



Fullfilling the Quest



*Quest for Democracy participants on the Capitol South Steps, Sacramento, CA, May 20, 2019.
Photo: Courtney Hanson.*

Message from the Executive Director



Dorsey Nunn

Seven years ago, a small group of us climbed into a couple of vans on an early Monday morning with some signs and not enough gas money, and traveled to Sacramento hoping to talk to a few legislators about some bills.

This year in May, we were able to bring over 600 formerly incarcerated people, family members, and allies from all over the state, including members of all the California AOUON chapters, to our 7th annual Quest for Democracy Advocacy Day (Q4D). This involved some serious organizing, led by AOUON Senior Organizer Sandra Johnson: hiring seven big buses, lodging hundreds at a local hotel, providing food trucks, and assembling packets of legislative bill information. At that first Q4D seven years ago, our whole group could fit in one elevator or the lobby of one legislator. This year we took over not only the South Steps but the entire South Side, and our teams were packing into dozens of Senators' and Assemblymembers' offices all afternoon.

This year's Q4D was also a demonstration of how we've grown beyond sheer numbers. We didn't just hold a rally and pop into a few offices, we had speakers from the 20-plus participating organizations, as well as from co-sponsored legislative authors Assemblymembers Kevin McCarty, Rob Bonta, Dr. Shirley Weber, and Senator Nancy Skinner. We had over twenty teams inside the Capitol making legislative visits to advocate for over 40 bills, while outside

2019 QUEST FOR DEMOCRACY

All of Us or None
• Bakersfield • Bay Area • Fresno • Los Angeles
• Riverside • San Bernardino • San Diego

A New Way of Life

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Asian Prisoner Support Committee

Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS)

California Coalition of Women Prisoners (CCWP)

Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB)

Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ)

Fathers and Families of San Joaquin

Homies Unidos

Initiate Justice

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC)

Project Rebound

RYSE Youth Center

Safe Return Project

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)

Silicon Valley De-Bug

Starting Over, Inc.

Time for Change Foundation

Underground Scholars Initiative

Urban Peace Movement

Young Women's Freedom Center

Youth Justice Coalition (YJC)



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under the canopies people phone banked, texted, and tweeted. Some comrades even went old school with a direct action in support of #AB 392 outside the Governor's office. It worked.

And, for the first time in our advocacy history, we were able to purchase and place [a full-page color ad in The Sacramento Bee calling on legislators to support ACA 6](#) and the restoration of voting rights for Californians on parole. Even people who can't currently vote are finding ways to engage, like AOUON Senior Organizer Dauras Cyprian, who's leading the Free the Vote CA campaign to pass ACA 6.

This growth of Movement is a direct result from the growth of investment in our infrastructure: increasing our staff to almost 20, expanding AOUON chapters in California and across the country, purchasing our own building in Oakland, and developing the Freedom & Movement Center as a true hub of the community.



Our recent Homecoming Celebration is a perfect example of all the elements of success coming together. The event was organized by 2019 Elder Freedom Policy Fellow London Crowdy—herself recently released and a fellow in a program started just two years ago. The event involved all LPSC / All of Us or None staff, from the Office Manager to the Development Director. The

Homecoming Celebration brought dozens of local people to the Freedom & Movement Center for music, BBQ, fellowship, and support. We provided informational resources and opportunities to get involved in advocacy, as well as professional clothes and gift cards contributed by neighborhood businesses.

All of this—the support, the advocacy, the empowerment—was unavailable to me when I left San Quentin decades ago. Thanks to the tireless work of formerly incarcerated people, family members, and allies like you, all of this will outlast me by a long margin. Thank you for helping put hope into

practice. Now back to pushing our bills through to the Governor's desk!

Quest for Democracy 2019

On May 19-20, All of Us or None brought more than 600 formerly incarcerated people and impacted family members from all over California to the State Capitol in Sacramento to advocate for policies that are important to our well-being. This two-day event was the seventh year that AOUON organized and hosted people traveling to Sacramento to speak in their own voices with Senators, Assemblymembers, and their staffers about up-coming policies that impact them. We had rallies, phone banking tables, appointments with many offices inside the Capitol, and even did some drop-in visit in order to get our voices heard because we, as formerly incarcerated and impacted people, are an important part of this democracy.

