

# BEYOND THE BARS

## CLOSING JAILS AND PRISONS

8TH ANNUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Building the Grassroots

**SUNDAY MARCH 4, 2018**

Columbia School of Social Work

# BEYOND THE BARS

## SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

Thank you for joining us on the fourth and final day of the 8th annual justice conference at Columbia University, **Beyond the Bars: Closing Jails and Prisons**. Our intention today is to make visible the ways in which people are organizing, strategizing, and building political power to close jails and prisons; and to discuss alternatives to detention and incarceration that don't replace jails and prisons with other forms of criminalization.

- The Beyond the Bars Organizing Team

### SCHEDULE

10:00 am – 11:00 am	<b>WELCOME &amp; PERFORMANCE</b>
11:15 am – 12:45 pm	<b>SESSION #1</b>
12:45 pm – 1:45 pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
1:45 pm – 3:15 pm	<b>SESSION #2</b>
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	<b>SESSION #3</b>

### WELCOME

#### OPENING REMARKS

Bryonn Bain, Activist, Author, Artist and Educator

#### REPORT BACK FROM THE MDC THINK TANK

#### PERFORMANCE

**How Our Lives Link Altogether!**

Youth Organizing Collective

## **SESSION #1**

11:00 am-12:30 pm

### **THE PRISON HUNGER STRIKE SOLIDARITY COALITION: The Movement to End Long Term Solitary Confinement in California State Prisons**

**Room 311/312**

In this workshop, you will hear from members from the Prison Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition (PHSSC). We will give you a firsthand account of the organizing process from solitary confinement to people's home, the streets, the courts, and universities. The PHSSC movement offers us many lessons, specifically in mobilizing people from different racial, gender, ethnic, religious, political, economic, and geographical backgrounds.

**Facilitator:** Johnny Perez, Director of U.S. Prison Program, National Religious Campaign Against Torture

**Presenters:**

**Angelica Camacho**, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, University of Illinois, Urban-Campaign

**Azadeh Zohrabi**, Developmental Director, Legal Services for prisoner with Children

**Dolores Canales**, Co- Founder, California Families Against Solitary Confinement

**Danny Murillo**, Soros Justice Advocacy Fellow, Renewing Communities a project of The Opportunity Institute

**Michael Saavedra**, 2017 UCLA Beyond the Bars Fellow, Riverside City College

### **A FREEDOM ORATORIO: From Prison to Release**

**Room C03**

A presentation of excerpts from the "Freedom Oratorio" performance inspired by Larry White's prison survival manual "Hope Lives for Lifers," created and performed by formerly incarcerated men in collaboration with director Ron Jenkins and his students from Yale University with music by Francis Pollock. The post-performance dialogue between the performers and the audience will be moderated by Lewis Webb, director of AFSC's Healing Justice Program, and will feature remarks by Larry White whose prison advocacy work is based on his experience of over forty years behind bars.

**Presenters:**

American Friends Service Committee Healing Justice Program & Yale Divinity School's Institute of Sacred Music: Lewis Webb, Larry White, Hananiah Shabazz, Hassan Gale, Abdul Salahuddin, Ali Bandedali, Nicole Klosterman, Grace Gill, and Frances Pollock

## **RECLAIMING OUR TIME THROUGH EDUCATION; Utilizing Our Identities, Spaces, and Activism Towards Liberation**

### **Room C05**

Through the development of formerly incarcerated leaders we have identified three core components: 1) leveraging of self-identity by addressing the healing and growth process through our educational experiences; 2) utilizing the social capital of the formerly incarcerated on college campuses to create experiences of inclusion and equity; and 3) as the presence of formerly incarcerated students on college campuses increases, we utilize our educational and trauma to lead the movement in closing jails and prisons.

