

# **BEYOND THE BARS**

Connecting The Struggles



**Sunday, March 6, 2016**  
**Columbia School of Social Work**

**A Community Collaborative Event**

# Schedule

## **WELCOMING REMARKS**

**11:00 -11:30 a.m., Room 311/312**

## **BLOCK 1**

**11:30 am- 1:00 pm**

## **LUNCH**

**1:00-2:00 pm**

## **BLOCK 2**

**2:00 -3:30 pm**

## **BLOCK 3**

**3:45 -5:15 pm**

## **BUILDING THE GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING WORKSHOPS**

Thank you for joining us on the third and final day of the sixth annual justice conference at Columbia University, Beyond the Bars: Connecting the Struggles. Our intention today is to make visible the ways in which people are organizing to end mass incarceration, to provide tangible skills and tools for advocacy efforts, and to connect attendees to opportunities for enduring engagement beyond the conference. Through learning about existing efforts and expanding our network of communities, we can collectively articulate, demand, and enact meaningful change.

*- The Beyond the Bars Organizing Team*

## **BLOCK 1 11:30 am-1:00 pm**

### **Project Liberation: Women Supporting Women, Ivy Wolf Turk (Room 301)**

This workshop will introduce the Project Liberation, a unique integration of life coaching tools and arts-based interventions. The workshop will demonstrate to participants how important this fusion of coaching and arts based intervention is in tandem with the obtaining and maintaining of core stabilization needs such as housing, education, employment, etc.

### **How Social Workers are Connecting the Struggles, Moya Atkinson, Mary Buser, Brian Romero, Tina Maschi, Sandra Bernabei (Room 302)**

This workshop examines the issue of solitary confinement from members of the Social Workers Against Solitary Confinement Task Force, drawing from the perspectives of forensic practitioner/advocate, academic, and social work leadership. It will describe this national task force's efforts and what community organizing has been done and can be done on multi-faceted levels within social work education and the profession to abolish solitary confinement. Opportunities will be provided for workshop participants to become involved in this growing national effort.

### **Methods Matter: Participatory Strategies for Planning, Action Research and Coalition Building, Tammy Arnstein, Tanya Thompson, Elizabeth Bishop (Room 305)**

Designed for researchers, advocates, and practitioners committed to social justice, and those directly affected by social injustice. This participatory workshop focuses on transforming hierarchal and top-down practices into methods for participatory research, policy analysis, project planning/evaluation, and coalition building.

### **Mass Incarceration, Trauma, & Healing Strategies, Kirk James (Room 404)**

This panel aims to define and thus explore the impact of trauma on men of color impacted by mass incarceration. It further aims to examine and highlight ways in which participants developed or utilized varied healing modalities.

### **The Mindful Activist, Ghylian Bell, Shindera Jackson (Room 405)**

The Mindful Activist, is a workshop to help educate and empower our community of activists and social healers. This workshop will help them to understand the tools to self care and self efficacy. We will provide our activist with mindful methods for sustainable health practices to use in the work they provide for the community. Our practice will include chair yoga, breathing, acupuncture and mindful meditation.

### **The Deal with Divestment: Organizing Prison Divestment in CUNY, Daniel Dunn, Nizum Khan, Karen Abraham (Room 406)**

Are you outraged by the billion dollar profits the privation of the Prison Industrial Complex brings in from creating more prisons? Workshop explores successful prison divestment initiatives (ICE FREE NYC) which demonstrates correlations between community and student protest movements impacted by mass incarceration, deportation, gentrification and ways they are stimulating change and reforms.

**We are All Prisoners**, Bonnie O'Brien, Mercedes Walker, Adelina Garabet  
(Room C05)

Transition Professionals will provide a workshop about how we began our grassroots efforts to reduce recidivism by showing how we identify all of the following needs and solutions and provide support for housing, social services, health care enrollment, food stamps, veterans groups, educational/training, employment, mental health, and substance abuse.

**Abolishing THE BOX At The Neoliberal American University**, Sumathy Kumar, Eric Sturm, Emma Pliskin, Sheba Rivera, Danielle Lightfoot, Alexa Greene (Room C06)

This workshop introduces participants to the issue of THE BOX, the question on college applications forcing applicants to disclose criminal histories, as it relates to mass incarceration and the work and organizing history of the Incarceration to Education Coalition (IEC). This workshop will include a series of activities to engage participants in methods of strategizing around the issue of THE BOX within a predominantly white, neoliberal institution.