I am humbled to stand at the Capitol with so many formerly incarcerated people fighting for our rights, just thinking back to where I came from to now is amazing for me.

—Sandra Johnson, 2019 Quest for Democracy Lead Organizer



2019 Q4D Lead Organizer Sandra Johnson (left) with LSPC staff and AOUON members at the conclusion of a successful advocacy day.





Photos by Courtney Hanson (photos.courtneyjade@gmail.com), except bottom left by LSPC.

[Check out all the photos from #Q4D2019 here!](#)

Legislative Update: Halfway Across the Finish Line

LSPC/AOUON started off with nine (9) bills for 2019, which is a very ambitious undertaking. The bills included:

- ACA-6/AB 646 - The Restoration of Voting Rights for People on Parole
- AB 53 - Ban the Box in Housing
- AB 277 - Reintegration Credits for People on Parole
- AB 1282 - No Private ICE Security
- AB 1211 - EMT-Firefighters' Bill

AB 1608 - Licensing for Childcare and Nursing Care
AB 942 - Food Insecurity Bill for CalFresh Recipients
SB 310 - Jury Service Bill for Those with Felony Convictions
SB 136 - Elimination of the 1-Year Enhancement for Felony Convictions
SB 144 - Elimination of Criminal Administrative Fees

Every year, some bills do not make it out of the Policy or Appropriations committees, or the Senate or Assembly Floor. Other bills may be turned into two-year bills, which means that advocacy efforts for or against those bills will shift to the next legislative year. To date, here are the bills we did not get out of the Policy Committee, Appropriations, or the Floor of the Assembly or Senate. The bills are:

AB 53 (Jones-Sawyer) - Died in Committee. This was a welcomed defeat because the author added amendments that effectively made the bill useless to our community, so we were not sad to see the bill go.



Family Unity Project Coordinator Aminah Elster (second from right) with other co-sponsors of AB 277 - Reintegration Credits for People on Parole, and the bill's author, Assemblymember McCarty (fourth from left).

AB 277 (McCarty) - Died in the Assembly Appropriations. This is the second year this bill did not make it into law. We believe it is worth trying until we get it passed though. Look out for another similar bill next year.

A few bills were turned into 2-year bills, which included:

AB 646 (McCarty) - The companion bill for ACA 6 to change the Elections Code. It did not get out of the Appropriations committee. It will be up for a vote again next year.

AB 1608 (Holden) - The bill did not get out of the Appropriations Committee. It will be up for a vote again next year.

AB 1211 (Reyes) - This bill did not get out of the Policy Committee before it was turned into a 2-year bill. It will be up for a vote next year.

So far, the following bills have been voted on by the full Assembly or Senate and have passed. They will now continue to the other house, first the Policy Committee, then Appropriations before a full Floor vote. Those bills are:

AB 942 (Webber) - This bill passed out of the Policy Committee on the consent calendar, which means it had unanimous support there. It also passed out of Appropriations and finally out of the full Assembly. It starts again in the Policy Committee of the Senate. Stay tuned and keep the support for the bill coming!



AB 1282 (Kalra) - This bill passed out of the Assembly Policy and Appropriations Committees, and then passed the Assembly Floor vote. Next step: Senate Public Safety Committee on June 25. Contact Judy for more info: judyj@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.625.7049

SB 310 (Skinner) - This bill passed out of the Policy Committee and then got out of Appropriations. It was amended by the Senate to not

SB 310 Fair Jury Selection
 SB 310 will make sure juries are truly representative of our communities.

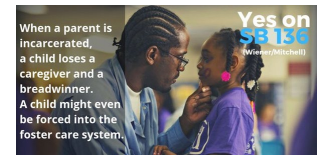
This bill:

- Promotes diverse jury pools
- Allows people with felony convictions to serve on juries
- Advances racial justice

ACLU

collect demographic data of people called into the jury pool—we're currently trying to find out why. Next step: an Assembly Judiciary committee hearing on Tuesday, June 25. Keep those letters coming!

SB 136 (Wiener) - This bill passed out of the Policy Committee and then out of Appropriations. It also got out of the full Senate with just enough votes to pass. Let's keep the pressure on to get it passed in the Assembly.