#### **Presenters:**

#### **Workshop Leaders:**

**Maria Elena Morales**, Co-founder F.I.C.C.U

**Violeta Alvarez**, Program Direction, Berkeley Underground Scholars

**Javier Rodriguez**, Co-Chair, Underground Scholars Org. at UCLA.

#### **Panelists:**

**Barbara Lasure**, Co-founder F.I.C.C.U

**Patrick Wallace**, Co-founder F.I.C.C.U.

**Elisabeth Ocampo**, Ambassador, College of San Mateo

**Jemal Taylor**, Ambassador, Merritt College,

**Karessa Cohron**, Project Rebound Sacramento State, Student Assistant

**Alton Williams**, Project Rebound Sacramento State, Program Coordinator

## **RADICAL INTERVENTIONS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS IN THE CRIMINAL SYSTEM / SOCIAL WORKERS AND THE POST-PRISON FUTURE: What Role Will We Play?**

### **Room C06**

**Radical Interventions for Service Providers in the Criminal System:** This workshop will give participants the opportunity to be transparent about the existing shortcomings of non-profit and public interest work, acknowledge and share the existing practices of the people in the audience, and radically imagine what liberatory work could look like as we move toward abolition and healing. We will grapple with the question of whether it is possible to engage in liberatory practices in inherently dehumanizing institutions, grounding the conversation in our experiences representing black and brown youth in criminal courts, Family Court, and Rikers.

**Social Workers and the Postprison Future:** What Role Will We Play: The workshop aims to gather individuals and organizations interested and currently working in forensic social work and similar settings. It will cover topical areas which is crucial in helping to end mass incarceration/criminalization through organized action: How do we make the major players who are involved in the decision to close Rikers accountable? What are the potential barriers and challenges in closing jails/prisons, and the social work services once they are closed? How to develop and sustain relationship among the community of social workers, mental health professionals, activists, advocates, and organizers in juvenile and criminal justice?

**Presenters:**

**Radical Interventions for Service Providers in the Criminal System:**

**Ashley C. Sawyer**, Esq., Staff Attorney, Youth Represent

**Jessie Workman**, Esq., Staff Attorney/Pride Law Fellow, Youth Represent

**Social Workers and the Postprison Future: What Role Will We Play**

**Rosa Jaffe**, LMSW, SIFI, Forensic Social Workers at Legal Aid Society, and Instructor at CUNY John Jay

**Elmer Malibiran**, Graduate student at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service

**THE CONTINUUM OF TRANSFORMATIONAL JUSTICE**

**Room 301**

Attendees will hear how each panelist transformed their own traumas—those caused by violence, crime, state violence, oppression, and incarceration—into advocacy and organizing. Three former “Lifers” who were incarcerated for decades will join two survivors who have experienced violence; together they will demonstrate restorative and transformative practices they created and shared inside state prisons in California. The panel will also explore how these practices have transformed not only the individuals involved, but also the prison yard and our communities, and are also impacting other social justice movements. A revolutionary LGBTQ in-prison program was developed out of these practices, led by two of the panelists: a longtime LGBTQ activist and a man who received a life sentence for a crime with an anti-LGBTQ element. Attendees will learn how these practices reduce violence and promote deep healing.

**Presenters:**

**Leonard Rubio**, Executive Director, Insight Prison Project

**Billie Mizell**, Executive Director, Acting with Compassion and Truth

**Ayoola Mitchell**, Community and Survivor Outreach Specialist IPP and Manager of Program Development ACT

**Philip Melendez**, Restorative Reentry Fellow, IPP and Curriculum Developer ACT

**CheRonn Piper**, Replication Manager, IPP

**Sam Johnson, Sr.**, Graduate of Victim Offender Educational Group (VOEG), IPP

**CONNECTION IS RESISTANCE: Redesigning How We Work Together in Academia Rooted in Abolition Pedagogy**

**Room 305**

The scholars of this panel hold leadership positions at their respective California universities and use their personal experiences with the criminal justice system to raise awareness and reduce recidivism. These leaders provide one another and other system impacted people the guidance necessary to navigate through higher education and earn advanced degrees that will lead to professional careers in the legal field, public policy, and various other professions this population was previously restricted from. In claiming and sharing our stories, we create spaces for solidarity and

mobilization throughout Southern California and the nation. As formerly incarcerated people in academia, we engage in and promote abolition pedagogy. We will connect with the audience and discuss what is possible when our collective work is rooted in decarcerating our communities.

