

Like 0 Share



Share



LSPC Newsletter, December 2018



Legal Services for Prisoners with Children staff stand with The New Jim Crow author, professor, and longtime comrade Michelle Alexander (fourth from right) and LSPC/Network for Women in Prison founder Ellen Barry (second from right) at the new Freedom & Movement Center in Oakland, CA. October 4, 2018.



2018 has been an amazing year for Legal Services for Prisoners with Children.

Dorsey Nunn

We bought a building! We welcomed the second year of "Elder" Freeman Policy Fellows, a new All of Us or None National Organizer, and a new Policy Manager. The Family Unity Project convened a state-wide policy strategy session and conducted more Life Lines classes for women in prison. Staff members attended international conferences on human rights in Rwanda and humane drug policies in Portugal.

Our legal team conducted trainings for their colleagues, offered Clean Slate clinics across California, and helped end criminal justice reentry and probation fees in San Francisco and Alameda counties. We organized, transported, fed, lodged, and trained over 500 formerly incarcerated and convicted people, family members, and allies to advocate directly to lawmakers in Sacramento in favor of our sponsored legislation. We said goodbye to two amazing attorneys and hello to two more!

In August, we moved into our new home, the Freedom & Movement Center, in Oakland, and threw a block party to meet the neighbors. Then we and 150 other organizers from California



Clean Slate Clinic - Fresno



jettied off to Orlando, Florida to co-host the 2nd National Conference of the Formerly Incarcerated, Convicted Peoples & Families Movement (FICPFM). There, we joined the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition in passing Amendment 4, restoring voting rights to 1.4 Floridians with felony convictions.

And somewhere in there we celebrated LSPC's 40th anniversary and 15 years of AOUON. Our Gala included honoring two special former interns —Jennifer Taylor of the Equal Justice Initiative and Rachel Meeropol of the Center for Constitutional Rights—and an amazing panel discussion featuring Michelle Alexander, Marc Lamont Hill, and Vonya Quarles. If you were not able to attend, [click here to check out a short video of some of the magic we shared that night.](#)

Drug Policy Alliance - Portugal



First Friday outreach - Oakland



Grand Opening Block Party!

LSPC 40th Anniversary Gala - Highlight Video

Watch later Share



We finish 2018 growing into our new home and strengthening connections to our community. We would not be in this fortuitous position without the tireless effort and generosity you've shared with us over the year. We're prepared to hit the ground running in 2019, and can't wait to continue with you the movement to end mass incarceration and to restore our rights.

Thank you again, and see you in the New Year!

Holiday Homecoming

At our first annual Holiday Homecoming on December 1, LSPC staff and All of Us or None members celebrated women recently released from the confines of incarceration. We provided our recently returned sisters with formal and business-casual clothing, makeovers, massages, formal (or funny) portrait photos, and a fabulous lunch.



LSPC & AOUON members welcome our returning sisters to the Freedom & Movement Center.



Care-bundles of quality clothing for each woman, with hats and accessories at the ready!



Real support listens and responds to the needs of those directly impacted and most in need.



And yeah, there was dancing. And singing. And moving to the grooving. We're celebrating!



A certified massuse was on hand (literally, foreground) to help relax and reconnect us, while a photographer illuminated participants (background) at their serious or silly best.



After a morning of celebration, self-care, and breaking bread together, returning sisters shared stories of those left behind, and the motivation that drives them forward to their own life goals.

Most important, the gathering created community and mutual support for women experiencing the immediate challenges of reentry, for some after spending decades in prison. LSPC Policy Manager Sabina Crocette, who led organizing the event, said it was “a wonderful time of love, respect, gratitude and the creation of joy in the hearts and on the faces of everyone who attended.”



LSPC and All of Us or None hope to hold the Holiday

Homecoming every year, as well as organize other events to support re-entering women throughout the year.

We thank State Senator Nancy Skinner for joining the celebration of our recently-released sisters, & for rocking some fab photos! We look forward to supporting [legislation to end the practice of releasing people—especially women—from county jails like Santa Rita in the middle of the night](#) without means to communicate with family or to reach transportation safely.

For more information contact Sabina Crocette:
sabina@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.625.7040



LSPC staff loves to help our sisters inside or out! We're RED-y & willing!

19th Annual Community Giveback

All of Us or None continued our longstanding holiday tradition with our 19th Annual Community Giveback on Saturday, December 8, in Menlo Park, CA. This year's event was again a wonderful success, with hundreds of bikes and teddy bears gifted to children in the name of their incarcerated loved ones. The kids then wrote letters and we mailed them, along with photos of the kids with their bikes, to their parent or loved one inside.





