

BEYOND THE BARS

Transcending the Punishment Paradigm

7th Annual Justice Conference at Columbia University



Building the Grassroots

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2017

Columbia School of Social Work

Schedule

SPEAK! Resistance Through the Arts

WELCOME AND PERFORMANCE

10:00 – 11:00am

BLOCK A

11:15am – 12:45pm

LUNCH

12:45 – 1:45pm

BLOCK B

1:45 – 3:15pm

BLOCK C

3:30 – 5:00pm

Thank you for joining us on the fourth and final day of the 7th annual justice conference at Columbia University, **Beyond the Bars: Transcending the Punishment Paradigm**. Our intention today is to make visible the ways in which people are organizing to end mass incarceration and mass criminalization and to prevent and respond to violence outside of the punishment paradigm. We hope that you will gain tangible skills and tools for advocacy efforts, and connect 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

SPEAK! Resistance Through the Arts

Behind the Walls, Between the Lines Collective

A spoken word, poetry, and artistic showcase that spotlights people directly and indirectly impacted by mass incarceration to speak to the injustices of these systems in ways that inspire action, deepen awareness about the dehumanizing, violent nature of the criminal legal system in America and empower activism aimed at its dismantlement.

BLOCK A

Pacific Islanders: Warriors Against Violence (Rm. C02)

As representatives of UCLA's Pacific Islands' Student Association (PISA), our workshop will focus on the ways in which violence has been experienced by the Pacific Islander community. Our goal is to correct the misrepresentations of our narrative in and around this issue as we outline the trajectory of our Pacific Islander people, beginning as navigators of the sea to current efforts in finding and creating safe spaces in a relatively new land. This will help in finding solutions to contemporary issues we face. We will examine the violence that has been inflicted on our people, the role of Pacific Islanders in violence, and the community conditions that have influenced these adverse trends. We will end with a review of how our organization has served to combat the major promoters of violence in our community, that is, by doing our best to encourage education in place of weaponized forms of anti-oppression.

FACILITATORS: Angela Halfihi, Papu Togafau, Alexia George, Kelsey Foster, Live Maluia

Political Prisoners/POWs: 800+ Collective Years of Violence & Punishment (Rm. C01)

This workshop will examine the dominant narrative of violence as pathologically deviant behavior manifested in poor and working-class Black/Brown, Indigenous and white communities, rather than the systematic poverty, hunger, homelessness, unemployment, lack of decent housing, healthcare, education, institutionalized racism, white supremacy, denial of justice, self-determination and humanity that destroys families/communities and leads to "survival of the fittest" logic that PP/POWs sought to address in the Movements of the 1960s.

FACILITATORS: déqui kioni-sadiki

Redefining Risk: A Qualitative and Quantitative Approach to Enhancing Public Safety and Reversing Mass Incarceration (Rm. 402)

This workshop is designed to get participants to think beyond the media and politically-driven fear mongering that casts a scarlet letter on all violent felony offenders. It goes beneath the assumptions and stereotypes that falsely paint all violent offenders as a high risk to public safety. The workshop highlights the social and psychological frameworks that distinguishes non-violent felony offenders, for example, and people who have committed murder or manslaughter.

FACILITATORS: Joe Robinson

Setting up a Charitable Bail Fund: Lessons Learned (Rm. 302)

The session will discuss the challenges of setting up and running a charitable bail fund. We will discuss the history of charitable bail in New York, statutory requirements to charitable bail, and technical organizational aspects of the bail fund. We will also pay particular attention to the unique advantages and difficulties of running a fund within a university.