**Moderator:**

Marta Lopez-Garza, Professor in Gender & Women's Studies and Chicano/a Studies Department's at California State University Northridge, Board of Directors at A New Way of Life Reentry Project.

**Presenters:**

**Irene Sotelo**, Undergraduate Student at California State University Long Beach, Co-Founder of Rising Scholars/ Project Rebound

**Rayceana Rocha**, Justice Advocate, Project Rebound at California State University Los Angeles, President & Co-Founder of CSULA Student Homie Union, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles Volunteer, 2017 Worthy Women's Professional Studies Scholarship Recipient

**Sara Rodriguez**, Program Coordinator for Project Rebound at California State Polytechnic University Pomona, Reintegration Academy Intern, Prison Education Project Volunteer

**Cynthia Blake**, Graduate Student of Sociology at California State University, Dominguez Hills, Rising Scholars Conformation Manager

**Lily Gonzalez**, 2018 Newman Fellow, 2017 JLUSA Fellow, La Comadre Founding Blogger, Homeboy Industries Alumn, University Northridge

**Adrian Vasquez**, 2018 JLUSA Fellow, Intake Specialist & Job Developer at The Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC), Undergraduate at California State University Long Beach, Co-Founder Rising Scholars/ Project Rebound

**PRISON ABOLITIONIST OF NASSAU INCITING CHANGE (PANIC!)  
Room 404**

This workshop will focus on a grassroots campaign that focuses on the need for an abolitionist approach to building the political power of Nassau County's 'incarcerated class', by facilitating the voting of all eligible voters detained within the local jail and demand the inclusion of a formerly incarcerated person(s) on the Nassau County Jail oversight committee. Our workshop will discuss the use of social media to build a base and mobilize communities; the use of harm reduction programs to support those most at risk of experiencing State violence; how to take full advantage of NY state's Freedom of Information Law; how to build alliances across organizations and issues; and how to utilize media and direct action to apply pressure to elected officials.

**Presenters:**

**Stephen Figurasmith**, a Co-Founder of PANIC is involved in various statewide and national organizations including the NYS jails Justice Network, Decarcerate Louisiana, Just Leadership USA, and the Millions for Prisoners Coalition

**Thern (TJ) Shivers**, a Co-Founder of PANIC is an active leader at New York Communities for Change (NYCC), a member of Just Leadership USA, Working Families Party, and is a Peer Educator with Long Island's only syringe exchange, Community Action for Social Justice (CASJ)

**Sandy Guillaume**, a Co-Founder of PANIC is also the Executive Director of Second Chance Reentry, Inc., Co-Founder of Community Action for Social Justice (CASJ), an adjunct lecturer with the Colin L. Powell Center for Civic and Global Leadership at The City College of New York, a member of NYS Jails Justice Network, and Just Leadership USA, and a Riker's Island survivor

### **INCARCERATION AND RE-TRAUMATIZATION: Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth in the Juvenile Justice System** **Room 405**

This session will inform about the structure of the juvenile justice system in NYC and the ways in which this system re-traumatizes young women who have been commercially sexually exploited. A panel of attorneys, service providers and survivors will discuss alternatives to criminalization.

**Presenters:**

**Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS):**

**Lindsey Keck**, Moderating, Family Court Advocacy Coordinator

**Shaquana Blount**, Outreach Coordinator

**Jessica Trudeau**, Program Director

**GEMS Members**

**Legal Aid Society:**

**Hannah Kaplan**, Staff Attorney, Juvenile Rights Practice

**Deirdre Williams**, Forensic Social Worker, Juvenile Rights Practice

**Cait Mullen**, Staff Attorney

### **IS POVERTY A CRIME?**

#### **Room 406**

Thousands of New Yorkers await trial in jail because they cannot afford bail. Even one night in jail can cause someone to lose their job, their housing, or their children. Bail, in reality, is a punishment given to legally innocent people. Learn how to fight this racist and classist system.