SB 144 (Mitchell) - This bill passed out of the Policy Committee and then out of Appropriations. We are waiting for it to be voted on in the full Senate soon also. Keep the support up as well.

ACA 6 (McCarty) - The last bill in the platform and probably the most important, ACA-6 was late referred by Rules Committee for a Policy Committee hearing in June. Then, it must be heard in Appropriations and by the full Assembly and pass by a two-thirds majority vote to advance to the Senate. We need everyone to make calls, send letters and to sign on to the AOUON Petition!



BREAKING NEWS: Wednesday, June 19 — ACA 6 passes out of the first Assembly committee!

Dorsey, Dauras, Aminah, Ali, Taqwaa, Paul, and many other AOUON members travelled to Sacramento today to testify, with Dauras provided a long statement related his personal circumstances of being on parole but not being able to vote. Check out this video of Assemblymember McCarty and the #FreeTheVoteCA coalition celebrating outside the Capitol. Next step: Assembly Appropriations! [Keep sending in support letters to your legislators!](#)

Thank all of you for your tireless efforts and support for all of our legislation. Stay tuned for updates on our website as well. For more information about legislation, contact AOUON Senior Organizer Dauras Cyprian: dauras@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.625.7051

Advocating at the CA Dem Party Convention

During the 2019 California Democratic Party Convention on May 31-June 1, All of Us or None members engaged in policy advocacy both inside and out of the Moscone Center in San Francisco.



Inside the Convention Center, AOUON joined other organizations in the #FreeTheVoteCA coalition to advocate for the passage of ACA 6 and the restoration of voting rights for Californians on parole.



Free the Vote CA coalition members ready to rock the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco on June 1, 2019.



AOUON Senior Organizers Dauras (left) and Sandra (right) stand with ACA 6 Co-author Assemblymember Kevin McCarty.

Outside the hall in the lobby, we engaged the crowds of delegates and attendees by distributing the 2019 AOUON Policy Platform as well as by the time-honored tradition of standing on a soapbox—or, in [Dorsey's case, an egg crate](#).





This was a great opportunity to engage not only many of California's major legislative figures, but with many of the 2020 presidential candidates and their supporters. Criminal justice reform, voting rights for current and formerly incarcerated people, abolition, drug legalization/decriminalization are all currently part of the national conversation, and AOUON is positioned to influence the direction of the discussion with our life experience and policy expertise.

For more information about the 2019 AOUON Policy Platform, contact 2019 Elder Freeman Policy Fellow Paul B: paulb@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.361.4637

CLOSEST TO THE PROBLEM, CLOSEST TO THE SOLUTION

All of Us or None Policy Platform

ALL OF US OR NONE believes that people, upon completion of their terms of incarceration and release from prison or jail, retain the **human rights** of access to **adequate housing**, mental and physical **health services**, and **meaningful employment**—not just a job, but a career that provides care for our families and the creation of healthy, safe community.

THE 2019 ALL OF US OR NONE POLICY PLATFORM:

- EFFECTIVE REENTRY:**
 - Provide access to work through **Occupational License reform**, including:
 - Establish a wash-out period for convictions
 - Consider only criminal convictions that are relevant to the specific type of license
 - Improve access to **humane housing** by removing barriers based on conviction histories
 - Ensure access to adequate **medical and mental health services**
- ENDING MASS INCARCERATION:**
 - End mandatory and automatic enhancements
 - End the practice of trying our children in courts as adults
- RESTORING CIVIL RIGHTS:**
 - Amend the 13th Amendment to truly abolish slavery
 - Restore voting rights to Californians on parole
 - Establish a Family Bill of Rights ensuring in-person contact visits, free phone calls, and other forms of communications to keep families connected throughout a loved one's incarceration

