

# Confronting the Moral Crisis of Mass Incarceration

## Understanding the Criminal Justice System and Making Change Happen

GETTING INVOLVED

Draft - February 2, 2018

### Participating in Issue Advocacy

#### With the Chicago City Council (your Alderman and others):

Reforming Chicago's Police Contracts - 14 recommendations for change

Learn more at: <https://www.cpcachicago.org/> (details attached here)

#### With Your Illinois State Senators and Representatives and Candidates for Those Offices

(find your State Senate and House Districts here:

<https://www.elections.il.gov/votinginformation/congredpdist.aspx>)

Supporting: Illinois House Bill 3355 – To Implement Recommendations of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform

Learn more from: Ben Ruddell - [bruddell@ACLU-il.org](mailto:bruddell@ACLU-il.org)

Supporting: Illinois House Bill 531 – To Reintroduce Parole in Illinois for Juveniles

Learn more from: Jobi Cates: [jcates@restorejustice.org](mailto:jcates@restorejustice.org)

Supporting: Illinois Senate Bill 2282 – To Provide Protection for Employers Hiring People with Records

Learn more from: \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting proposed legislation to raise the age of juvenile detention to age 13 from age 10

Learn more from: Jennifer Vollen-Katz of the John Howard Association: [jvollen@thejha.org](mailto:jvollen@thejha.org)

Supporting proposed legislation to abolish the \$5 medical copay that IL inmates must pay to see a doctor

Learn more from: Jennifer Vollen-Katz of the John Howard Association: [jvollen@thejha.org](mailto:jvollen@thejha.org)

Supporting: Illinois House Bill 3142 - To prohibit colleges, universities, and trade schools from asking or considering an individual's criminal record for purposes of admissions

Learn more from:

Supporting: Legislation to redirect budget priorities toward social services and away from incarceration

Learn more from: \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting: Legislation to amend the Illinois' Constitution to allow enactment of a progressive income tax:

Learn more from: Alex Tindal Weisendanger - [alex@responsiblebudget.org](mailto:alex@responsiblebudget.org)

#### With the Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee

Supporting adoption of the proposed rule creating a privilege against disclosure of participation in restorative justice proceedings or anything said or done with the practice of restorative justice

Learn more from: Michelle Day - [mday2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mday2@sbcglobal.net)

(See upcoming event below)

#### Court Watch:

Making sure that the new rules restricting the use of cash bail are being followed

#### Supporting Candidates in the March 2018 Primary Who Are Committed to Criminal Justice Reform

#### Volunteer Opportunities:

Getting Out the Vote in Cook County Jail - for early voting being held March 10 and 17, 9:30 to 5:30

Pre-Election Day Preparation - February 14, 15 and 16, 9:00 to 3:00

**Immediate sign-up required** with Jen Dean at [Jen@ChicagoVotes.com](mailto:Jen@ChicagoVotes.com)

(no advance training required)

In person election volunteering - March 10 and 17 - 9:00 to 5:30

(prior "Election Judge" training required at time to be announced)

Learn more from - Jen Dean at [Jen@ChicagoVotes.com](mailto:Jen@ChicagoVotes.com)

Volunteer opportunities at the John Howard Association in:

Prisoner Information Services  
General Administrative/Office & Fundraising  
Citizen Prison Monitoring

Learn more from Scott McWilliams at [smcwilliams@thejha.org](mailto:smcwilliams@thejha.org)  
or by visiting: <http://thejha.org/volunteer>  
(details attached here)

Volunteer opportunities to participate in the Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois including volunteering in the Logan Correctional Facility for women in Lincoln Illinois  
Learn more at: <http://www.uupmi.org/prison-ministries.html>  
(details at links in materials attached here)

Volunteer opportunities at the Community Renewal Society in Policy and Organizing, depending on available time commitment and areas of interest -see: [www.communityrenewalsociety.org](http://www.communityrenewalsociety.org).  
Member of the Restoring Rights and Opportunities  
(2018 criminal justice reform priorities currently under consideration)

Watch for possible volunteer opportunities:

- To work on the 5<sup>th</sup> annual *(In)justice for All* Film Festival - October 4 to 13, 2018  
Learn more from: Daryle Brown - [debrown@trinitychicago.org](mailto:debrown@trinitychicago.org)

