Holidays in Hell: Incarcerated writer Darrell Palmer describes the conflicting emotions evoked by the holiday season. While the mood lightens in prison, a deep loneliness sets in. For some, the holidays can bring relief, for others, depression. And for still others, a little bit of both. Page 4

After surviving prison, Savvy Shabazz fought hard to pursue higher education. Now, the AOUON Louisville chapter president uses his book smarts and his street smarts to help restore rights to formerly incarcerated citizens. His efforts caught the attention of the governor, who pardoned him in November. Page 3

It’s been a hectic year. Through it all, All of Us or None chapters have kept fighting. Across the country, our members participated in massive Get Out The Vote efforts, policy advocacy, marches for justice and calls for an end to police brutality. Check out our year in review recap. Page 8

Nearly 2.7 million U.S. children have an incarcerated parent, and, with visitation suspended indefinitely in several jurisdictions, many of them have suffered nine long months with little to no connection to their mom or dad. The time is now to ensure visitation as a right. Page 6
The artwork on the cover of this month’s issue is a collaboration between incarcerated artist Felix “Phill” Rosado and activist Kate DeCiccio, who specializes in stencil art. The piece was part of the LifeLines Project’s “How Are We Free?” exhibit, a project that pairs people who have been sentenced to die in prison and visual artists outside the prison walls to explore the nature of freedom and confinement. In an interview for LifeLines, Phill said, “I learned that art is a highly effective way to tell a story about unspeakable issues, such as how a man who’s been locked up for 22 years answers questions about his inability to leave a visiting room to his 7-year-old nephew.”

For more information on and images from the exhibit, visit howarewefree.org.

**Inside This Issue**

**Feature Story**

While some bemoan the restrictions making it more difficult to see their families this holiday season, system-impacted families face massive barriers when it comes to seeing their loved ones every day. LSPC’s Family Unity Matters coordinator Ivana Gonzales writes about the effort to keep these families whole.

**The INjustice System**

Incarcerated writer Darrell Palmer rights about the conflicting emotions evoked by the holiday season: While the mood lightens in prison, a deep loneliness sets in. Plus, Mail Bag. Page 4

**Election 2020**

The October 2020 issue of All of Us or None highlighted significant 2020 ballot measures that stood to impact our community, for better or for worse. The results are in. Page 5

**Chapter Highlights**

It’s been a hectic year. Through it all, AOUON chapters have kept fighting. From GOTV efforts to protests against police brutality, it’s all in our chapters’ year in review. Page 8

---

**A Note From AOUON Founding Member Dorsey Nunn**

Sometimes the effort is as important as the outcome. Securing the right to vote for 50,000 Californians on parole is a remarkable accomplishment in itself, but it helps to turn to history to fully understand the scope of the effort. Frederick Douglas stated “power concedes nothing without a demand,” and Malcolm X often quoted, “If you don’t stand for something you will fall for anything.” "Both of these men were speaking to the effort associated with struggle. We have struggled too. The road to justice for Legal Services for Prisoners with Children and All of Us or None has been long. And we’ve had many allies.

Our desire to address the disenfranchisement of people with felony convictions was inspired notably by the 2000 Presidential Election, when thousands of people in Florida who wore that scarlet ‘F’—and many who were “mistakenly” ID’d as Felons—were denied the right to vote. That election, as you probably recall, was decided by fewer than six hundred votes.

Less than three years later, 50 formerly incarcerated people gathered at a house in the Oakland foothills and determined to start a movement led by and for formerly incarcerated people. We decided, emphatically and unanimously, that the time had come for us to speak in our own voices: we wanted to be heard, and we knew we would have to demand it. This meeting led to the founding of All of Us or None, with our mission from the very beginning to fight for the full restoration of our civil and human rights—with a main focus on employment, housing, education, and voting.