FACILITATORS: Adam Murphy, Tristen Edwards, Brandon Davis, Eugenie Montaigne

A Culture of Violence: As American as Apple Pie (Rm. C03)

In an effort to increase public consciousness about social terrorism, and to simultaneously launch a campaign against laws that sanction it, Citizens Against Recidivism proposes a workshop to inform and galvanize momentum to amend the 13th Amendment of the United States Constitution, and thus break the cycle of hyper-incarceration of people of color. The workshop will include a panel discussion moderated by a constitutional lawyer and three contemporary ex-slaves (formerly incarcerated Black men) as panelist. The goals of the panel are threefold:

1. to increase awareness towards legalized state sanctioned violence
2. to examine state violence as a precipitator for other types of violence
3. to provide opportunities for coalition building and advocacy towards amending the 13th amendment

FACILITATORS: Dr. Mika'il DeVeaux, Dr. Kirk James, Flores Forbes, and Kendall Thomas

Prisons in the “Promised Land:” Prison Justice Activism on Canada’s East Coast (Rm. 404)

Featuring anti-prison activists from “Canada,” this workshop presents a collective perspective on the work in Halifax, Nova Scotia to challenge the prison industrial complex. The first part presents the Burnside Prison Education Program. We consider the formation of the classroom space within the prison, discussing challenges of collective development of syllabi, how to share power in the classroom space, recognizing and building from failure, accountability, and how to reflect on our own oppressive tendencies in education. In the second half of the workshop, programmers from Black Power Hour, a live radio show conducted in collaboration with prisoners, will discuss how this radio work challenges colonial education constructs that imagine delivery to a “captive” audience. Featuring poetry and rap created by the prisoners, we discuss how arts programming works to build prison abolition consciousness in communities, and to connect inside and outside through centering the voices of people in prison.

FACILITATORS: Harry Critchley, El Jones, Ntombi Nkiwane, Hanna Garson, Reed “iZrEAL” Jones, Margaret Denike

How Higher Education Programs in Correctional Settings Effect Institutional Change (Rm. 304)

How does access to higher education change life inside a correctional facility? This workshop will explore higher ed as a mechanism of resistance against the punishment paradigm that engenders both mass incarceration and violence within the prison system. Four speakers who witnessed firsthand the 1994 loss of Pell grants for the incarcerated will share their historical perspectives regarding the effects of that loss on correctional facilities in New York. These same four speakers will then share the tangible changes they have seen at these facilities now as professionals in the field of higher education in prison, which has gained increasing support in recent years. The main goal of the workshop will be achieved when attendees understand and are able to talk about the facility-level and system-level importance of college access, beyond the individual-level benefits of degrees achieved.

FACILITATORS: Sean Pica

“Just in Her Feelings?”: Mitigating State Violence by Challenging Schools’ Responses to Girls of Color who Experience Intimate Partner Violence (Rm. 305)

Existing research demonstrates the significant impact of school disciplinary practices on girls of color, particularly Black girls, who often experience school pushout over time.

The goal of this workshop is to underscore the importance of challenging state violence as it is inflicted on girls of color who experience IPV in schools; additionally the workshop will deepen participants’ understanding of the insidious ways schools can be the primary sites of institutional violence for young people.

This workshop aims to:

1. Fill in the gaps by using a case study to explore the trajectory of an individual who is experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) and school pushout/criminalization.
2. Make clinical and policy recommendations to better understand and support the unique issues of a young girl of color experiencing IPV at school.
3. Analyze how schools replicate the power and control dynamics of abusive relationships in the ways that they respond to young girls “acting out” in school.

FACILITATORS: Rebecca Stahl, LMSW; Kimberley Moore, LMSW

Healing Justice Movement (Rm. C05)

How Our Lives Link Altogether! (H.O.L.L.A!) Healing Justice Movement is an intersectional youth-led movement for youth of color and our neighborhoods. The goal of this movement is to (re)build community structure through self and community healing facilitated through intergenerational grassroots community organizing. In this workshop be prepared to grapple with vulnerability as a method for deep relationship building, and for exploring oppression and accountability. H.O.L.L.A!'s Healing Justice Movement is in its early stages of development. Therefore, this workshop aims to create an engaged experience that unpacks the principles of H.O.L.L.A!'s Healing Justice Movement (i.e., empathy, care, love, vulnerability, resistance, creativity, justice, healing) through facilitated role plays, activities and discussions. Other aims are to gather critical feedback and solidarity from the larger New York City community on ways we can all better Heal together!