Photos by [Scott Braley](#)

This event is a wonderful way to keep families connected, as well as to allow us formerly incarcerated people and family members to give back to our communities. Thanks again for all your support though donations or volunteering! More photos of this year's Community Giveback are [here on the AOUON Facebook page](#).



East Oakland Youth Chapter Community Giveback

One of All of Us or None's newest chapters, the AOUON East Oakland Youth chapter, organized their first Community Giveback this year. On Saturday, December 16, East Oakland Youth members distributed packs of toiletry and hygiene products to unhoused people living in tent communities at Elmhurst Park at 98th Ave. and C St., at the freeway underpass at the Harrison St. off-ramp, and along Market St.



AOUON Organizer Taqwaa Bonner said, "It's important that youth directly-impacted by the criminal justice system support the people in our communities and develop positive connections. I'm grateful for the opportunity to give back to the community I damaged in my youth."

For more information or to join the AOUON East Oakland Youth chapter, contact Taqwaa Bonner: taqwaa@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.361.4692

Race & Justice Summit

On December 14, *The Atlantic Magazine* convened a [Race & Justice Summit in San Francisco](#). LSPC 2018 Policy Fellow Aminah Elster was a featured speaker on the "Finding Shelter" panel, discussing her own, personal experiences and the relationship between reentry and homelessness, especially for formerly incarcerated women. [Click here to watch the full panel discussion.](#)



LSPC on KPFA!

LSPC and All of Us or None were featured on KPFA's Hard Knock Radio on Wednesday, December 12. Host Davey D shared [audio from our 40th Anniversary Gala panel discussion](#)—which he moderated—featuring Michelle Alexander (*The New Jim Crow*), Marc Lamont Hill (professor, Temple University), and Vonya Quarles (formerly incarcerated, attorney, Executive Director of Starting Over, Inc.). KPFA is also offering DVD videos of the panel discussion as part of their winter fund drive, with the DVDs being mailed in January, 2019.



Calendar

Restore Our Rights!

SAVE THE DATE!
January 17, 2019

FREEDOM & MOVEMENT CENTER

46,000 people are on parole in California—and we can't vote!

Join us in the East Bay Area for a discussion and strategy session—building on recent victories in Florida and Louisiana—on felony disenfranchisement, jury service, running for political office, and other rights we need restored in California.

RESTORE OUR RIGHTS

A Special Conversation On How To

Featuring

- Desmond Meade
Florida Rights Restoration Coalition
- Norris Henderson
Voice Of The Experienced - New Orleans
- Taina Vargas-Edmond
Initiate Justice
- Dauras Cyprian
All of Us or None

For more info, contact AOUON Lead Organizer Dauras Cyprian:
dauras@prisonerswithchildren.org 415.625.7051

ALL OF US OR NONE
TODOS O NADIE

LET ME VOTE
WHAT ABOUT MY VOICE?
LET ME VOTE

YES Second Chances

When: January 17, 2019
Where: TBA (East Bay Area, CA)

Join us for a discussion and strategy session—building on recent victories in Florida and Louisiana—on felony disenfranchisement, jury service, running for political office, and other rights we need restored in California.

Speakers include:

Desmond Meade, [Florida Rights Restoration Coalition](#) (FRRC)— spearheaded the campaign to pass Amendment 4 that will restore the rights of 1.4 million Floridians with felony convictions on Jan. 8.

Norris Henderson, [Voice of the Experienced—New Orleans](#) (VOTE-NOLA) —campaigned to successfully pass Amendment 2, requiring Louisiana juries to have unanimous verdicts. Now only Oregon is the only state with Jim Crow non-unanimous jury verdicts.

Taina Vargas-Edmond, [Initiate Justice](#)—campaigning to restore voting rights for all Californians regardless of conviction or incarceration.

Daurus Cyprian, [All of Us or None](#)—heading AOUON’s “Let Me Vote” campaign, currently on parole and thus ineligible to vote.

The discussion will be moderated by [Aminah Elster](#)—after spending over 15 years incarcerated in California prisons, Aminah is currently on parole and thus ineligible to vote. Aminah is the 2018 Elder Freeman Policy Fellow and a current student at UC Berkeley.

Stay tuned for updates on event location and time!
For more information, contact AOUON Senior Organizer Daurus Cyprian:
daurus@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.625.7051

DONATE NOW

Secure donations through
Network for Good

[Like us on Facebook](#)

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

