

BEYOND THE BARS

Transcending the Punishment Paradigm

7th Annual Justice Conference at Columbia University



BUILDING THE MOVEMENT:
Conversations with Angela Davis

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2017

Conference Schedule

THURSDAY, MARCH 2ND

Women Transcending the Punishment Paradigm
Columbia Law School - 6:30-9:00pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD

**Building the Movement:
Conversations with Angela Davis**
Lerner Hall - 7:30-9:30pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH

**Transcending the Punishment Paradigm:
Morning and Afternoon Panels**
Columbia School of Social Work - 10:00am-5:30pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH

**Building the Grassroots:
Organizing Workshops**
Columbia School of Social Work - 10:00am-5:00pm

**BUILDING THE MOVEMENT:
Conversations with Angela Davis
PROGRAM**

THE PEACE POETS

“Peace to the Poets” and “All For You”

WELCOME

Center for Justice at Columbia University
Beyond the Bars Fellowship
Criminal Justice Caucus at Columbia School of Social Work

OUR GOALS FOR THE WEEKEND

Center for Justice at Columbia University

**THE HISTORY OF A MOVEMENT
INSIDE PRISONS AND OUT**

Angela Davis
Bernardine Dohrn
Tanisha Douglas
Mujahid Farid

OUR RESISTANCE IS CONNECTED

Bryonn Bain and Topeka Sam

VOICES FROM THE FRONTLINE

THE PEACE POETS

“The Moment We Blush”

THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY: BUILDING A MOVEMENT

Bina Ahmad
Angela Davis
Gina Dent
Hebh Jamal
Thenjiwe McHarris

CLOSING PERFORMANCE

Host: Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin, Ambassador of Freedom

SPEAKERS

Angela Davis, Activist, Scholar, and Writer

Through her activism and scholarship over the last decades, Angela Davis has been deeply involved in our nation's quest for social justice. Her work as an educator – both at the university level and in the larger public sphere – has always emphasized the importance of building communities of struggle for economic, racial, and gender justice. Professor Davis' teaching career has taken her to San Francisco State University, Mills College, and UC Berkeley. She also has taught at UCLA, Vassar, the Claremont Colleges, and Stanford University. She spent the last fifteen years at the University of California Santa Cruz where she is now Distinguished Professor Emerita of History of Consciousness, an interdisciplinary Ph.D program, and of Feminist Studies. In recent years a persistent theme of her work has been the range of social problems associated with incarceration and the generalized criminalization of those communities that are most affected by poverty and racial discrimination. She draws upon her own experiences in the early seventies as a person who spent eighteen months in jail and on trial, after being placed on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted List." She has also conducted extensive research on numerous issues related to race, gender and imprisonment. Angela Davis is a founding member Critical Resistance, a national organization dedicated to the dismantling of the prison industrial complex. Like many other educators, Professor Davis is especially concerned with the general tendency to devote more resources and attention to the prison system than to educational institutions. Having helped to popularize the notion of a "prison industrial complex," she now urges her audiences to think seriously about the future possibility of a world without prisons and to help forge a 21st century abolitionist movement.

Bina Ahmad, Public Defender, Criminal Defense Attorney

Bina Ahmad is a social justice attorney, the daughter of Pakistani immigrants and an Ahmadi Muslim. She has worked with numerous animal rights and human rights organizations such as Farm Sanctuary, Human Rights Watch and the Center for Constitutional Rights. She lived and worked in Palestine with Al-Haq, served on the legal team for the Russell Tribunal on Palestine, was a legal consultant to Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights as well as the Norwegian Refugee Council's Palestine Division. She has served as the National Lawyers Guild's National Vice President, and currently serves on the Steering Committee of the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights. She conducts Know Your Rights trainings for radical left political organizations and movements as well as state targeted communities, and provides these movements and communities legal advice and support. She currently works as a public defender in Manhattan, New York.