FACILITATORS: Miasia Clark, Rakim Covington, Keron Bennett, Alexander Davis, Machlie Eduardo, Philip Proszowski, Cephon Bellevue, Victor Alvarez, Cory Greene, Gina Hong, Thomas "AROCKS" Porter, Chino Harding

Incarcerating Unaccompanied Child Immigrants (Rm. 301)

Unaccompanied child immigrants escaping violence, mistreatment, poverty, and persecution in their home countries travel to the U.S. in efforts to escape and reunite with family members. Those minors turn into easy targets at the border and become apprehended by Customs and Border Patrol agents. Upon their apprehension an entire criminalization process begins. Unaccompanied minors are funneled through various government agencies and social service institutions. This workshop will provide insight to understand who these children are, which countries they are from, country conditions, their detainment process, reunification, foster care, and the lack of support from the local community and social services sector.

Our workshop's main goal is to entice consciousness around the development of the incarceration of child immigrants of color.

FACILITATORS: Graciela Lopez Marquez, Arlette Lozano, CaRm.en Godinez-Tapia

Community Building for the Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Created by the Formerly Incarcerated (Rm. C06)

UCLA students who identify as formerly incarcerated people explain how they use multiple platforms available at the university to support the on-campus community and those in the Los Angeles area. These students have identified three areas that they consider valuable to achieving community cohesiveness and academic success, they are: mentorship, organizational skills, and leadership skills. UCLA students go to community colleges and detention facilities to build mentee/mentor relationships with the formerly incarcerated and incarcerated, in addition, they also mentor each

other. Working with existing and creating new organizations on campus has created a space that allows for growth and implementation of ideas that directly address the needs of these students and the Los Angeles community of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated. Within existing and new organizational structures, the formerly incarcerated students of UCLA take on leadership roles to address the needs of those they serve.

FACILITATORS: Javier Rodriguez, Romel Lopez, Andrew Winn , ARm. ando Tellez, Denise Marshall, Ummra Hang

“You’re Being Released, Now Where Are You Going to Live?” (Rm. 405)

We all want places to live that are safe, supportive, affordable, and in a community fostering health and opportunity. Our policies should reflect the critical role that housing plays in fostering safe communities, economic equality, and successful reentry. In 2002, Fortune established “The Castle,” an emergency short-term and “phased-permanent” housing program for people with criminal justice involvement. This model seeks to restore individuals and promote community safety by providing humane living quarters, robust services, and a holistic approach to reentry. Residents can access other services including: substance abuse treatment, mental health care, health services, educational and vocational training, counseling for anger management and other life skills. The purpose of our workshop is to encourage attendees to consider the role reentry housing plays in addressing poverty, community safety, and ending the cycle of incarceration and offer our model as one successful example.

FACILITATORS: Stanley Richards, Sam Rivera, and Casimiro Torres

#CLOSErikers (Rm. 311/312)

The workshop will provide an overview of the #CLOSErikers campaign founded by JustLeadershipUSA in partnership with the Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice. The campaign, launched in 2016, is working to shut down New York City’s notorious Rikers Island and in its place build communities to reimagine what a fair and humane system of justice looks like. The goals of the workshop are to 1) share the #CLOSErikers model of an intersectional campaign driven by directly impacted leaders, 2) highlight the lessons learned from a campaign which grew exponentially in its first year, and 3) enhance the skills of the audience members around community organizing with formerly incarcerated people. Panelists will include community organizers from the campaign (some of whom are directly impacted themselves) and members of the campaign who were detained at Rikers Island.

