

BEYOND THE BARS

CLOSING JAILS AND PRISONS

8TH ANNUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Building the Movement

Conversations with Patrisse Khan-Cullors

FRIDAY MARCH 2, 2018

Lerner Hall, Columbia University

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 1ST

Ending the Incarceration of Women and Girls

6:30–9:00 pm, Columbia Law School

FRIDAY, MARCH 2ND

Building the Movement: Conversations with Patrisse Khan-Cullors

7:30–9:30 pm, Lerner Hall, Columbia University
(Doors at 6:45 pm; Event Starts at 7:30pm)

SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD

Closing Jails and Prisons

10:00 am–5:00 pm, Columbia School of Social Work

SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH

Building the Grassroots: Organizing Workshops

10:00am–5:00 pm, Columbia School of Social Work

PROGRAM

BUILDING THE MOVEMENT: Conversations with Patrisse Khan-Cullors

PERFORMANCE

Chantilly Mers-Pickett

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

OPENING REMARKS

Chirlane McCray, First Lady of New York City

PANEL I

CLOSING JAILS AND PRISONS: ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AND THE NEEDS OF SURVIVORS

Jeanne Bishop
Jehan Gordon-Booth
Patrisse Khan-Cullors
Steven Mangual
Moderator: Danielle Sered

PERFORMANCE

Truthworker Theatre Company

WORDS FROM THE FRONTLINE

Ravi Ragbir

PANEL II

BUILDING A MOVEMENT: ENDING MASS INCARCERATION & MASS CRIMINALIZATION

Patrisse Khan-Cullors
Khalil Cumberbatch
George Galvis
Asha Ransby-Sporn
Moderator: Soffiyah Elijah

CLOSING

HOST: Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin, Ambassador of Freedom

BIOS

Jeanne Bishop is the sister of Nancy Bishop Langert, who was shot to death at age 25 along with her husband and their unborn child. Since the murders of her family members, Jeanne Bishop has been a prominent advocate for gun violence prevention, abolition of the death penalty, exoneration of the innocent and the role of faith in the debate over executions. Ms. Bishop volunteers with the Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence, lobbying in the U.S. Congress and state legislatures for sensible gun safety laws. As a board member of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights, an organization of murder victims' family members who oppose the death penalty, Ms. Bishop has spoken against the death penalty in dozens of U.S. states, France, Ireland, Japan and Mongolia. Ms. Bishop serves on the Advisory Board of Northwestern University's Center on Wrongful Convictions. A graduate of Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism and Northwestern University School of Law, Ms. Bishop also attended Yale Law School as a Visiting Student. She is an adjunct professor of law at Northwestern and an Assistant Public Defender in the Office of the Cook County (IL) Public Defender. She is the author of *Change of Heart: Justice, Mercy, and Making Peace with My Sister's Killer*.

Khalil A. Cumberbatch is the Associate Vice President of Policy at the Fortune Society. He is a formerly incarcerated national advocate for reform of the adult criminal justice system and immigration policy. Since his release in 2010 after serving almost seven years in the NYS prison system Khalil has worked with various non-profits as a service provider, policy analyst, advisor, board member, collaborator, and consultant. In December 2014, after being held in the immigration detention system for five months, Khalil was issued an Executive Pardon from NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo to relieve the immigration consequences of this criminal conviction.

Soffiyah Elijah is the Executive Director of the Alliance of Families for Justice. Established in 2016 in NY, the mission of the Alliance of Families for Justice (AFJ) is to support families of incarcerated people and people with criminal records, empower them as advocates and enable them to marshal their voting power to achieve systemic change. Prior to founding AFJ, Ms. Elijah was the Executive Director of the Correctional Association

of NY where she was the first woman and the first person of color to lead the 170 year old organization. Ms. Elijah has dedicated her life to human rights and social activism, and is a frequent presenter at national and international forums on criminal justice policy and human rights issues. An accomplished advocate, attorney, scholar, and educator, Ms. Elijah has practiced criminal and family law for more than 30 years. Prior to leading the Correctional Association, Ms. Elijah served as Deputy Director and Clinical Instructor at the Criminal Justice Institute at Harvard Law School. Before moving to Harvard, she was a member of the faculty and Director and Supervising Attorney of the Defender Clinic at the City University of New York School of Law. Ms. Elijah has also worked as a Supervising Attorney at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, a Staff Attorney at the Juvenile Rights Division of the Legal Aid Society, and in private practice. She is a native New Yorker and resides in the People's Republic of Brooklyn.