Bryonn Bain, Activist, Author, Artist and Educator

Bryonn Bain is a prison activist, spoken word poet, hip hop artist, actor, author and educator. Bryonn is a Professor at the University of California Los Angeles and has lectured and performed at over 100 colleges and correctional facilities in the U.S., Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. After launching the "Lyrics from Lockdown" national prison tour/campaign (www.Lyricsfrom-Lockdown.com), Bain created the university course by the same name to link students at Rikers Island prison to NYU, The New School, Columbia, and has performed "Lyrics from Lockdown" (executive produced by Gina and Harry Belafonte) for sold-out theaters on three continents worldwide. Bain taught as a Visiting Lecturer for Harvard University's Dramatic Arts Division before he was invited to facilitate organizing the Prison Education Initiative at New York University.

Bernardine Dohrn, Activist, Academic, Children and Women's Rights Advocate

Bernardine Dohrn, is a retired Clinical Associate Professor at the Northwestern University School of Law, Bluhm Legal Clinic, and was the founding director of the Children and Family Justice Center for twenty-four years. The Center represents young people in court, and is a national policy center for the comprehensive needs of children, adolescents and their families, providing critical analysis and knowledge about youth law practice, the administration of justice, and the preparation of professionals who advocate for children.

Dohrn is an author and co-editor of three books: “Race Course: Against White Supremacy (2009); “A Century of Juvenile Justice” (2002); and “Resisting Zero Tolerance: A Handbook for Parents, Teachers and Students” (2001). She writes and lectures on international human rights law, children in conflict with the law, racism and youth justice, school law, and torture. Dohrn taught women and children’s human rights law at Northwestern, is visiting professor at Leiden University faculty of law in the Netherlands, and a Lecturer at the University of Chicago. Ms. Dohrn is a graduate of the University of Chicago College and the Law School.

Gina Dent, Associate Professor, Feminist Studies/History of Consciousness/Legal Studies at University of California, Santa Cruz

Gina Dent is Associate Professor of Feminist Studies, History of Consciousness, and Legal Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She served previously as Director of the Institute for Advanced Feminist Research and as Principal Investigator for the UC Multicampus Research Group on Transnationalizing Justice. She is the editor of Black Popular Culture and author of articles on race, feminism, popular culture, and visual art. Her current project grows out of her work as an advocate for prison abolition—*Prison as a Border and Other Essays*, on popular culture and the conditions of knowledge.

Tanisha Wakumi Douglas, Co-Founder/Executive Director- Miami, S.O.U.L. Sisters Leadership Collective

As the daughter of an undocumented immigrant serving 30-to-life in a New Jersey prison, she has dedicated her life to building leadership among youth most impacted by mass incarceration and other oppressive systems. She is the Co-founder and Executive Director of S.O.U.L. Sisters Leadership Collective, a leadership program for girls facing incarceration, homelessness and truancy. She also co-founded the “Removing the Bars” conference, predecessor to Beyond the Bars. She has studied with renowned holistic healer Queen Afua and earned the Womb Wellness practitioner certification, holding womb wellness circles, soul sweats and spiritual ceremony. She is a graduate of Columbia University School of Social Work where she focused

on clinical practice, criminal justice, law and African-centered healing models. She did her undergraduate studies in culture and politics, with a minor in justice and peace and a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, at Georgetown University. She has extensive experience in after-school programming, popular education, community organizing and advocacy in the juvenile justice, youth development and social and racial justice arenas, working for such organizations as the National Association of Social Workers' Undoing Racism Internship Project, Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities and Children's Defense Fund, among others. She believes strongly in the healing power of connection to Mother Earth and ancestors, telling stories, raising voices and taking action.

Thenjiwe McHarris. Co-founder, Blackbird

Thenjiwe has spent her entire political and professional career challenging the injustices that imprison people and their communities in a life of poverty and/or one behind bars. That commitment has led her to campaign on human rights issues in the United States and around the world. Thenjiwe currently works with a team called Blackbird, which is focused on movement building and centers black resistance as part of the ongoing struggle to transform the country. She is also currently working with a number of social justice organizations in an effort to help establish a collective of organizers engaged in movement building work around the world.