At the 2018 Formerly Incarcerated Convicted People and Families Movement National Conference in Orlando, Florida, 1,000 organizers showed up to share strategies and successes. That was a turning point! While we assisted in the local campaign for Amendment 4, we started learning new and relevant skills about how to move public policy through the ballot box, about phone banking and the power of text messaging, and the importance of market branding our political campaigns. Voting rights remained very much on our radar.

The following month, we watched as Florida voters passed Amendment 4, restoring voting rights to 1.4 million disenfranchised people with felony convictions in that state. That same evening, Louisiana voters passed Amendment 2, which entitled people being tried for crimes to a unanimous jury verdict of 12 people for a conviction to stand, instead of just 10. We wanted to know if we had kicked Jim Crow in the balls twice. And yes we did.

These experiences taught us what could be accomplished through ballot propositions—lessons and skills that would prove incredibly useful to us in our continuing journey. Getting a measure on the ballot about the voting rights of people on felony parole was a complex, multi-part process, requiring a change to the state Constitution. Our effort began when we co-sponsored Assembly Constitutional Amendment 6 (ACA 6), authored by Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sac). We immediately faced the...
By Oscar Ashley

June 7 in Louisville, Kentucky is known as “Savvy Shabazz Day.” Savvy, 45, works tirelessly, advocating for those who cannot advocate for themselves and, on his Day, the entire city celebrates him and the positive changes he has brought about in Louisville. But Savvy’s road to being an acclaimed advocate has been a long, often hopeless one.

Born and raised in Paducah, Kentucky, Savvy grew up in one of the largest city projects and attended Paducah Tilghman High School where he played football. When his aspirations of becoming a professional football player were dashed his senior year, Savvy was forced to venture onto the streets and into drug dealing. After being arrested twice, Savvy was labeled a “menace to society” and served five-and-a-half years in prison. When released on parole, he didn’t know what he wanted to do. Though he’d learned carpentry in trade school, he yearned for something more fulfilling and decided he wanted to enroll in college.

This would prove to be a difficult task. “My parole case manager felt I wasn’t college material,” he recalled.

He waited outside the parole director’s office for four hours, only to be told he could not attend college because he had not completed high school. This was false, and after producing his high school transcripts, Savvy enrolled at Jefferson Community and technical college and transferred to The University of Louisville’s Pan African Studies Program.

 “[Attending college] put an interest and pride in me that I never knew I had studying the movements and ideologies of our people,” he said.

After receiving assistance from a colleague in a time of distress, Savvy realized that perhaps there was something others saw in him that he couldn’t yet see in himself. This presented him with a moment of clarity and purpose.

“Somebody helped me, so I had to help people too,” Savvy said. “It was my destiny.”

Helping others is exactly what Savvy did, and still does today. He goes to the “toughest neighborhoods in Louisville” to foster connections and build community.

“I’m big on building and maintaining relationships,” he said.

Savvy founded and is currently the CEO of Life Coach Each One Teach One REentry Fellowship, a community service organization that builds on personal experiences with mass incarceration and reentry to provide services to those coming out of prison and jail.

He founded the Louisville chapter of All of Us or None in 2015 after traveling to Oakland, and meeting with several community leaders. Three years later, he brought that chapter to Orlando, Florida, and helped canvass for Amendment 4, a constitutional amendment and ballot initiative that, after getting approved by voters in the 2018 election, restored suffrage to 1.4 million disenfranchised citizens.

When the coronavirus pandemic struck in March of 2020, Savvy and the Louisville chapter assisted families impacted by mass incarceration with housing and communication. Most recently, the organization was part of a massive get out the vote effort in Kentucky.

“I am here to help people,” Savvy said. “As long as I can touch a lot of people’s lives, I can leave this world peacefully.”

This selfless mindset has received significant recognition: On Thursday, November 12th, 2020, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear called Savvy to inform him that he had signed his pardon. After working nearly nonstop to register fellow Kentucky citizens to vote, Savvy will finally be able to vote himself.

Savvy often recites this quote: “No one rises to low expectations.”