George Galvis has promoted restorative justice and healing to transform lives since 1933. Galvis is the Co-founder and executive director of Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ, pronounced "courage"). He draws from personal experience and his indigenous roots to help young people, particularly those involved in the criminal justice system, become community leaders for positive change. Galvis holds both a Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies and a Master's in City Planning from UC Berkeley where he was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar and Public Policy & International Affairs Fellow. Galvis advocates for at-risk youth, prisoners and formerly imprisoned individuals with children. As a board member of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, Galvis helped create All of Us or None, which fights for the rights of formerly and currently incarcerated people and families. He has led statewide advocacy efforts to transform punitive school and juvenile justice policies that disparately impact youth of color and has developed traditional rites of passage programs as healthy alternatives to gang violence. He also serves as the co-Director of the California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice (CAYCJ), a broad coalition working collectively to end youth incarceration, youth treatment as adults, and build community capacity for alternatives to incarceration that empower young people in California.

Jehan Gordon-Booth is a community activist, mother and full-time legislator serving the people of Illinois' 92nd district. She is the first African-American woman ever to be elected to represent the central region of the state in the Illinois General Assembly. Fully understanding the work needed to effectively deal with the issue of safety and mass incarceration Rep. Gordon-Booth passed the largest and most comprehensive criminal justice reform bill, SB 2872--The Neighborhood Safety Act in 2017. Currently, pushing for a state budget and reforming and revitalizing our state's outdated criminal justice system is Rep. Gordon-Booth's primary focus.

Patrisse Khan-Cullors is an artist, organizer, and freedom fighter from Los Angeles, CA. Cofounder of Black Lives Matter and founder of Dignity and Power Now, she is also a performance artist, Fulbright scholar, popular public speaker, and an NAACP History Maker. She's received many awards for activism and movement building, including being named by the Los Angeles Times as a Civil Rights Leader for the 21st Century and the Sydney Peace Prize for her work with Black Lives Matter. Patrisse is currently in the middle of an international tour for her new book *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir*. Growing up with several of her loved ones experiencing incarceration and brutality at the hands of the state and coming out as queer at an early age, she has since worked tirelessly promoting law enforcement accountability across the world while focusing on addressing trauma and building on the resilience and health of the communities most affected. In the summer of 2013 fueled by the acquittal granted to George Zimmerman after his murder of Trayvon Martin, Patrisse co-founded a global movement with a hashtag. Black Lives Matter has since grown to an international organization with dozens of chapters and thousands of determined activists fighting anti-Black racism world-wide.

Steven Mangual is the Senior Intervention Manager at Common Justice and a long-time Advocate and Activists in the fields of health, social and criminal justice. He has been part of the movement to raise awareness of the need to have the voices, narratives, and unique needs of the Latinx community infused in criminal justice reform. Steven has been part of the struggle for the release of Puerto Rican Political Prisoners, ending solitary

confinement, and Parole Justice in NYS, among other things. He has been the Latino Affairs Producer / Communications Manager for “On The Count: The Prison and Criminal Justice Report” since November 2006. His passion has been HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis health education/advocacy as well as humanizing the criminal justice system from within the NYS Department of Corrections under Volunteer Services, during reentry and now in the Front-end. Steven Mangual holds an Associate’s in Applied Sciences Degree in Human Services from Bronx Community College and a Bachelor’s of Arts Degree in Social Work from Lehman College.

Chirlane McCray has transformed the traditional responsibilities of First Lady, working in close partnership with her husband and becoming the first in her position to address a U.S. Conference of Mayors annual meeting, testify before the New York City Council and serve as commencement speaker for a major college or university. Ms. McCray created ThriveNYC, the most comprehensive mental health plan of any city or state in the nation, and she is recognized nationally as a powerful champion for mental health reform. Additionally, Ms. McCray spearheads the Cities Thrive Coalition of mayors, with representation from more than 150 cities from all 50 states, advocating for a more integrated and better-funded behavioral health system. Among her many awards and accolades, she was honored as the 2017 Change Champion by the National Council for Behavioral Health and recently received the BWA Health award for her leadership in NYC from the Black Women’s Agenda, a national, 40-year-old nonprofit that promotes the well-being of African-American women and their families. The First Lady is a graduate of Wellesley College and has accepted an Honorary Doctor of Science from the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy.