Mujahid Farid, Lead Organizer, Release Aging People in Prison Campaign

Mujahid Farid is the Lead Organizer for the Release Aging People in Prison Campaign. Farid was released in 2011 after spending 33 years in NYS prisons. In 1987 Farid was part of a trio that created the first HIV/AIDS peer education program in NYS prisons which developed into Prisoners AIDS Counseling & Education. He participated in the creation of college certificate courses sponsored by New York Theological Seminary, teaching sociology and conducting training for Alcohol & Substance Abuse (ASAT) counseling certification. Farid has initiated The RAPP Campaign and the Rise Small, Shine Small Business Social Entrepreneurship Coalition. Farid received a 2013 SOROS Justice Fellowship, a 2013 commendation by the Joint New York State Legislature, and a 2013 Citizens Against Recidivism, Inc. Award.

Hebh Jamal, Activist

Hebh Jamal is a senior at Beacon High School. She is a member of Muslim American Society and was featured in the New York Times article, Young Muslim Americans Feeling the Strain of Suspicion. Hebh Jamal is currently working with IntegrateNYC4Me in an effort to diversify New York City schools. She also works with the organization, New York Appleseed. They advocate for equity of access and fair allocation of resources to schools and neighborhoods in New York City and its greater metropolitan area. As a Muslim American, Hebh aims to create a sense of community through dialogue and activism.

Peace Poets

The Peace Poets are a collective of 5 artists that celebrate, examine and advocate for life through music and poetry. They've invigorated the social movements of our time with chants and songs used throughout the nation. They hail from The Bronx and have performed across the world in over 40 countries. They've rocked the mic in prisons, schools, community centers, rallies, refugee camps and on the blocks they live on. Fortified with the belief that the cypher is the opposite of prison, they are committed to raising up the power of the people to be creative and connected. They are humbled by the opportunity to learn from you and grateful for the opportunity to share with you.

Topeka Sam, National Organizer, National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women

Topeka K. Sam is the National Organizer and founding member of the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women (The Council). She is also the founder of The Ladies of Hope Ministries - The LOHM - whose mission is to help disenfranchised and marginalized women and girls transition back into society through spiritual empowerment, education, entrepreneurship development and grassroots advocacy.

Topeka serves on the board of directors for Grassroots Leadership. She is pursuing her Certificate in Christian Ministry at New York Theological Seminary. She is a Beyond the Bars 2015-2016 Fellow and a Justice-In-Education Scholar at Columbia University. She has received the "Women's Championship" Award 2016 from The Go Get It Women's Empowerment Conference; the "Phenomenal Woman" award from Masjidus Sabur; and the "Make it Happen" Community Service Award from The Kids League 2016. All of this has been accomplished since her recent release from prison in May 2015.

Host: Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin, Chief of Housing Community Activities, New York City Housing Authority

Mrs. Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin joined the New York City Housing Authority, in an administrative role as the Chief of Housing and Activities. This position gives her an opportunity to work on systemic change by reunifying formerly incarcerated people with their families. Prior to her current role Mrs. Johnson-Peterkin was the Director of Operations for Re-Entry at the Women's Prison Association for ten years, a service and advocacy organization committed to helping women with criminal justice histories realize new possibilities for themselves and their families. Ms. Johnson-Peterkin joined WPA in 2005 with over 20 years of experience in the Human Service field. Mrs. Johnson Peterkin and her peers published an article in the Race/Ethnicity Journal (2008) titled Life Capacity Beyond Reentry: A Critical Examination of Racism and Prisoner Reentry Reform in the US.

Mrs. Johnson-Peterkin received her Masters degree in Social Work from Hunter College in 2004. She has received honors from the Correctional Association of New York, Citizens Against Recidivism, and the NAACP. Mrs. Johnson-Peterkin is an active alumna and Board Member of the College and Community Fellowship program where the mission is to help formerly incarcerated women achieve their goals through higher education. Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin has been described as the "Ambassador of Freedom".

Co-Sponsors

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The Center for Contemporary Critical Thought at Columbia Law School
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“You have to act as if were possible
to radically transform the world. And
you have to do it all the time.”

– *Angela Davis*