He said his nephew, one of his best friends, shared this bit of wisdom with him 20 years ago when Savvy was in a dark place.

“We have just got to continue to fight,” Savvy explained, “We need to fight until all formerly incarcerated people receive the guidance they need to be successful too.”

Oscar Ashley is an intern at Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. He grew up in Berkeley, Calif., and currently studies government and music at Wesleyan University.
INJUSTICE SYSTEM: HOLIDAYS IN HELL

By Darrell L. Palmer

Holidays take place all year long. As the year draws to an end, there are two holidays that tend to be a little more "stressful." I’m speaking, of course, of Thanksgiving and Christmas. I have been incarcerated for the last six years, so I’m only going to speak mainly on my experiences during these particular holidays.

The atmosphere definitely becomes a little lighter than usual. I tend to notice the normal tensions alleviate. COs are more likely to let certain “violations” slide. Crisp air without intense heat, or unbearable chill. Attitudes and emotions are more in-tune with the upcoming holidays, versus the surrounding circumstances.

Some prisoners look for distractions. Anything to remove the reality of being in prison, be it drugs, pruno (prison wine), or reckless behavior. Sometimes people resort to more extreme measures, such as violence or suicide.

Me, personally, I don’t celebrate the holidays. My anxiety level remains sanely leveled during calendar celebrations that tend to look decidedly opposite to the guidelines from religious texts. I like to celebrate life, people and accomplishments on a daily basis. I try to let people know how important they are to me impromptu.

Leave it up to me to do the opposite of the masses in the Free World. While many of you will be preparing your festive meals, I’m sad because no one answers my letters. While others are exchanging gifts, I’m praying she contacted [Salvation Army’s] Angel Tree in time to pick up his gift. That’s if, of course, they had enough funds this year. Holidays depress me.

I’m not a doctor, nor am I a historian, but it’s been my experience that these so-called holidays bring more stress, grief and death than does the professionally-vetted positivity statistic. Just once, can people travel, celebrate, congregate and integrate without violence or negativity? No car of plane crashes, no storms, no arguing or disagreements. Act like Jesus is really the reason for the season. Please.

The most important ingredient missing from these so-called holidays is the exact same thing missing on any other day: Our loved ones. Prison did not take us away from them. Our decisions did.

Although my physical body is present at the moment, even though my lips appear to be engaged in this conversation, even though you agree with my rational mind, still I am not to be trusted with their insecurities, desires, wishes, wants or worries. Especially in prison. Especially during holidays. I am sorry.

Allow me to leave you, the reader, with this: Once I came to the understanding of how much energy it takes to be depressed, lonely, sad, anxious, indifferent, unrealistic, regretful, hostile, or any other negative emotion, I gave it to the Most High. I could not do it anymore, so I took a page out of the Bible.

Philippians 4:8-9 “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, is of good

MAIL BAG

Pharaoh Newsom refuses to let my people go
By Tomieka Johnson

an incarcerated writer at Central California Women’s Facility

A

fter seeing only six people from my housing unit receive quarterly vendor packages out of well over 100 waiting, I decided to opt out of ordering one seeing how the prison staff has opted out of doing their job issuing essential items, goods and services during a worldwide pandemic. The level of negligence and laziness I see has risen to the point of criminal behavior. As God will have it, I happen

to be homeless. Scapegoating homelessness as one possibly could in this anti-rehabilitation, human warehouse of state commodities. We exceed the criteria of “rehabilitated and reformed,” yet we continue to stare fresh trauma in the face daily. We have solid post-release plans and staunch support systems.

Ironically, Gov. Newsom touts homelessness as one of his biggest concerns. In my experience, though, Newsom is part of the reason California has the largest homeless population. Pharaoh can’t have it both ways as he sits in his Northern California version of a Beverly Hills mansion demanding the slaves build their buildings with straw. When Newsom was lieutenant governor, eye-balling the gubernatorial throne as then-Gov. Brown’s protege, he had a birds-eye view of the homelessness crisis. He expressed the desire to alleviate the ailing social emergency, but since he has been in office the problem has only gotten worse.