**LUNCH 1:00–2:00 pm**

**BLOCK 2 2:00–3:30 pm**

**Respecting Differences: Reducing Volatile Interactions between Youth and Law Enforcement on the Street**, Jose Loya, Mina Ratkalkar, Suraji Wagage (Room 301)

This workshop discusses the history of Disproportionate Minority Contact in juvenile justice. Learn how DMC impacted Pennsylvania and led to the creation of the PA DMC State Subcommittee, how Relative Rate Index/RRI data inform DMC interventions, and how forums between young people and law enforcement led to the creation of The Pennsylvania DMC Youth/Law Enforcement Corporation. Attend this workshop to learn how you and your organization can replicate the DMC model to create better relations between youth, their communities and the most visible arm of the criminal justice system.

**Pardons and Clemency: A Family Affair**, Ernest Drucker (Room 302)

This workshop is for the families and friends of prisoners seeking release from state and federal prison sentences by petitions for pardons and clemency. How can those closest to the imprisoned person play a more active and effective role in securing their release? In this workshop we want the participants to tell their own stories and share the experiences gained in navigating these systems – what they have learned and how others can take advantage of that in their own struggles to get loved ones out of the prison system.

**Change from the Inside Out: Rehabilitation Through the Arts**, Jill Becker, Craig Cullinane (*Room 305*)

This workshop explores restorative exercises through art and engages in discussion around reducing recidivism, stimulating empathy, promoting life skills and efforts to eliminate mass incarceration. Participants will gain awareness of the power of theater as a reentry tool used to reassess, reevaluate and seek concrete changes for justice-involved as they seek to heal, transform and reintegrate.

**From Correction Officer to Prison Advocate**, Lorenzo Steele (*Room 404*)

In this workshop, former Correction Officer Steele takes you through a personal photographic journey exposing injustices behind the walls of prison. Now an advocate against the harmful effects of mass incarceration, his workshop seeks to empower at-risk youth and the impacted community-at-large via his reforming testimony.

**The “Ex”:** Simulating the Life of a Returning Citizen, Sheila F. Murphy, Lekeisha Ford (*Room 405*)

The “EX” or Experience; simulating the life of a returning citizen is designed to help participants understand what it might be like to live as a returning citizen (ex-offender) in our community. The objective is to inform, challenge and A.L.T.E.R. participants’ perception and behavior related to the realities of returning citizens navigating their community. In this interactive workshop, participants assume the roles of different individuals facing the impact of what we call “P.R.S.” or Post Release Syndrome.

**Behind Enemy Lines: From Slavery to Mass Imprisonment**, Bonnie Kerness, Ojore Lutulo (*Room 406*)

Bonnie Kerness has been an advocate on behalf of men, women and children in prison since the 1970’s. Ojore Lutulo spent 22 years in political isolation in NJ, and is a political artist. This workshop will engage participants from the historical perspective to the current economic and political use of prisons. Additionally, this workshop will display several collages to reflect on current justice issues (including recent police murders) through art.

**Connecting the Struggles, Challenging Incarceration**, Scott Paltrowitz (*Room C03*)

New York State’s incarceration system is abusive, counterproductive, and inflicts severe harm on people incarcerated and their families and communities. Connect with CAIC, RAPP, Beyond Attica, and Raise the Age to better understand the struggles of solitary confinement, the criminalization of Black and Latino youth and of our aging population and how to organize around these issues.

**The Great Expulsion: ICE Raids/Criminalization of Immigrants in the US**, Jaliz Albanese, Dulce Chuva (*Room C05*)

This workshop focuses on the criminalization of documented/undocumented immigrants and examines immigration policies, mass deportation and its effects on Afro-Latina/o families socio-culturally and economically. Presenters share foundational insights and provide legal basics in addition to grassroots organizing techniques to promote community-based activism/change.

### **Theater of Liberation, Jamal Joseph (*Room C06*)**

Led by former Black Panther and award-winning writer and director Jamal Joseph. Participants will partake in theater and writing lessons with Jamal and the youth from Impact Repertory Theater to consider how to create safe spaces for community, creativity and engagement.