**CONTACT: POLICY FELLOW PAUL B.
PAULB@PRISONERSWITHCHILDREN.ORG / 415.361.4637**

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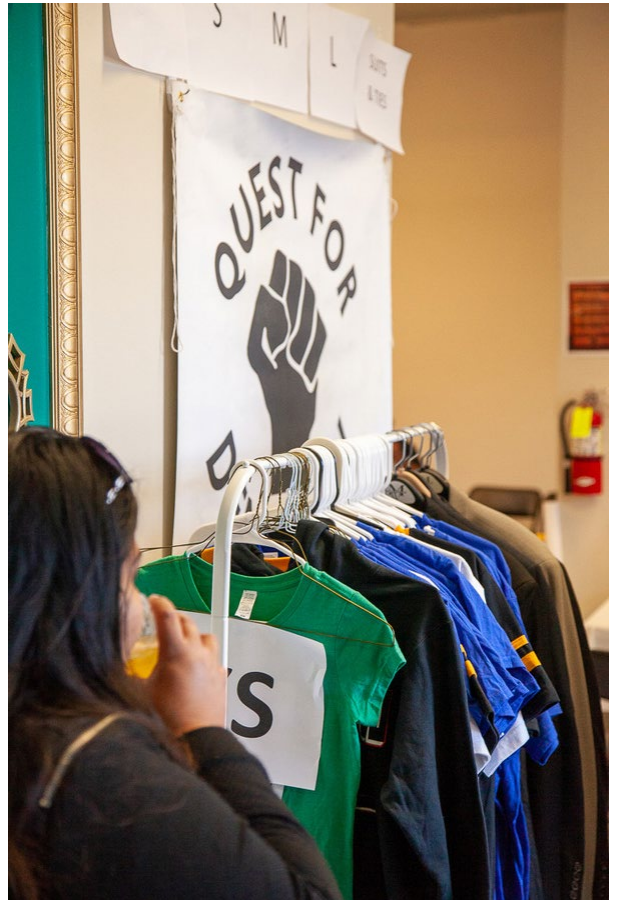
Homecoming Celebration

On May 31, AOUON hosted a Homecoming Celebration at our Freedom & Movement Center in Oakland. This was a special celebration where it was all about our comrades who were returning from jail, prison and other forms of incarceration.



With the majority of our staff being formerly incarcerated, we knew all too well the trials, tribulations, and emotional anxiety that one can face when transitioning back into the community. The Freedom & Movement Center is a space where we want our folks to feel safe, supported, and empowered. It was important to the staff of LSPC / All of Us or None and our members to make sure that each returning person felt welcomed and for us to let them know that we were happy that they were home...because we honestly were!

May 31 was a busy day here at LSPC / All of Us or None. Half of the staff was in San Francisco at the California Democratic Convention while the other half was at our headquarters preparing for the celebration: last minute things to pick up from the grocery store, seasoning over three hundred pieces of assorted meats following with grilling them on our neighbor's lawn, stuffing multiple cars with balloons, hanging an 8'x8' photo backdrop, unfolding chairs and assembling the DJ station were just some of the setup we did to prepare for our guests. Team work was in full force!



When our comrades began to arrive and as we talked to our guests of honor, we learned that some had taken the bus for the first time to get there, or had been home less than a month. Others had been home for a few years but after being away for decades they were still in transition. We

were them and they were us. By 7 P.M., the Freedom & Movement Center was full of formerly incarcerated people, impacted family members, and allies. It was a beautiful scene full of laughter, good vibrations, and LOTS of food. Thanks to individual donations and local business support, every returning community member was able to walk away with something!

The celebration was special to me, too, as I could personally relate: The Freedom & Movement Center was the first place that I came to when I first ventured out alone after getting out less than a year ago. I still remember that as soon as I walked through the doors and was welcomed by staff, five minutes later I was in tears being comforted by others who could relate to just what I was feeling.

Overall, it was a great and necessary celebration. Legal Services for Prisoners with Children/ All of Us or None looks forward to continuing welcoming home our returning folks. It's a Big Deal!!!

—London Croudy, 2019 Elder Freeman Policy Fellow

Thank you to our Oakland community/local business supporters:

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Minister Candy Thorton
Home of Chicken and Waffles
Planks
Open Up Cutz
Clipper Pushers
Sam African Imports
Victoria's Nails
The Hair Gallery
Head Trips Beauty Salon
Juan's Place
Mindset Martial Arts and Fitness

Ain't I A Mother Too?