**Presenters:**

**Clinton Washington**, Client Advocate, The Bronx Freedom Fund

**Yonah Zeitz**, Client Advocate, The Bronx Freedom Fund

### **ACCESS TO FREEDOM: Caged LA**

#### **Room 302**

Million Dollar Hoods is a community-driven research project housed in the Bunche Center for African American studies at UCLA that digitally maps incarceration in Los Angeles. This workshop will illuminate the immense costs and spatial trends associated with incarceration in Los Angeles, and inspire a conversation about the need for alternative investments in the community.

**Presenters:**

**UCLA MDH Oral History Team:**

**Jovan Martinez**, **Andrew Guerrero**, **Harold Grimsby**, **Taylor Thomas**,

**Marcelo Clark**, **Luz Flores**; & **Isaac Bryan** (MPP, UCLA MDH Policy Researcher)

## **RIGHT TO RESTORE: Strategies on Abolition Room C02**

Imagine America without the Prison Industrial Complex. Utilizing the restorative justice model, we will offer strategies to restore reconstruct and rebuild our communities. Focusing on family, mentoring and how we as a community can take back then give back to the Black and Brown marginalized families across America,

### **Presenters:**

Fox Rich, Anderson Curtis, and Tiheba Bain - Fox Rich Motors & Women Against Mass Incarceration

## **IMMIGRANT PRISONERS: Queer and Trans Migrant Perspectives 2nd Floor Lounge**

Immigrant prisons, especially from a queer perspective, are often overlooked when discussing the Prison Industrial Complex. During the panel, the speakers will discuss the realities of immigration prison, the intersections of the criminal justice and immigration prisons, and first-hand perspectives of those that have lived through these systems.

### **Presenters:**

#### **Queer Detainee Empowerment Project:**

Jamila Hammami, MSW-Executive Director

Bobby Steggert, MSW Intern

E Lamashtu, Membe

## **SESSION #2**

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

## **ORGANIZING TO BUILD SAFER, STRONGER, AND HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES IN WISCONSIN: The ROC (Restoring Our Communities) Wisconsin Campaign and the Close Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF) Campaign Room 311/312**

This workshop will examine the emergence and evolution of both the ROC Wisconsin Campaign, which aims to cut Wisconsin's correctional population in half and restore communities and families that have been harmed by mass incarceration, and the #CLOSEmsdf Campaign. Built to accommodate Milwaukee's extraordinarily high incarceration rate and aggressive, racist probation and parole system, Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF) holds people accused of crimeless rule violations in excruciating conditions.

### **Presenters:**

#### **EXPO (EX Incarcerated People Organizing):**

Mark Rice

Sharyl McFarland

Alan Schultz



## **DISMANTLING THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX: Growing a Movement through Current Multi-Issue Collaborative Organizing and Advocacy Efforts**

### **Room C03**

Various campaigns in New York are working towards closing prisons and jails; reducing the number of people in prisons and jails through parole release, bail and speedy trial changes, or diverting people with mental illness; and challenging the racist punishment paradigm driving the prison industrial complex. This workshop will provide a brief overview of several NY-based campaigns challenging mass incarceration and outline next steps in growing the movement for closing jails and prisons.

#### **Presenters:**

#### **Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement:**

Victor Pate

Sadia Zaman

Lady Catherine Julian

Melissa Gonzalez

#### **Correctional Association of New York:**

Jack Beck

Anisah Sabur

Tyrrell Muhammad

Alajo Rodriguez, Prisoner Reentry Institute

Jayette Lansbury, National Alliance on Mental Illness

Elena Landriscina, Disability Rights New York

## **DECARCERATING AMERICA: From Mass Punishment to Public Health**

### **Room C05**

This panel consists of authors of a chapters in a new anthology published by The New Press in March 2018. The authors will present their work from the book and lead a discussion on several of the major issues we face in getting large numbers of people out of prisons while creating alternatives to parole that aim at re-establishing this population's ability to live successfully in their home communities after they return from prison.