## **BLOCK 3 3:45–5:15 pm**

### **The Second Prison: Unlocking Second Chances, Jesse Wiese (*Room 301*)**

We will focus on the unique path forward in providing legitimate second chance opportunities for the millions of Americans with a criminal record who lose hope once beyond the prison gates. In effect, these individuals are consigned to a “second prison” that curbs rehabilitation, diminishes success, and, most tragically, minimizes their human value. The Second Prison Project envisions a world with no second prison and full integration.

### **Formally Incarcerated Included, Sandy LoMonico, Tiheba Bain (*Room 302*)**

Tapping into strengths and growing edges. Turning trauma into triumph. This workshop explores how those formerly incarcerated can organize to create change and dismantle mass incarceration through community organizing, media outreach, public speaking, grassroots efforts, lobbying and meeting with legislators for political advocacy.

### **The Impact of the Prison Nation on Young Women and Girls, Liz Alexander (*Room 305*)**

Girls are the fastest growing population in the juvenile justice system. This increase is the result of aggressive enforcement of non-serious offenses that are rooted in the experience of abuse and trauma. This interactive workshop engages participants in examining how young women and girls are directly and indirectly impacted by the prison nation.

### **Mural Arts, Robyn Buseman, Russell Craig, Jeff Krimes (*Room 311*)**

Robyn Buseman, Philadelphia Mural Arts Restorative Justice program director, and Jesse Krimes and Russel Craig, two formerly incarcerated artists who work with the Mural Arts Guild program, will facilitate a workshop featuring a discussion on the power of art, and a hands on art making session with Jesse Krimes. The workshop will utilize images, ideas, and processes of expression relating to identity, community and issues surrounding mass-incarceration. Following critical discussion about the prison system, its affects, and what it means to the community, Mr. Krimes will instruct participants in methods of hand-transferring images he developed while serving a 70-month federal prison sentence. Mr. Craig will share his story of the importance of art in transforming his life, and his current work. Ms. Buseman will discuss the power of art and how restorative justice practices can be incorporated into alternatives to incarceration.

**Connecting the Struggles Through Music, Tashayla Williams (Room 404)**

Participants will gain education about the use of music in connecting struggles, ending mass incarceration, and other social justice issues. Participants will be encouraged to break into small groups and create and demonstrate, through song, ways in which they empathize with mass incarceration and social justice issues.

**Peacemaking Circles: Repairing Harm One Circle at a Time, Mika Dashman, Abdul Malik Talib, Ashley Ellis (Room 405)**

Restorative justice is a national movement seeking to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline and challenge the punishment paradigm in all its manifestations. History has shown countless positive affects of gathered circles, sometimes around a fire or a communal table, to strengthen bonds, provide mutual support and to resolve disputes. Join restorative justice organizer teaching proven methods via peacemaking circles.

**SpreadMassLOVE: A Creative Approach to Healing Relationships and Repairing Harm Caused by Mass Incarceration, Piper Anderson, Marlon Peterson (Room 406)**

Telling the stories of those impacted by mass incarceration, deportation, and criminalization through the generative lens of LOVE, this workshop explores and promotes restorative and transformative justice practices through storytelling, writing, creative artistry, community engagement and activism.

**Reintegration Not Reentry, Five Mualimm-ak (Room C03)**

This workshop will be an open discussion laying out the structure of the non traditional approach to incarceration and the need for a positive reintegration process for returning citizens. We will show the needs of returning citizens to be more than just reentry. (Room C03)

**Multi-Racial Coalitions for Prison Divestment: Building Unity Against Mass Incarceration and Detention, Nina Macapinlac, Natalie Casal, Cindy Martinez, Daniel Carrillo (Room C05)**

Around the country, communities are coming together to demand that our institutions — from universities to union pension funds — divest their stock in the prison industry. Learn how to strategize and what it means to build alliances across difference in the fight to push our institutions to divest from the prison industry.

**Criminal Justice and Child Protection: Examining Intersections of Systemic Abuse, Kristen Black, Sarah Cremer (Room C06)**

Join this workshop to learn advocate defense when dealing with family court proceedings parallel to the criminal justice system. Hosted by veteran social workers specializing in teaching holistic defense against the abuse and legal challenges inflicted on vulnerable communities. Come learn and partake in dialogue that challenges traditional beliefs with modern day practicality.

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