Ravi Ragbir is the executive director of the New Sanctuary Coalition, a faith-based coalition devoted to immigrant rights. He’s one of a handful of high-profile immigrant rights leaders who have been targeted by the Trump administration. He was handcuffed and arrested during his routine check-in on January 11, prompting a mass protest that ended with 18 arrested, including two members of the New York City Council.

Asha Ransby-Sporn is a Black queer woman, writer, and organizer currently serving as a national organizing co-chair for Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100). In 2014, Ransby-Sporn travelled with the We Charge Genocide youth delegation to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland where she testified on police violence in Chicago. As one of the lead organizers of Columbia Prison Divest, Ransby-Sporn helped launch and lead the first successful campaign to get a US university to financially divest from the private prison industry. Her writing has been published in In These Times magazine, Truthout, and the recent anthology *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect?*. Ransby-Sporn is committed to movements that embrace the transformative potential of a radical/Black/queer imagination towards the abolition of police and prisons.

Danielle Sered envisioned, launched, and directs Common Justice. Before planning the launch of Common Justice, Danielle served as the deputy director of Vera's Adolescent Reentry Initiative, a program for young men returning from incarceration on Rikers Island. Prior to joining Vera, she worked at the Center for Court Innovation's Harlem Community Justice Center, where she led its programs for court-involved and recently incarcerated youth. Danielle has designed and directed programs that teach conflict resolution through the arts in schools and juvenile detention centers, has had extensive involvement in gang intervention work, has developed and implemented violence intervention and trauma-informed care practices and curricula, and has experience with a variety of mediation, restorative justice, and conflict resolution techniques. She is author of *The Other Side of Harm: Addressing Disparities in our Responses to Violence* and of *Accounting for Violence: How to Increase Safety and Break Our Failed Reliance on Mass Incarceration*. A Stoneleigh fellow, Danielle received her BA from Emory University and her masters degrees from New York University and Oxford University (UK), where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar.

Yolanda Johnson Peterkin has been a College and Community Fellowship (CCF) Board Member since 2014. Yolanda is a CCF alumnae who remains very active in its Theater for Social Change program. She is currently the Chief of Housing Community

Activities for the Family Services Department at the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). She formerly worked as the Director of Program Operations for Reentry Services at the Women's Prison Association. In April 2011, she received the Distinguished Leadership award from the NAACP-NYCHA branch for her relentless hard work and passion for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. Mrs. Johnson-Peterkin received her MSW from Hunter College in 2004, and is an active alumna of CCF. She has performed with TSC at Rikers Island, Riverside Church, The New School, Columbia University, Lycoming College, and Talking Transition, among other venues.

Truthworker Theatre Company is a social justice based, hip-hop theatre company founded and directed by Samara Gaev, for high school and college-aged youth in Brooklyn, NY. Providing youth leadership programming, professional stipends, and rigorous artistic training; Truthworker raises awareness and catalyzes action for racial, gender, and economic justice. Young visionaries directly impacted by mass incarceration write and perform original productions that interrogate the prison industrial complex, challenge systems of oppression, invite healing dialogue, and foster artistic interventions, inspiring solutions for collective liberation. Truthworker is a safe space for young people to be the subjects, not the objects, of their own stories as they unpack, problematize, and shift the dominant, often stereotypical narratives in mainstream media. In a country with the largest prison population in the world, Truthworker's bold storytelling is geared towards enlivening creative solutionaries.

Chantilly Mers-Pickett is an educator, musician, partner, and mom. She currently works as a Faith and Justice Educator with United Methodist Women, where their team creates spaces for faith communities to examine how social issues intersect their sacred texts and traditions. She's most passionate about creating participatory spaces that build on our collective wisdom, creativity and shared power.

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