Louisiana, and New York to electing reform-minded governors, state legislators, and local office holders across the country who have reduced jail and prison terms and reunited families, we have witnessed first-hand the

motivating power of safe and effective criminal justice reforms in driving our community out to vote.

We were moved when, in 2019, you were the first candidate to agree to attend our [criminal justice reform presidential town hall](#) held inside a shuttered prison, the only event of its kind hosted by formerly incarcerated leaders. You spoke directly to the millions of us on both sides of the prison walls who have been personally impacted by mass incarceration about your plans to prioritize safety and justice for our families.

As you ramp up your campaign for President, we ask that you meet this consequential political moment with particular care and attention as it relates to conversations and commitments around criminal justice reform.







Oct 28, 2019 - Justice Votes 2020 Town Hall held in Philadelphia at the Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, the site of a former prison. Organized by Voters Organized to Educate

There will be those that simplify a match-up between you and former President Trump as one between a “tough-on-crime” prosecutor and a “criminal.” We hope you will resist this language and this framing. It is both harmful to us and harmful to your campaign. First, we believe you have been and will be a criminal justice reform leader. And, also words like “criminal” and “felon” paint with a broad brush that stains more than 70 million Americans with criminal records including the one-in-three Black men who have felony convictions. Hold Donald Trump to account for his conduct and for failing to demonstrate remorse. Describe the impacts of his actions and policy proposals but resist this outdated fear-mongering that reenforces the criminalization that locks so many of us out of voting, out of housing and jobs and freedom. This language dehumanizes us and opens the door to the ridicule and slander that has long plagued us since the Black Codes. Shouting “felon!” without acknowledging the injustices taking place daily in courts, prisons, and jails depresses the tremendous electoral potential of engaging with the tens of millions of us who have criminal convictions and the even greater number of American voters who love us.

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*crime” prosecutor and a “criminal.” We hope you will resist this language and this framing. It is both harmful to us and harmful to your campaign.”*

Too many of our loved ones should be home and are not. We are as urgent as ever in our work to end mass incarceration and we expect our presidential candidates to be the same.

We look forward to learning about your criminal justice reform platform. We are waiting with nothing less than freedom on the line.

## **Signed,**

- **Monica Jahner, A.R.R.O**
- **Lucinda Cross, Activate Your Life**
- **Marcus Jackson, Advocacy Based on Lived Experience (ABLE)**
- **Jose Pineda, After Incarceration**
- **LaTonya Tate, Alabama Justice Initiative**
- **Hernán Carvente-Martinez, Alianza for Opportunity**
- **Dorsey Nunn, All of Us Or None**
- **Fidel Chagolla, All of Us or None, Riverside Chapter**
- **Steve Huerta, All of Us or None, Texas Chapter**
- **David Gaspar, The Bail Project**
- **Bridgette Simpson, Barred Business**

- **Maya Ragsdale, Beauty after the Bars**
- **Tiawana Brown, Beauty after the Bars**
- **Chico Gunder, Black Men Build**
- **Phillip B Agnew, Black Men Build**
- **Dr. Michael Carter, Sr., Black Wall Street USA**
- **Vincent Beasley, Sr., Black Wall Street USA**
- **D'Marria Monday, Block Builderz**
- **Bella Robinson, Call Off You Old Tired Ethics Rhode Island (COYOTE RI)**
- **Peter Contos, Cannabis Equity IL Coalition**
- **Maria Garza, Challenge II Change**
- **Frederique Desrosiers, Chicago Votes**
- **Gail T. Smith, Children's Best Interest Project**
- **George Galvis, Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ)**
- **Shannon Ross, The Community**
- **Imani Shu'la, Community Defense of East Tennessee**
- **Khalilah V. Collins, DOVE Delegates**
- **Dreama Caldwell, Down Home NC**
- **Elgin R Lofton, Elgin's Family-Restorative (Advocating) Justice!**
- **Jacqueline Mann, Elias Foundation**



- **Alonzo Waheed**, Equity And Transformation
- **Richard Wallace**, Equity And Transformation
- **Jerome Dillard**, EXPO Wisconsin (Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing)
- **Charisse Smith**, Families and Friends of the Wrongfully Convicted, Inc. (FFWC)
- **Renny Smith**, Families and Friends of the Wrongfully Convicted, Inc. (FFWC)
- **Jessica Summers**, Fenix Collective/National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly incarcerated Women and Girls
- **Chloe Dinman**, The First 72+
- **Janes Kilgore**, FirstFollowers
- **David Ayala**, Formerly Incarcerated Convicted People & Families Movement
- **Attica Scott**, Forward Justice Action Network
- **Dawn Harrington**, Free Hearts
- **Keeda Haynes**, Free Hearts
- **Deborah Bulleit**, Freedom 101: Harrison Education and Literacy Program
- **Nathaniel Evans**, Freedom Agenda
- **LaKia Colquitt**, Freedom Recovery Cafe
- **James Jeter**, Full Citizens Coalition

- **Carmen Perez-Jordan, The Gathering for Justice/Justice League NYC**
- **Willie Griffin , G.O.D (Giving Others Dreams)**
- **Alex Duran, Galaxy Gives**
- **Latecia Hill, Gateway Alliance Project**
- **Larry Turnley, Gideon's Army**
- **Edie Jones, God/Rainbow connection**
- **Rev. Dr. Chris Kimmenez, Healing Communities PA**
- **Charlyne Boyette, Healing Connections LLC**
- **Avalon Betts-Gaston , Illinois Alliance For Reentry & Justice**
- **LaVetta Dunagan, Illinois Alliance For Reentry & Justice**
- **Gregory Chambers, Illinois Coalition to End Permanent Punishments**
- **Marlon Chamberlain, Illinois Coalition to End Permanent Punishments**
- **Tyisha Jackson, Incredible Credible Messengers Inc.**
- **Andrew Winn, Insight Garden Program**
- **Gregory Chambers, JLUSA**
- **Caroline Isaacs, Just Communities Arizona**
- **Wendy Golenbock, Justice Support Project Inc.**
- **Deanna Hoskins, JustLeadership USA**