FACILITATORS: Emily Napier, Janos Marton

BLOCK B

Ending Sexual Violence in Prison as a Tactic for Abolition (Rm. C02)

This workshop will help participants understand the role sexual violence has in maintaining power and control within the US prison system. Participants will have an opportunity to reflect on how the carceral state not only fails in responding to sexual violence on the street, but also thrives on the continuation of sexual violence within prison walls. This workshop will include stories, information, and strategies created by prisoners and formerly incarcerated survivors of sexual violence to reduce the immediate suffering experienced behind the walls while simultaneously strengthening the movement for abolition. As LGBTQ prisoners experience some of the highest rates of sexual violence in prison, much of the workshop will focus on LGBTQ prisoner stories.

Facilitator: Jason Lydon

Roots of Resistance: Using Arts as Activism (Rm. 302)

Throughout the decades, art has been used as a revolutionary tool. It has found its place in social movements because of the ability of art to challenge the status quo and reinvent “normal”. When art and activism are combined, it often brings about change that would not have taken place otherwise. What does mass criminalization look like? What does mass criminalization sound like? What name did its mother give it? Art as activism answers these questions. Art transcends theories. Art transcends logic. Art transcends mainstream narratives. Roots of Resistance facilitates a space where artists show the importance of bringing art as activism into the conversation around dismantling mass criminalization, specifically around the causes and responses to violence, and demonstrate practical ways art can be used to reclaim and reshape the narratives. Artists will also discuss how attendees can incorporate art within their organizations, and challenges they may face. Workshop will be interactive.

FACILITATORS: Najee Omar, Christopher Soto, and Robyne Walker Murphy

Family Violence & Conflict TransfoRm.ation: Exploring the Possibility of Circle Practices (Rm. C01)

This workshop will address family violence and conflict transformation in both a didactic and experiential way. Participants will learn about the different types of conflict, examine power dynamics and participate in a circle process based on a case study. The goal of the workshop is to examine the challenges in both restorative and retributive response to family violence.

FACILITATORS: Sally N. MacNichol & Danny Salim

Banding Together: Uniting Community and Challenging Incarceration and Punishment in New York (Rm. 311/312)

We are experiencing a time when criminalization and punishment span before an individual's conviction and continues after the completion of their sentence. This punishing paradigm abuses and kills; incarcerates the poor; tries youth in adult court holding them in adult facilities; torture in solitary confinement. Thousands receive draconian sentences, denied parole, experience difficulties with housing, employment, education, civic engagement, and deportation. The workshop will effectively connect the various campaigns and issues surrounding the criminal punishment system, and how members of the community can get involved in one collaborative movement to challenge all of these injustices. By uniting advocacy efforts around all statewide punishment related injustices we aim to continue mobilizing our growing advocacy efforts in support of all those in the movement. These skills will allow organizers to create stronger, larger more powerful advocacy efforts throughout New York.

FACILITATORS: Sadia Zaman, Dave George, Victor Pate, and Scott Paltowitz

Violence Against The Family Unit (Rm. 402)

The goal of Storytelling for Public Policy is to raise awareness and thus support for families who are directly impacted by the effects of mass incarceration. Nonviolent offenders who are primary caregivers are sentenced to prison times often equal to or exceeding those of violent offenders as opposed to receiving rehabilitation for drug or alcohol abuse or health services for mental illness. This has led to children being forced to live a life without parents who simply need help, and many times these children must even enter the foster care system because no one else is available to take care of them. Free Hearts believes strongly in the foundation of family and we plan to use the workshop to build awareness for advocacy efforts in order to push for public policy that will change these conditions and reform our criminal justice system to emphasize rehabilitation as opposed to dry-cut punishment.

FACILITATORS: Dawn Harrington, Aniya Wiley, Andrea Hancock

Speed Organizing (2nd Floor Lounge)

This workshop will explore the ways community members can build safer communities through community organizing and direct actions. Participants will discuss how social change occurs, and identify ways to foster social change. By the end of this session, participants will be able to identify community concerns and develop strategies to control the narrative and address the concerns.