#### **Presenters:**

Chair: **Ernest Drucker**, Professor of Public Health, NYU College of Global Public Health

#### **Panelists:**

**Robin Steinberg**, The Bail Project

**Vincent Schiraldi**, Columbia School of Social Work

**Judy Greene**, Justice Strategies

**Mujahid Farid** and **Laura Whitehorn**, Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP)  
Campaign

**Eric Lotke**, Author

## **THEORIZING OUR LIVED EXPERIENCE: The Production of Knowledge and Formerly Incarcerated Scholars at the University of California, Berkeley**

### **Room C06**

As formerly incarcerated scholars what is our role in challenging and changing the narrative about our lived experience in relation to the prison industrial complex? This panel will feature members of the Underground Scholars Initiative at the University of California Berkeley. We will share and discuss our research ideas, questions, findings and scholarly work, followed by a conversation and Q&A on the role of formerly incarcerated scholars as producers of knowledge at a research-1 institution.

#### **Facilitator:**

**Angelica Camacho**, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

#### **Presenters:**

**Clint Terrell**, Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, University of California, Berkeley

**David Maldonado**, Doctoral student, University of California, Berkeley Graduate School of Education

**Danny Murillo**, Soros Justice Advocacy Fellow, Renewing Communities a project of The Opportunity Institute

**Shalita Williams**, Firebaugh Scholar Program, University of California, Berkeley

## **FIGHTING JAILS BEYOND NYC: Lessons from Grassroots Struggles in Broome, Cortland, and Tompkins Counties**

### **Room 301**

This workshop brings together community organizers from three counties in the Southern Tier (Broome, Cortland, and Tompkins) fighting, with growing support, mass incarceration and state-imposed, new jails. Topics addressed include working with diverse local communities and relations with other struggles (e.g. local substance use disorder protests, university groups opposed to policing, local demands for social and reentry services, etc.). Attention will be paid to how anti-mass incarceration struggles upstate relate to and diverge from strategies recently deployed in and from New York City.

#### **Presenters:**

**Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier:**

**Bill Martin**

**Andy Pragacz**

**Bobby Black**

**Kevin Revier**

**Joey Cardamone**, Decarcerate Tompkins County

**Jack Norton**, Vera Institute of Justice

## **SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES: Organizing to End Mass Criminalization**

### **Room 305**

The Drug Policy Alliance is shifting our work. We are no longer exclusively looking at the impacts of mass incarceration as we have recognized that a culture of criminalization permeates all sectors. This past year we have worked with advocates cross sectors to identify the policies and practices that support the mass criminalization of people who use drugs. We believe this framing is important to lift up because the end of the carceral state doesn't necessarily mean the end of the criminalization.

#### **Presenters:**

#### **Moderator:**

Dionna King, DPA

#### **Panelists:**

Jasmine Graves

Joyce McMillan

Albert Saint Jean

## **EDUCATION AS THE PRACTICE OF FREEDOM: exalt's Methods and Reversing and Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline**

### **Room 404**

This workshop will demonstrate how non-traditional approaches to education such as seminars, collaborative learning (as opposed to lecturing) and validating young people's thoughts and opinions can affirm the identities of young people who have been traumatized by their involvement in dehumanizing systems (e.g. educational and legal). This workshop will provide participants with a sense of the community building exalt centralizes in all its work, and invite others into that process so that they can then extend some of the same strategies which exalt has proven can be tremendously successful at improving outcomes for youth caught up in the school-to-prison pipeline. Through narrative sharing, collaborative group work, brainstorming, sharing out of best practices and chartering out next steps, we hope to provide greater insights about how education can be utilized as the most powerful tool of the oppressed to combat structural forces of poverty, incarceration and dehumanization.

#### **Presenters:**

#### **exalt:**

Ife Ko Nira (formerly Keshad Adeniyi), Lead Teacher

Brian Lewis, Director of Programs

Michael Davis, Alum

Vanessa Luciano, Alum

Chyna Powell, Alum

Tianesha Drayton, Alum

Ikim Powell, Alum

Dahnaisha Finch-Mellowes

## **OVER-POLICED & UNDERVALUED: Reproductive Justice & Prison-abolition Strategies for Change**

### **Room 405**

Our child welfare, prison and deportation systems have become punitive mechanisms for surveilling/regulating individuals in our communities, particularly those who have been systematically undervalued due to race, class, gender, sexuality, ableism, and citizenship, as well as those who have been greatly impacted by trauma. Once involved in these punitive and or carceral systems, policy and reform efforts rarely assess the impact incarceration has on incarcerated individuals and their children. This workshop will delve into how working towards gender equity demands both prison abolitionist and reproductive justice strategies, which may lead to real alternatives to incarceration for individuals as well as the ability to keep their family's whole.