A lot of prisoners have viable shelter to parole to, yet Newsom’s administration hasn’t slowed the amount of mentally disabled folks being arrested, imprisoned, and released to the streets to be homeless. Scapegoating homelessness as the reason he won’t release low-risk prisoners to help us avoid a virus the system is ill equipped to eradicate is egregiously reckless.

We understand the COVID conundrum and the real possibility people won’t have a home to return to. This is true without the pandemic. Releasing prisoners before COVID ravages our bodies is a calculated risk that’s no different than Newsom drinking long from the wine tap at his family’s winery and driving home avoiding an accident. I demand that the hundreds of women in CCWF be screened for 1170(d)(1) for extraordinary conduct making one eligible for early release, starting with me because I’m a game-changer capable of reaching the homans in green and seen in me, practice these things and the God of peace will be with you.”

Darrell is an incarcerated writer imprisoned at Pelican Bay State Prison in California. Collections of his writing and poetry can be found at www.prisonsfoundation.org

"Roses" is a 3D piece by Bruce Fowler, an incarcerated artist at San Quentin State Prison. While we could not capture their color in print, the roses outside the bars are red. Everything behind the bars is black-repute; if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things and the God of peace will be with you.”

Pharaoh can’t have it both ways as he sits in his Northern California version of a Beverly Hills mansion demanding the slaves build their buildings with straw. When Newsom was lieutenant governor, eye-balling the gubernatorial throne as then-Gov. Brown’s protege, he had a birds-eye view of the homelessness crisis. He expressed the desire to alleviate the ailing social emergency, but since he has been in office the problem has only gotten worse.

A lot of prisoners have viable shelter to parole to, yet Newsom’s administration hasn’t slowed the amount of mentally disabled folks being arrested, imprisoned, and released to the streets to be homeless. Scapegoating homelessness as the reason he won’t release low-risk prisoners to help us avoid a virus the system is ill equipped to eradicate is egregiously reckless.

We understand the COVID conundrum and the real possibility people won’t have a home to return to. This is true without the pandemic. Releasing prisoners before COVID ravages our bodies is a calculated risk that’s no different than Newsom drinking long from the wine tap at his family’s winery and driving home avoiding an accident. I demand that the hundreds of women in CCWF be screened for 1170(d)(1) for extraordinary conduct making one eligible for early release, starting with me because I’m a game-changer capable of reaching the homans in green and seen in me, practice these things and the God of peace will be with you.”

Darrell is an incarcerated writer imprisoned at Pelican Bay State Prison in California. Collections of his writing and poetry can be found at www.prisonsfoundation.org

"Roses" is a 3D piece by Bruce Fowler, an incarcerated artist at San Quentin State Prison. While we could not capture their color in print, the roses outside the bars are red. Everything behind the bars is black-repute; if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things and the God of peace will be with you.”

Darrell is an incarcerated writer imprisoned at Pelican Bay State Prison in California. Collections of his writing and poetry can be found at www.prisonsfoundation.org

"Roses" is a 3D piece by Bruce Fowler, an incarcerated artist at San Quentin State Prison. While we could not capture their color in print, the roses outside the bars are red. Everything behind the bars is black-repute; if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things and the God of peace will be with you.”

Darrell is an incarcerated writer imprisoned at Pelican Bay State Prison in California. Collections of his writing and poetry can be found at www.prisonsfoundation.org

"Roses" is a 3D piece by Bruce Fowler, an incarcerated artist at San Quentin State Prison. While we could not capture their color in print, the roses outside the bars are red. Everything behind the bars is black-repute; if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things and the God of peace will be with you.”

Darrell is an incarcerated writer imprisoned at Pelican Bay State Prison in California. Collections of his writing and poetry can be found at www.prisonsfoundation.org

"Roses" is a 3D piece by Bruce Fowler, an incarcerated artist at San Quentin State Prison. While we could not capture their color in print, the roses outside the bars are red. Everything behind the bars is black-repute; if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things and the God of peace will be with you.”