FACILITATORS: Zellie Imani and Alexis Miller from Black Lives Matter Paterson

All of Us or None: Building a Powerful and Inclusive National Movement of Formerly Incarcerated People (Rm. 305)

All of Us or None (AOUON) members will describe organizing efforts around building a national movement of formerly incarcerated people, “Ban the Box” campaigns, and the organizing of the recent 1st National Conference of Formerly Incarcerated & Convicted People and Families in Oakland, CA.

FACILITATORS: Ellen Barry, Sandra Johnson, Mark Lencl, Alisha Coleman

Transformation and Empowerment: The Intersection of Formerly Incarcerated People and Higher Education (Rm. 404)

As we (facilitators) share our experience as formerly incarcerated people in higher education, we will also touch on various themes related to this conference. The facilitators share a similar experiences; however, because our identities there are differences in our experience. We want to highlight the transformation and empowerment that higher education has made in our lives. We will also discuss our roles in creating a student organization and/or support service program on our respective campus and our current project to create a network of formerly incarcerated student organizations throughout post-secondary institutions in California. Our goal is to highlight the role formerly incarcerated students in higher education are taking to make higher education accessible. Although it may look different in other states, formerly incarcerated students in California have been playing an instrumental role in advocating for resources at the institutional, community, and state level.

FACILITATORS: Danny Murillo, Adrian Caceres, Lily Gonzalez, Maria Elena Morales

Healing is An Act of Resistance (Rm. 301)

The punishment paradigm thrives on rapidly reproducing a cycle of trauma that infects all of our relationships. Shifting the punishment paradigm requires that we love ourselves into wellness. Breaking this destructive cycle requires a radical commitment to healing together in community. In this workshop, we'll explore practices for community healing that you can take back into your work. Every meeting, workshop, panel discussion, and rally is an opportunity to cultivate an ethic of healing justice. Through breath, movement, awareness, intention, and visioning practices we discover ways to lovingly resist and organize for liberation. Because only in committing to 'getting well' together can we truly 'get free'.

Facilitator: Piper Anderson

Free Them All: Defending the Lives of Criminalized Survivors of Violence (Rm. C06)

Between 1977 and 2007, the population of U.S women prisoners grew by 800% with an annual growth rate doubling that of men over many years. The vast majority of incarcerated and criminalized women (trans and non-trans) have previous histories of domestic and sexual abuse. This workshop will engage participants on how to pro-actively support and advocate for survivors who live at the intersection of gender violence and criminalization. It will highlight the experiences of grassroots organizations and defense committees in supporting those who don't fall into the "perfect victim" narrative. Participants will learn how to use digital organizing to raise awareness, funds and gain supporters for their campaigns.

Facilitator: Mariame Kaba

We Must Love and Protect Each Other: Building Community Safety Outside of State Systems (Rm. C05)

We request that the space be LGBTSTGNC POC and POC allies only

To ground in safety strategies outside of the state with other LGBTSTGNCQ POC organizers in NYC and around the country, and to create and strengthen our solidarity, resource, and safety networks.

FACILITATORS: Cleopatra, Tasha Amezcua

Art and Artists Challenging Violence: Creating a Culture of Radical Empathy (Rm. C03)

How can art and artists help us imagine and develop transformative justice-based responses to social and state violence? Drawing on the insight that "hurt people hurt people," this participatory workshop/forum explores strategies for using performance and visual arts to build a sustainable culture of "radical empathy."

FACILITATORS: Kendall Thomas, Susan Sturim., Britton Smith

Introduction to Restorative Justice and Circle Process (Rm. 406)

This workshop provides foundational knowledge about what restorative justice is, what Circles are, and how RJ is being used in schools, communities, and in the juvenile justice system in Oakland. Participants learn Circle theory and also gain experience in restorative justice circle process through experiencing this training IN circle

FACILITATORS: Malachi Scott, Kat Culberg

BLOCK C

Introduction to New Age Technology (Rm. 402)

Are you formerly incarcerated and think you would benefit from developing your technological skills? Social media and technology are constantly changing the way we interact with the world around us. They have become an essential part of our everyday activities and also a powerful tool for advocacy. This workshop will address the unique, technological challenges formerly incarcerated people may face when returning home to their communities. Khalil Cumberbatch of JustLeadershipUSA will facilitate a discussion on how to navigate social media and technology to develop skills for organizing, personal use, and professional opportunities.