#### **Presenters:**

**Patricia Allard**, Justice Strategies

**Dawn Harrington**, Free Hearts and National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls

**Lill Hewko**, Justice Strategies

**Daniel Loera**, incarcerated father at Monroe Correctional Facility in Washington State

## **RESTORING PROMISE: Creating the path to healing and restoration for young adults in jails and prisons**

### **Room 406**

The Vera Institute of Justice's Restoring Promise initiative, in partnership with MILPA, is replacing the U.S.' punitive correctional model with one that centers healing, restoration, and accountability. During this interactive workshop, participants will learn how we use political education, specifically the connection between corrections and the U.S. history of slavery, with our partnering jails and prisons along with collaborative research and a participatory justice frame that centers the experiences of people who live and work in jails and prisons to drive the change we seek.

#### **Presenters:**

**Vera Institute of Justice:**

**Alex Frank**

**Ryan Shanahan**

**Shiqueen Brown**

**MILPA (via video)**

**John Piñeda**

**Juan Gomez**

## **GET SLAP'D: Confronting SORN Policies**

### **Room 302**

The war on sex is driving one of the fastest growing imprisoned populations. Some 900,000 people's lives, and counting, are characterized by an irredeemable existence that's punctuated with shame and punishment.

Join us to develop a vision and path towards a just and compassionate approach to sex offender policies that promotes community safety and fosters respect for all.

**Presenters:**

**David Booth**, Sex Law and Policy Center

**Laurent Rappaport**, Sex Law and Policy Center

**REIMAGINING JUSTICE BY BUILDING YOUTH RESILIENCY  
IN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SETTINGS WITH THE AID OF  
CREDIBLE MESSENGERS**

**Room C02**

Our workshop will discuss an innovative pilot program introduced to high schoolers in Newark, NJ who faced several challenges in traditional high schools because of family problems, gang affiliations and justice involvement. We introduced credible messengers in the school setting and changed the culture among the students by focusing on interpersonal barriers and creating positive peer cultures. Along with focusing on socio-emotional healing, a rigorous educational plan has been implemented to expose participants to college and career prospects. The students have been taking classes at Rutgers University and are tutored by Credible Messengers who earned their college credits while incarcerated. Our program focuses on using community based support from credible messengers and providing early exposure to college to foster student success. Thus far, results have been positive.

**Presenters:**

**Reimagining Justice:**

**Jason Davis, Dedric (Beloved) Hammond, Dorin (Reality) Hammond**

**Dr. Evelyn Garcia**, Fhak 2.0

**Fakhair Spence**, Hammond Fairleigh Dickinson University

**Dr. Liza Chowdhury**, Borough of Manhattan Community College (CUNY)

**Talent Development Academy:**

**Liana Summey, Xenia Cox**

**ARE WE REALLY DECARCERATING? Reimagining Re-entry to  
Reclaim Power from the Carceral State**

**2nd Floor Lounge**

At the same time California works towards decarceration by closing a number of facilities, there are contradictory impulses to expand the L.A. County Jail system. How could we reimagine the future of our resources in pivoting away from caging and towards community thriving? Participants will walk away with skills around anti-oppressive organizational practices, power-mapping, community organizing strategies, and a fierce sense of commitment to developing community-based decarceration and re-entry models that uplift and empower - instead of replicating existing systems of power and oppression.

**Presenters:**

**Beyond the Bars LA Fellows**

## **SESSION #3**

**3:15 pm – 4:30 pm**

### **CLOSE ATTICA**

**Room 311/312**

An atmosphere of violence hangs over Attica almost half a century after the uprising that protested the sexual misconduct, physical brutality, harassment, and racist attitudes of correctional staff. We are organizing to shut it down as we strive towards ending violence and abuse across all prisons. This workshop will learn the history of Attica, the conditions that caused the uprising in 1971, the conditions today, why it needs to be shut down and the statewide multifaceted strategy AFJ is employing to close it.