## Participating in Upcoming Events

Tearing Down Walls event - building up connections, community, solidarity, building up power  
Friday March 23 - 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday March 14, 2018 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist, 1025 N Smith, St, Palatine, Illinois (details at links in materials attached here)

Supreme Court Rules Committee hearing on proposed rule to create a privilege for participation in restorative justice process -Monday March 26, 2018 - 10:30 a.m. at 160 North LaSalle, Chicago

City Wide Restorative Justice Meeting - Thursday April 26, 2018 - 9:30 to 12:00 a. m.  
Auditorium, 1100 South Hamilton Street, Chicago

Restorative Justice Summit - Wednesday/Thursday August 22 to 23, 2018

## Training

Radical Hospitality 101 - cultivating skills needed to work with currently or formerly incarcerated people, offered by the Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois - Sunday February 4, 2018 - 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Third Unitarian Church, 301 N. Mayfield Ave, Chicago (details at links in materials attached here)

Free Advocacy Camps offered in Chicago by Restore Justice

February 18, 1:00 to 5:00 pm at Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, 5114 S Elizabeth  
March 8, 4:00 to 7:00 pm at Urban Innovations at 445 N. Wells

Learn more from Claire Gaiefsky - [cgaiefshy@restorejustice.org](mailto:cgaiefshy@restorejustice.org) (registration details attached here)

Volunteer training offered by the Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois , Saturday February 10 at the Unity Temple, 875 Lake St, Oak Park, IL and Saturday February 24 at Evanston Unitarian Church, (details at links in materials attached here)

Six-hour Circle Facilitator's Training workshop for leading covenant groups in prisons and jails, offered by the Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois -.contact for information on schedule:  
<http://www.uupmi.org/registration.html> (details at links in materials attached here)

Data and Analytics Camp - Wellstone Foundation  
March 27-30 in Phoenix, May 22-25 in Cleveland (details attached here)

## **Donating to 501(c)(3) Organizations That Are Devoted to Criminal Justice Reform**

and

### **Checking Their Websites for Information About Criminal Justice Reform Efforts and About Opportunities to Get Involved in Their Work**

ACLU of Illinois - <https://www.aclu-il.org/>  
Baird Prison Initiative - <https://bpi.bard.edu/>  
Chicago Appleseed - [www.chicagoappleseed.org/](http://www.chicagoappleseed.org/)  
Clergy for a New Drug Policy – <http://newdrugpolicy.org/>  
Community Renewal Society - <http://www.communityrenewalsociety.org/>  
Faith in Public Life - - <https://www.faithinpubliclife.org/>  
Illinois Justice Project - <https://www.iljp.org>  
John Howard Association – <http://www.thejha.org/>  
The Marshall Project - <https://www.themarshallproject.org/>  
Mental Health America of Illinois - <http://www.mhai.org/>  
Nehemiah Trinity Rising - <https://www.nehemiahtrinityrising.org/>  
Restore Justice - <https://restorejustice.org/about-us/>  
Safer Foundation - [www.saferfoundation.org/](http://www.saferfoundation.org/)  
Saint Leonard's Ministries - <https://slministries.org/>  
Shriver Center for Poverty Law - <http://www.povertylaw.org/communityjustice>  
Southern Poverty Law Center - <https://www.splcenter.org/issues/mass-incarceration>  
Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) - <http://www2.tasc.org/>  
Thresholds - <http://www.thresholds.org/>  
WBEZ - <https://www.wbez.org/>

## **Supporting and Following Political Organizations Devoted to Criminal Justice Reform**

Critical Resistance – <http://criticalresistance.org/>  
The People's Lobby - <https://www.thepeopleslobbyusa.org/>

## **Following and Supporting Media Organizations with Criminal Justice Focus**

The Marshall Project - <https://www.themarshallproject.org/>  
WBEZ - <https://www.wbez.org/>  
ProPublica Illinois - <https://www.propublica.org/about/illinois/>  
The Chicago Reporter - <http://www.chicagoreporter.com/category/key-issue/criminal-justice/>  
The Atlantic - <https://www.theatlantic.com/projects/the-presence-of-justice/>

## **Other Sources of Ideas/Information/Advocacy on Criminal Justice Reform**

Websites:

National Reentry Resource Center - <https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc>  
State Innovation Exchange - <https://stateinnovation.org/issue/criminal-justice-reform/>  
American Legislative Exchange Council - <https://www.alec.org/issue/criminal-justice-reform/>  
The Sentencing Project - <https://www.sentencingproject.org/>  
Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission - <http://ijjc.illinois.gov/publications/commission-resources>  
Justice Divided - <https://justicedivided.com/>  
Adult Redeploy Illinois - <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/redeploy/>  
The Mental Health Summit - <https://mentalhealthsummit.wordpress.com/>  
Gains Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation of The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – <https://www.samhsa.gov/gains-center>

Books:

***Race to Incarcerate***, by Sabrina Jones and Marc Mauer

***The Real Cost of Prisons Comix***, by Lois Ahrens  
***The New Jim Crow***, by Michelle Alexander  
***Locked In***, by John Pfaff  
***The Collapse of American Criminal Justice***, by William Stuntz  
***Not a Crime To Be Poor***, by Peter Edelman  
***Policing the Black Man***, edited by Angela Davis

Theater:

Victory Gardens – ***Breach***, by Antoinette Nwandu – February 9 to March 11 (race through the eyes of a black girl recovering from self hate) <http://victorygardens.org/our-season/breach/>  
Victory Gardens – ***Lettie***, by Boo Killebrew – April 6 to May 6 (struggles of a woman who has been released from prison) <http://victorygardens.org/our-season/lettie/>

Film:

“**13<sup>th</sup>**” (Netflix documentary on criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom) – more information at: <https://www.netflix.com/title/80091741>  
Fifth annual ***(In)justice for All Film Festival***, October 4 to 13, 2018

## Sources of Reentry Services and Support for Returning Citizens

Chicago Jobs Council Member Directory - [http://www.cjc.net/member\\_dir.php](http://www.cjc.net/member_dir.php)

Green Reentry – A project run by the Inner-City Muslim Action Network. They rehab foreclosed and vandalized property in Chicago Lawn. These are then used for transitional housing for ex-offenders during their reentry - <https://www.imacentral.org/project-green-reentry/>

Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) - offers insurance to high-risk workers including ex-criminals who need insurance to get certain types of jobs, through a Federal Bonding program -

Illinois Department of Employment Security / Chicago Jobs Council Website: Workforce Resources for those who Assist Ex-offenders - [www.ides.state.il.us/exoffenders](http://www.ides.state.il.us/exoffenders)

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) – Focuses on ex-offenders building and/or maintaining relationships with their children, employment and life skills - <https://www.lssi.org/services-prisoner-family.php>

MPOWR – A reentry network that connects many different people and organizations involved in the criminal justice system.

National H.I.R.E. Network / Legal Action Center - Services to ex-felons to help them in areas such as listing of agencies that help ex-felons with job placement - <http://www.hirenetwork.org/>

Re-Entry Illinois – A directory of services and reentry housing for ex-offenders in Illinois - <http://www.reentryillinois.net/>

Reentry Source – A large organization that has branches in multiple states, offering free reentry services for people with criminal records looking for a better life

Resource Directory of Reentry Friendly Services and Housing - developed by the Corporation for Supportive Housing and Chicago Metropolis 2020 - [www.reentryillinois.net/](http://www.reentryillinois.net/)

Safer Foundation – Education , employment services, other services - <http://www.saferfoundation.org/>

7-70 Re-entry Services – A faith-based organization that provides coaching, mentoring, and counseling - <http://70x7liferecovery.org/re-entry/>

St Leonard's House – Provides transitional housing, job training and placement, and other support services - <http://slministries.org/>

Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) -- advocacy and case management services - <http://www2.tasc.org/>

Teamwork Englewood – Serving the South Side of Chicago, supporting ex-offenders connect with partners at their headquarters in Englewood - <http://www.teamworkenglewood.org/index.html>

Thresholds –helping ex-offenders create better lives and stay out of prison - <http://www.thresholds.org/>

### **Sources of Legal Aid for Accused and Those Released from Prison**

Cabrini Green Legal Aid -[www.cgla.net](http://www.cgla.net)

Illinois Legal Aid Online - <http://www.illinoislegalaidonline.org/>

Juvenile Expungement Help Desk - in the Juvenile Court Building at 1100 South Hamilton, Chicago, IL 60612; call for more information: 312.347.8373

CGLA Expungement Help Desk, in room 1006 at the Daley Center, 312.850.4783