Facilitator: Khalil Cumberbatch

Art and Transformative Justice (2nd Floor Lounge)

This workshop will replicate a portion of the Young New Yorkers (YNY) Transformative Arts Diversion Programs, and will be co-taught by some graduates who were mandated to the YNY program and subsequently had their adult criminal cases dismissed and sealed.

The workshop will begin with a 5-minute introduction to YNY's work; followed by 1-hour replication of the YNY program designed for young people being prosecuted as adults, and will include restorative justice distinctions as explored through art exercises; and will end with a discussion surrounding the challenges and ways forward for diversion programs and alternatives-to-incarceration programs. Each participant will complete the YNY's "Icebreaker" Video Exercise, Choice Module, explore the larger structural implications of the criminal justice system and their connections to their imagined cases, and complete a Portraiture and Self-Representation Art Project.

FACILITATORS: Rachel Barnard, Daniel Aguilar

Healing the Family System through Accountability and Understanding in Child Sexual Abuse Cases (Rm. 302)

Hidden Water has a unique response to intra-familial child sexual abuse cases, where we give an opportunity for the entire family to hold itself accountable for the ways in which they have harmed the family system, while also giving voice to how they have been harmed. Our intervention starts with four circles: Green - for those who identify first with being harmed as a child, Blue - for those who identify first with being a loved one of someone who was harmed, or harmed someone else, Orange - for those who identify as non-offending caregivers who were unable to keep a child safe, and Purple - for those who have harmed a child. Our presentation will explain the broader concepts of how Hidden Water intends to stop intergenerational child sexual abuse, while also giving the circle keepers from the four groups a chance to share their wisdom of healing and accountability.

FACILITATORS: Elizabeth Clemants, Sethu Nair, LaTasha Tomay Douglas

“Decolonization of the Imagination:” Creating a New Paradigm through the Arts (Rm. C06)

Lead by Art and Resistance Through Education (ARTE), this participatory workshop will explore the use of the visual arts in engaging communities around mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex. We will be exploring how incarcerated communities can share their experiences and amplify their voices through the arts. Community members will also learn tools and explore the possibilities for advocating beyond the current prison paradigm in order to enact change and remedy unjust existing systems.

FACILITATORS: Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario, Michaela Miragliotta

Poetry is Not a Luxury* (Rm. 404)

Poetry is Not a Luxury* is a hands-on poetry workshop designed to give participants an opportunity to create an accurate counter-narrative to mainstream media depictions of who we are and what we value while using poetic tools to build beloved community. Participants will leave having devoured delicious art, created original work, and supported one another through the sacred sharing of one's own writing. *Audre Lorde

Facilitator: Karla Robinson

Violence in Higher Education: Desegregating the Classroom and the Community (Rm. C03)

We will present frameworks to conceptualize community and what constitutes violence. Following this framing, we will facilitate a conversation about structural and interpersonal violence in institution of higher education. These conversations will identify connections between: microaggressions in the classroom, rape culture and toxic masculinity, how universities ensure a “safe campus,” unequal access to elite educational spaces, and government policies that reproduce systemic racism. Through these frameworks and dialogue with participants, we will explore how the carceral state shows up in our communities. The conversation will close with a focus on specific actions we can all take to disrupt institutional and state violence.