#### **Presenters:**

**Alliance of Families for Justice:**

Soffiyah Elijah (Moderator)

Angel Solis

Carol Harriott

George Williams

Tiffany McFadden

### **THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A GOOD JAIL. RADICAL REFORM SHOULD NOT FEEL SO RADICAL.**

**Room C03**

Closing jails and prisons without expanding the net of criminal justice is challenging as current reforms measure justice by the amount of time an individual spends incarcerated. Given the substantial rise in the number of justice-involved people, there is a need to expand the current conversation to include alternatives that allow for community accountability. In this workshop, explore policy and strategy reforms that strive for de-carceration.

#### **Presenters:**

**JustLeadershipUSA:**

Vidal Guzman

Katie Schaffer

Lex Stepling

Dylan Hayre

### **HEALING PRACTICES TOWARD RESTORING HOPE: We leave lighter, We shine brighter!**

**Room C05**

Structural violence fosters dehumanization/trauma in different ways within and beyond criminal justice institutions. This workshop is open to everyone, including providers, school-based practitioners, social workers, and community organizers interested in learning more about transformative justice and

community healing. This session will guide participants through exercises to identify internal struggles, deconstruct the victim/perpetrator paradigm, and implement strategies for self-growth, well-being, and freedom.

**Presenters:**

**Christina Marie Chaise**, Group Facilitator & Youth Worker Critical Scholars Network

**Amy Fabrikant**, Writer, Educator, Activist, Transformative Justice Practitioner, & LGBTQ+Advocate

**THE POWER OF YOUTH ACTIVISM/YOUTH MEDIA, AND THE IMPACT OF INCARCERATION (AND DECARCERATION) ON CHILDREN**

**Room C06**

The Echoes of Incarceration Project trains youth with incarcerated parents in filmmaking and advocacy. Our workshop will feature youth producers showing their work and telling their stories, about the hidden impacts of mass incarceration, and the potential impact of decarceration on children. We'll also discuss the behind-the-scenes process of our filmmaking and advocacy work, explore the value of youth voices in movement building, and show sneak-peeks of our new journalism pieces.

**Presenters:**

**Echos of Incarceration:** Linda Ricard, Jalon Jones, Naya Baker, Jason O'Brien, Kharon Benson, Francis Adjei

**BEYOND INCARCERATION: The Policing of Black Women and Children Through the Child Welfare System**

**Room 301**

The War on Drugs, which resulted in mass incarceration, also had devastating impacts on women of color, who were, and continue to be, prosecuted in alarming rates in the family court and child welfare systems. This workshop presentation will explore the ways in which the child welfare system, like incarceration and policing, has functioned as a tool of government oppression, surveillance, intervention, and control over women of color and their families.

**Presenters:**

**Kaela Economos**, Community Office Social Work Director, Brooklyn Defenders Service

**Fallon Speaker**, Staff Attorney and Team Leader, Bronx Defenders Family Defense Practice

**Erin Cloud**, Supervising Attorney and Team Leader, Bronx Defenders Family Defense Practice

## **WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS: Truth and Reconciliation**

### **Room 305**

This workshop will address the issue of wrongful convictions: how do they happen and what harm do they cause. Audience members will hear from leaders in the field of reducing wrongful convictions who are each taking on the issue with a slightly different approach -- from services, to litigation, to legislation -- yet all working toward the shared goal of eliminating this grave injustice.

#### **Presenters:**

**Zulay Velazquez:** Absolutely Innocent

**Sharonne Salaam:** Justice 4 the Wrongfully Incarcerated, mother of Yusef Salaam: Central Park 5

**Jeffrey Deskovic:** The Jeffrey Deskovic Foundation for Justice

**Shabaka Shakur:** Exoneree Rebecca Brown: The Innocence Project

**Carlton Berkley:** Discovery 4 Justice

## **FROM HARM TO HEALING: Restorative Justice and the Harlem Youth Court**

### **Room 404**

Members of the Harlem Youth Court will present a panel discussion accompanied by a power point presentation highlighting restorative justice practices conducted in this program. After this panel presentation, HYC members will ask the audience to break out into circles of 8-10 people to facilitate smaller circle discussions grounded in restorative justice. There will be space at the end of the circle activity for Q & A.