Darrell is an incarcerated writer imprisoned at Pelican Bay State Prison in California. Collections of his writing and poetry can be found at www.prisonsfoundation.org

"Roses" is a 3D piece by Bruce Fowler, an incarcerated artist at San Quentin State Prison. While we could not capture their color in print, the roses outside the bars are red. Everything behind the bars is black-repute; if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things and the God of peace will be with you.”

Darrell is an incarcerated writer imprisoned at Pelican Bay State Prison in California. Collections of his writing and poetry can be found at www.prisonsfoundation.org

"Roses" is a 3D piece by Bruce Fowler, an incarcerated artist at San Quentin State Prison. While we could not capture their color in print, the roses outside the bars are red. Everything behind the bars is black-repute; if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things and the God of peace will be with you.”

Darrell is an incarcerated writer imprisoned at Pelican Bay State Prison in California. Collections of his writing and poetry can be found at www.prisonsfoundation.org
**Proposition 113: National Popular Vote**

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) is a group of states that have joined Colorado with the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). NPVIC is comprised of enough states to meet the required threshold of 270. The compact will go into effect once it is approved by legislative authority over placing any future measures on the ballot. Both measures failed.

**Prop 20: Criminal Sentencing, Parole, and DNA Collection Initiative**

Access to Democracy was challenged in two states where proposed measures would require additional hoops for constitutional amendments to jump through. Rather than having voters approve a change to the constitution once, voters in Florida were asked to support Amendment 4, which would require it to pass in two consecutive general elections. Voters in North Dakota were asked to approve legislative authority over placing any future measures on the ballot. Both measures failed.

**Marijuana legalization** passed in every state where it was on the ballot. These measures will also apply retroactively, potentially qualifying thousands for release and/or expungement. Following the election, NORML Executive Director Erik Altieri said, “The public has spoken loudly and clearly. They favor ending the failed policies of marijuana prohibition and replacing it with a policy of legalization, regulation, taxation, and public education. Elected officials — at both the state and federal level — ought to be listening.”

**Removal of Confederate Symbols**

Michigan voters, solidifying a state constitutional amendment to require a search warrant for law enforcement to access a person's electronic data and electronic communications.

**Mississippi & Rhode Island**

Mississippi voters approved the removal of the confederate symbol from its state flag and Rhodes Island voters removed "Providence Plantations" from the official state name.

**Nebraska & Utah**

- **Removal of Slavery Exemption** was approved by voters in Nebraska and Utah. With approval by Colorado voters in 2018 and a 2024 ballot measure in New Jersey, the fight to end slavery as a form of punishment is gaining significant momentum.

**Oregon**

- **Measure 110: Drug Decriminalization and Addiction Treatment Initiative** was approved by 58% of voters, decriminalizing non-commercial possession of a controlled substance. It will also establish a drug addiction treatment program funded, in part, by the money the state would save from reductions in arrests, incarceration, and official supervision -- an estimated $24.5 million over a two-year period.

**Florida & N. Dakota**

Access to Democracy was challenged in two states where proposed measures would require additional hoops for constitutional amendments to jump through. Rather than having voters approve a change to the constitution once, voters in Florida were asked to support Amendment 4, which would require it to pass in two consecutive general elections. Voters in North Dakota were asked to approve legislative authority over placing any future measures on the ballot. Both measures failed.

**Kentucky**

- **Amendment 1: Marsy's Law Amendment** was approved by Kentucky voters, adding specific rights of crime victims, together known as Marsy's Law, to the Kentucky Constitution. The so-called victim's bill of rights law has drawn criticism from defense attorneys, prosecutors and even victims rights advocates.