FACILITATORS: Ava Cilia, Hannah Treasure, Amethyst Davis, Sumathy Kumar, Sheba Rivera, Cory Greene, Rachna Agarwal, Emma Pliskin, Eric StuRm., and Tabby Cortes

Understanding the Human Cost of State Violence: Public Health, Arts Based Activism and Organizing (Rm. 305)

The tragic death of Kalief Browder and the most recent death of his mother Venida Browder have spurred national attention. While public health researchers have produced data to demonstrate the associations between state violence and individual/population poor health outcomes, little work has been done to meaningfully engage the broader public in a conversation about the human cost of state violence. This workshop seeks to identify the intersection at which public health and the arts can come together to tell a collective story about the human cost of state violence. The facilitators invite public health researchers, artists, curators, and community organizers committed to challenging state violence to create a collective that produces work in support of local campaigns. Attendees will have the opportunity to begin developing public health informed works of art/exhibitions that center the health impacts of state violence and humanize the narratives of the people that are most impacted.

FACILITATORS: Jasmine Graves, Takeesha White, Christa David

Reshaping Reentry in New York State: The Legislating Forgiveness Campaign for Criminal Records Expungement (Rm. C05)

In this workshop, we will discuss the barriers to reentry faced by individuals with convictions in New York State, and discuss the work that the Legislating Forgiveness Campaign for criminal records expungement will do to address it. We will focus in particular on the challenges faced by people with violent felony convictions, who as a group have the lowest rates of recidivism, but are often ostracized and excluded from reentry reform efforts. Workshop participants will gain an understanding of why it is important to support the successful reentry of individuals with violent felony convictions and how this might be achieved, as well as an understanding of the goals of the expungement campaign and ways to get involved.

FACILITATORS: Avery Bizzell & Emily Hoffman

Tales from the Margins: Why Some Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence Go to Prison and What We Can Learn From Their Stories (Rm. C02)

A disproportionate number of women who are survivors of intimate partner violence are imprisoned for killing their abusers, often for many years. There are two systemic problems that perpetuate this injustice: mandatory sentencing provisions that force judges to send survivors to prison for long periods, and the lack of systems interventions like alternatives to incarceration that offer understanding, compassion and concrete assistance rather than criminalization of survivors of intimate partner violence. The key to getting support for necessary system changes is elevating public understanding through narratives and messaging about the experiences of survivors of intimate partner violence who go to prison.

FACILITATORS: Andrea B. Williams & Annette Dickerson

Can I Live? Turning Oppression into Opportunity to Create Change (Rm. 406)

This workshop will be a panel of clients of the Federal Defenders of New York (moderated by and with commentary by staff of the Federal Defenders of New York) discussing the state sponsored violence they have suffered, and the students who work alongside them to combat the conditions our clients face while incarcerated and under supervision.

FACILITATORS: Vivianne Guevara, LMSW; Danielle Azzarelli, LMSW; Amber Eriksson, Topeka Sam, Jael Charles, Melvin Montgomery

Resistance Inside and Out: Women Prisoners and Formerly Incarcerated Women Challenge State and Intimate Violence (Rm. 311/312)

We are coming together as formerly incarcerated women and family members to address the pressing issues faced by women around state violence, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence. We will be looking at the factors of race, misogyny, and poverty to address the root causes of violence against women.

FACILITATORS: Ellen Barry, Sandra Johnson, Hafsa Al Amin, Alisha Coleman

Self-Care and the Activist (Rm. 405)

Self-care in these dark times isn't just a good idea, it's a necessity. Many activists don't take care of themselves. Self-care is healing and creates community in a world that is centered around power and violence.

FACILITATORS: Oneika Mays, Kimberleigh Weiss Lewit

Supporting Incarcerated Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People (Rm. 301)

Join a small conversation amongst formerly incarcerated transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and those who support them from the outside. This discussion will center the experiences of formerly incarcerated transgender and gender non-conforming people including jailhouse lawyers as they discuss the realities of being a jailhouse lawyer, the importance of forming networks for support and visioning, ways to advocate outside of the courtroom, and understanding how laws and regulations may disparately or differently affect tgnc people. This panel will introduce attendees to major issues facing incarcerated tgnc people and provide practice tips including discussing expectations of the law, maintaining consistent contact, acknowledging and working across communication barriers, and the real struggles of representing people whose every action and reaction is monitored.