#### **Presenters:**

##### **Harlem Youth Court:**

**Destiny Fernandez Ortiz**

**Abigail Neely**

**Kevin Whang**

**Sokeyra Francisco**

**Jasper Willey**

**Jana Saunders**

**Aisatou Diallo**

**Ikra Islam**

## **BUILDING COMMUNITY AND GENERATING THEMES THROUGH PARTICIPATORY THEATER**

### **Room 405**

This fun and empowering workshop using arts-based activism, is designed to build community and foster active engagement in justice work through a process of devising and sharing brief pieces of theater. Themes for devising will be generated by participants through a participatory game. After sharing the group will reflect on and discuss themes raised and how



similar participatory sessions can be used in their own work. Open to all participants of all abilities.

**Presenters:**

**Grace Schiraldi**, MA in Applied Theater Candidate, CUNY School of Professional Studies

**Natalie Stringer**, Teaching Artist, Program Associate, Global Arts Corps. MA in Applied Theater Candidate - CUNY SPS

**HARNESSING THE HEALING POWER OF CREATIVE ART**

**Room 406**

Be a part of an engaging, critical discussion about the role the creative arts can play in closing torturous, dehumanizing institutions and heal trauma stemming from involvement with the legal system, racism, oppression, and discrimination in our society. Hear from amazing artists and proud mentors as they share pieces inspired by their experiences with the legal system via spoken word, videography, music, and illustration. You will not leave this workshop uninspired!

**Presenters:**

**The Fortune Society:**

**Dr. John Runowicz**, Manager of the Creative Arts

**Guy Woodard**, Creative Drawing & Expression Teacher

**Jamie Maleszka**, Creative Writing Teacher

**Anthony Posada**, Founder of Project Attica and Co-Supervising Attorney of Legal Aid Society's Community Justice Unit

**COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION FOR PROSECUTOR  
ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Room 302**

Prosecutors or District Attorneys (DA) are the most powerful actor in the criminal legal system. How they use their discretion determines who goes to jail, who gets a second chance, and what is best kept outside of the halls of criminal court. Come learn about a local movement in New York to hold prosecutors accountable so as to ensure that DA's policies bring us closer to an abolitionist future, and the tensions inherent in any project aimed at reforming the office of prosecutors.

**Presenters:**

**5 Boro Defenders & Court Watch NYC:**

**Rage Kidvai**, **Ying-Ying Ma**, **Zohra Ahmed**

## **PROJECT SOLIDARITY NY, ORGANIZING COMMUNICATION TO UPLIFT THE VOICES OF THOSE LOCALLY INCARCERATED**

### **Room C02**

Project Solidarity brings together community members, activists, & post-incarcerated citizens to penpal with those incarcerated within their state. Communication allows narratives to break through the walls of jails, allowing those incarcerated to have a voice in reforms. This workshop will educate on the need of communication while incarcerated, what to do, and what's not allowed when corresponding with an incarcerated person.

#### **Presenters:**

**Five Mualimmak**, Director of Programs, incarcerated nation

**Jesica Hall**, Founder, Prison Writes

**Craig Williams**, Co-Founder, Photopatch Foundation

## **WHAT INCARCERATION DOES TO PEOPLE: Combating Pre- and Post-Incarceration Trauma**

### **2nd Floor Lounge**

The panel will discuss, in human terms, the myriad effects of incarceration on people directly and indirectly impacted by the criminal justice system. In keeping with the theme of this year's Beyond the Bars Conference, the panel will outline strategies, tools, and resources for combating pre-and post-incarceration trauma; as there is a direct correlation between pre- and post-incarceration trauma, recidivism, and mass incarceration.

#### **Presenters:**

**Joe Robinson**, Challenging Incarceration member & Advisory Board Member of Parole Preparation Project

**TinaMarie Gunther**, Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier (JUST) Core Member & Re-entry Chair

**Anthony Dixon**, Advisory Board Member of Parole Preparation Project

**Joshua Price**, Award-winning author & Professor

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