**Colorado**

Proposition 113: National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Referendum passed, joining Colorado with the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). NPVIC is a group of states that have pledged their electoral votes to the winner of the popular vote, with the intention of nullifying the Electoral College. Counting Colorado's nine electoral votes, the states that have enacted laws embracing the national popular vote account for 196. The compact will go into effect once it is comprised of enough states to meet the required threshold of 270.

**Marijuana legalization** required threshold of 270. comprised of enough states to meet the required threshold of 270. Counting Colorado’s nine electoral votes, the states that have enacted laws embracing the national popular vote account for 196. The compact will go into effect once it is comprised of enough states to meet the required threshold of 270.

**Missouri**

- **Prop 47: Sentencing Reform** and **Prop 57: Bail Reform** were approved, gaining significant momentum.

**California**

- **Prop 16: Repeal Prop 209** failed by a 14% margin, meaning the state's ban on affirmative action will remain in place. In response, UC Regents Chair John Perez said, “We will not accept inequality on our campuses and will continue addressing the inescapable effects of racial and gender inequality.”

**Prop 17: Free the Vote Initiative** passed with nearly 60% of voters approving. The proposition will restore voting rights to 50,000 taxpaying Californians on parole.

- **Prop 20: Criminal Sentencing, Parole, and DNA Collection Initiative** was rejected with nearly 62% of the voting populous voting NO. Californians rejected rollbacks to de-carceration reforms in Props 47 and 57.

**Arizona, Montana, New Jersey & S. Dakota**

- **Marijuana legalization** passed in every state where it was on the ballot. These measures will also apply retroactively, potentially qualifying thousands for release and/or expungement. Following the election, NORML Executive Director Erik Altieri said, “The public has spoken loudly and clearly. They favor ending the failed policies of marijuana prohibition and replacing it with a policy of legalization, regulation, taxation, and public education. Elected officials — at both the state and federal level — ought to be listening.”

**Connecticut, NY, and Wisconsin**

- **Prop 9: Criminal Justice Reform** was rejected with 60% of the voting populous voting NO.

**Florida & N. Dakota**

Access to Democracy was challenged in two states where proposed measures would require additional hoops for constitutional amendments to jump through. Rather than having voters approve a change to the constitution once, voters in Florida were asked to support Amendment 4, which would require it to pass in two consecutive general elections. Voters in North Dakota were asked to approve legislative authority over placing any future measures on the ballot. Both measures failed.

**Missouri**

- **Prop 47: Sentencing Reform** and **Prop 57: Bail Reform** were approved, gaining significant momentum.

**California**

- **Prop 16: Repeal Prop 209** failed by a 14% margin, meaning the state’s ban on affirmative action will remain in place. In response, UC Regents Chair John Perez said, “We will not accept inequality on our campuses and will continue addressing the inescapable effects of racial and gender inequality.”

**Prop 17: Free the Vote Initiative** passed with nearly 60% of voters approving. The proposition will restore voting rights to 50,000 taxpaying Californians on parole.

- **Prop 20: Criminal Sentencing, Parole, and DNA Collection Initiative** was rejected with nearly 62% of the voting populous voting NO. Californians rejected rollbacks to de-carceration reforms in Props 47 and 57.

**Arizona, Montana, New Jersey & S. Dakota**

- **Marijuana legalization** passed in every state where it was on the ballot. These measures will also apply retroactively, potentially qualifying thousands for release and/or expungement. Following the election, NORML Executive Director Erik Altieri said, “The public has spoken loudly and clearly. They favor ending the failed policies of marijuana prohibition and replacing it with a policy of legalization, regulation, taxation, and public education. Elected officials — at both the state and federal level — ought to be listening.”

**Connecticut, NY, and Wisconsin**

- **Prop 9: Criminal Justice Reform** was rejected with 60% of the voting populous voting NO.