FACILITATORS: Stefanie Rivera, Mik Kinkead, Juana Paola Peralta

The Center for Justice at Columbia University

The mission of the Center for Justice is to engage the University's many disciplines in working together with community partners to contribute towards ending mass incarceration and to support new approaches to justice and safety through education, research and policy change. It works in partnership with schools, departments, centers and institutes across Columbia, other universities, government agencies, community organizations, advocates and those directly affected by the criminal justice system. Visit centerforjustice.columbia.edu for more information.

The Beyond the Bars Fellows

The Beyond the Bars Fellowship offers students and community members an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of mass incarceration and social change, and to collaborate with social justice organizers, activists, and academics to plan the annual Beyond the Bars Conference. This interdisciplinary leadership program aims to bring together a diverse group of Fellows to further develop their leadership skills - Fellows gain a theoretical and practical understanding of mass incarceration - inclusive of its origins, and wide spread personal and societal consequence. Fellows are also introduced to various models of social change while having an opportunity to interact and learn from community activists, organizers and academics. In addition, Fellows work together with the Center for Justice and the Criminal Justice Caucus to organize the annual Beyond the Bars Conference on mass incarceration. The Fellowship is made up of both student and community members. Our aim is to work collaboratively with the University and community towards social change.

The Criminal Justice Caucus

The Criminal Justice Caucus seeks to provide a forum for CSSW students to access a spectrum of issues related to the social issue of criminal justice in order to build awareness, raise consciousness, and enhance practice competencies. Through the use and facilitation of film, lectures, debate, panels, and trainings, the caucus will provide essential context and information about prison expansion in the United States, in which currently one in one hundred adults is in jail or prison; about 10 million children have a parent in jail or prison; and one in nine African American men between the ages of 20 and 34 are in jail or prison. We believe it is the right and responsibility of all social work students to access critical dialogue, both inside and outside of the classroom, about the needs of people affected by incarceration; this client population crosses lines of generation, race, gender, religion, economic status, political belief, ability, sexual orientation, and others. Student voices contribute to building solutions that meet the needs of people in prison, jail, on parole, on probation, victims of crime, children of incarcerated people and their families.

Co-Sponsors

Columbia University School of Social Work
The Black Alumni Council of Columbia University
Center for Community Change
Center for Contemporary Critical Thought at Columbia Law School
The Center for Institutional and Social Change at Columbia Law School
The Center for the Study of Law and Culture at Columbia Law School
Department of Psychology, Columbia University
The Division of Social Science, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University
The Heyman Center for the Humanities at Columbia University
The Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS)
The Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality
The Kraft Family Fund for Intercultural and Interfaith Awareness
Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion
The Tamer Center for Social Enterprise at Columbia Business School
The Professional Development and Self-Awareness Program at CSSW
The AGPP Caucus at CSSW
The Aging Caucus at CSSW
The Asian Pacific Islander Caucus at CSSW
The Black Caucus at CSSW
The Latinx Caucus at CSSW
The Middle Eastern Caucus at CSSW
The Policy Caucus at CSSW
Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York
Snow Day Food Truck / Drive Change NYC
Southern Poverty Law Center - Columbia University Chapter

Special Thanks

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Barbara Martinsons
Columbia University Arts and Sciences
Conference Volunteers
CSSW Office of Communications
Dorothy Robinson
Dean Irwin Garfinkel
Elwin Wu
Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman Foundation
Greta Faigen
Louisa Gilbert
Karma Lowe
Nabila El-Bassel
Office of the Provost, Columbia University
Susan Witte
The Doe Fund
The Edward S. Moore Foundation
The Social Intervention Group
Tow Foundation
Columbia Social Work Events Management
Columbia University Events Management