- **Albino Garcia Jr**, La Plazita Institute
- **Stephen Post**, Last Prisoner Project
- **Whit Whitaker**, Lexington-Fayette NAACP
- **Qiana Johnson**, Life After Release
- **Andrew Hundley**, Louisiana Parole Project
- **Jagada Chambers**, Mass Liberation Project Nevada
- **Cass Severe**, Meet Her At The Gate
- **Dakota Shananaquet**, Nation Outside
- **Tony Gant**, Nation Outside
- **Andrea James**, The National Council for Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls (NCIFIWG)
- **Brandi Peterson**, The National Council for Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls (NCIFIWG)
- **Danielle Metz**, The National Council for Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls (NCIFIWG)
- **Justine Moore**, The National Council for Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls (NCIFIWG)
- **Elder Willie Simpson**, The National Redemption Project / Outreach Reentry Ministry, Inc.
- **Johnny Perez**, National Religious Campaign Against Torture
- **Serena Martin-Liguori**, New Hour for Women & Children

- **Gisela Nelson, New Legacy Reentry Corp**
- **Lynne Haney, New York University**
- **Margaret Denise Bordeaux, On The Bright Side LLC**
- **Chazidy Bowman, Opportunities Peoples Justice League/ SOAR 4031 Foundation**
- **Pauline Rogers, Reaching and Educating for Community Hope (RECH) Foundation**
- **Charlotte Garnes, ReNforce**
- **Therese Souza, Rhode Island Atheists**
- **Lillie Branch-Kennedy, RIHD, Inc.**
- **AW Shields, Root Cause Collective**
- **Sincere Allah, Sankofa Academy Consulting**
- **Savvy Shabazz, Savvy Shabazz Solutions, LLC**
- **Lulu Cameron, South Carolina For Restorative Justice**
- **Vonya Quarles, Starting Over, Inc.**
- **Gabrielle Borden-Shaw, Step Up Louisiana**
- **Gregory Wilson, Step Up Louisiana**
- **Latasha Williams, Step Up Louisiana**
- **Shelton McElroy, Story's Lighthouse**
- **Autumn Burris, Survivors for Solutions**
- **Blair Hopkins, SWOP Behind Bars Inc.**




- **Antonio Williams, T.O.N.E U.P (Teaching Ourselves New Examples to Uplift People)**
- **Tiffany Crutcher, Terence Crutcher Foundation**
- **Nicole Hanson Mundell, Visionary Ventures**
- **Daniel Latorre, The Wise City**
- **Jocelyn Foye, The Womxn Project**
- **Monica James, Triumphant 2Gether**
- **Tanvi K. Sheth, Esq., Triumphant 2Gether**
- **Kahlee Griffey, Until We Are All Free Movement**
- **Cedric Frison, Urban Community Unity Solutions LLC ( U.C.U.S.)**
- **Norris Henderson, Voice of the Experienced (V.O.T.E.) and Voters Organized to Educate**
- **Ronald Marshall, Voice of the Experienced (V.O.T.E.)**
- **Timothy R. Burgess, VT Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errant(s)**
- **Toni Johnson, We Must Vote, Inc.**
- **Rev Michelle Simmons, Why Not Prosper**
- **Tabatha Trammell, Woman with A Plan Ltd.**
- **Marilynn B Winn, Women on the Rise GA**
- **Melodie Jones, Women on the Rise GA**
- **Robyn Hasan-Simpson, Women on the Rise GA**

- **Gale Muhammad, Women Who Never Give Up**
- **Chivas D. Watson, WorkingGroup512 [WG512]**
- **Thad Bereday, www.4Redemption.com**
- **A. Ray Dancy**
- **Amanda Marie Cassidy - Trejo**
- **Ashley Underwood**
- **Barbara A Gianola**
- **Prof. Barbara G. Brents**
- **Brandie Chamberlin**
- **Brittany von Stein**
- **Camille Shea**
- **Cassia Herron**
- **Charles Byrne**
- **Crystal Voight**
- **Dave Newton**
- **Daria Patterson**
- **David Cooper**
- **Fatima Monteiro**
- **Gabriel Blauer**
- **Gicola Lane**

- **Holly Kerr**
- **Indy Easley**
- **Jay Jordan**
- **John Bowman**
- **Jonathan Garcia**
- **Julia Keleher**
- **K.A. Owens**
- **Karen Peacey**
- **Karl Kauffman**
- **Kenneth Campbell**
- **Kevin Scott**
- **Khadijah M. Silver**
- **Katie Aldridge**
- **Kyle Bacon**
- **Lisa Mani**
- **Mark Rice**
- **Marshan Allen**
- **Matthew D. Williams**
- **Melissa Taylor**
- **Merideth Booth**

- **Paula Arnquist**
- **Robert Schreiber**
- **Sandra Rigsbee**
- **Sarah Glatt**
- **Sarah Prindle**
- **Sean Mims**
- **Serelle Jadzia**
- **Sharon Turner**
- **Stacy Feder**
- **Stephen Knight**
- **Sudria Twyman**
- **Theresa Godfrey**
- **Toni Barnett**
- **Tony Butler**
- **Tyree Chwilinski**
- **Vivan Nixon**
- **Wendolyn Gray**
- **Will Lewis**
- **Vivan Nixon**
- **Yash Rivera**

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- **YoNasDa Lonewolf**
  - **Yowchanan Israel**
  - **Zach Ruppel**