On May 10th, LSPC, [Time for Change Foundation](#), and many other Bay Area organizations hosted the *Ain't I A Mother Too* event to give voice to the fact that women with children in the child welfare system and are losing their parental rights for life because housing has become more a luxury than a basic human right.



Several organizations presented data around gentrification, incarceration of women and mothers, barriers to reentry, and how California has doubled-

down upon the already damaging Adoption and Safe Families Act passed in 1996.

For more information about our work to reunite mothers and their children through access to housing, contact Family Unity Project Coordinator Aminah Elster: aminah@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.637.8195

Sacramento RAP Sheet Legal Clinic

On June 1, 2019, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children/All of Us or None partnered with American River College Legal Assisting Program and Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto to host a free Live Scan and legal clinic at the MLK Library in Sacramento, CA.

During the clinic, people were able to begin the process to obtain a free copy of their RAP sheet and speak with an attorney around different topics. People who came to the clinic had questions around clearing their records, issues with employment, and criminal fees and fines.



We hope to continue to build collaborations with various organizations to provide information and legal support for our community members across California.

For more information about Clean Slate Clinics and RAP Sheet Days, contact LSPC Staff Attorney Judy Jun: judyj@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.625.7049

Juneteenth

AOUON continued our longtime annual tradition of celebrating Juneteenth in Berkeley. For the past 15 years, we've enjoyed re-connecting with the community by tabling on the streets and engaging the myriad people—many of whom have been directly impacted by the prison-industrial complex themselves.

We were excited that former LSPC Family Unity Project Coordinator Harriette Davis could join us this year. And special thanks to AOUON



members Mark G and Gail for their tireless commitment to community engagement.

Have an event AOUON can table / participate in? Contact AOUON Senior Organizer Sandra Johnson: sandraj@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.625.7059

AOUON National

We have grown to 22 chapters!



Don't see an AOUON chapter near you? Contact AOUON National Organizer [Oscar Flores](mailto:oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org) to start one: oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.625.7048

Welcome Interns!

LSPC is excited to welcome two of our three Summer Interns, Angeles and Cal! As universities with semester and quarter terms finish a month apart, we look forward to welcoming Summer Intern Taylor in a few weeks!

Interning at LSPC presents a unique experience, as interns are immediately involved with assisting



specific projects (like Family Unity and All of Us or None), campaigns (Ban the Box, Prison Visiting), and events (Quest for Democracy) as well as responding to the many letters we receive every week from people incarcerated all over the country.

"I chose to spend the summer here because I really connected to LSPC's vision of justice and advocacy. I know that a lot of these injustices are happening in my very own community, and I think it is important to become aware of them and learn how to fight against it. I am excited because I have actually learned something new every day I've been here so far!"
—Angeles

"I chose to intern with LSPC this summer because I wanted to learn about the frontline work being done to stop prison and jail expansion, free prisoners and keep families together all across California. I am excited to be working with an organization with a strong commitment to amplifying directly impacted voices and building community power!"
—Cal

LSPC interns and volunteers are an integral part of the organization. We're proud that many continue to fight for social justice both on campus and at other legal service organizations across the country—more than a few of LSPC's current staff started as interns themselves!

[Click here for more information about LSPC's Intern Program.](#)

Calendar

The Friday Forum

When: Every Friday at noon

Where: [AOUON Facebook Live](#)

Join us Fridays at noon for All of Us or None's live Friday Forum!

Friday Forums are [livestreamed on AOUON's Facebook page here](#), and feature policy and legislative updates, upcoming events, and discussions about current social justice topics. Feel free to send in questions in the comments section and we'll try to address them right then and there!



Past editions of the Friday Forum are also available on the [AOUON Facebook video page](#).

See you Friday!

AOUON National – Oakland Meeting

When: 6:30 P.M. - June 20, 2019 (3rd Thursday of every month)

Where: The Freedom & Movement Center, 4400 Market Street, Oakland, CA 94608

All people and family members directly impacted by the criminal justice system are invited to join [All of Us or None](#) at our monthly meeting the 3rd Thursday of each month in Oakland, CA. We discuss local and state legislation, plan community events, and strategize how to advocate for our community in our own voices.



For more information contact AOUON Senior Organizer Dauras Cyprian: dauras@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.625.7051

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