**Florida & N. Dakota**

Access to Democracy was challenged in two states where proposed measures would require additional hoops for constitutional amendments to jump through. Rather than having voters approve a change to the constitution once, voters in Florida were asked to support Amendment 4, which would require it to pass in two consecutive general elections. Voters in North Dakota were asked to approve legislative authority over placing any future measures on the ballot. Both measures failed.
Family Ties: Strained, Never Broken

Visitation and the Importance of keeping Families Whole

By Ivana Gonzales

Visits have always been a big part of the holidays for system-impacted families. People travel long hours, miles away from home, to spend Thanksgiving, Christmas, Kwanzaa and other winter holidays with their incarcerated loved ones. They stand in extra-long waiting lines and endure an invasive screening process sometimes for as little as an hour with their incarcerated family members. In fact, the visit itself is often the shortest part of the overall trip. While the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation promises to house individuals close to home, it rarely does so. In-person proper paperwork for adults and children need to be submitted, and visitors must adhere to a strict dress code at every visit. Still, families take the time to jump through each and every hoop just to spend time with their loved ones on the holidays. For their efforts, they’ll receive a one-hour visit, separated by glass, if their loved one is on disciplinary action or in solitary confinement, or up to three hours if he or she is on good disciplinary grounds.

Like everything else during the pandemic, visitation in prisons and jails have been upended. Here in California, visits were suspended indefinitely in March and CDCR recently announced it does not expect in-person visiting to resume anytime soon.

Families jump through each and every hoop just to spend time with their loved ones

“Just three weeks ago, we had the lowest number of COVID-19 cases, 283, in the incarcerated population since April, and we were working toward reopening in-person visiting with some limitations,” CDCR Secretary Kathleen Allison said in a statement. “However, our numbers have been steadily rising, just like they have in the rest of the state. As of today, we are above 1,400 cases across the system.”

Visitation and the Importance of keeping Families Whole

“Based on the recommendation of public health and health care partners, including the court-appointed federal Receiver, in-person visiting at CDCR institutions remains suspended at this time,” she said.

This announcement, made just two weeks before Thanksgiving, has been a low blow to families who have been waiting patiently for CDCR institutions to open up with the same safety methodological protocols used to reopen restaurants, churches, movie theaters and the state capitol.

In response, hundreds of family members demanded the state #OpenVisitsNow as state legislative committees held hearings on COVID in prisons. On the Friday before Thanksgiving, CDCR agreed to roll out free video calls (promised to begin in each state prison by January 1), but in-person visiting is still off the table. Meanwhile, other jurisdictions (New York and federal prison) have resumed visiting.

An estimated 2.7 million U.S. children have an incarcerated parent. The effect on the mental health of these children and their parents, both continues on NEXT PAGE

Families Speak Out

Jovina Vejar

(From an interview conducted by LSPC staffer Tina Nunn) Jovina is seven and her father is serving 38 years to life as a non-violent offender. Before the pandemic broke out, Jovina would visit her dad every other weekend. What she liked most about the visits was to see her father’s face and be picked up by him. They had a ritual on visiting days: she would run into his arms as soon as the gate opened, they would greet each other with a kiss, they’d buy five tokens for photos, and they’d play games – her favorites were jenga and Connect Four. The hardest part was leaving and not seeing her dad until the next visit. Jovina does not have just one favorite memory of these visits: She loves all the memories she created with her dad.

It has been extremely hard to not see her dad since visitation was suspended due to COVID-19. If she could talk to the warden, she would ask that her dad be released. The visiting rules she would like to change is to allow families to stay overnight more often and allow visits every day. She would also like for families not to be separated by a glass pane. The one thing that has made her not want to go visit at times is that the correctional officers are not nice. Jovina said when her father comes home they will wash dishes together and then they will play. She wants people to know that her dad is her superhero, and a perfect day would be any day with her dad home.

I was locked up for 30 years.

Being called for a visit and pulled up out of that situation was always a relief. To the point where you let out that breath like, “Whew, see you all later.” And everyone would go, “Man, go have a good visit.”

I told my wife, “We probably got over 3000 people in this prison, and maybe 100 get a visit.” So just imagine all the lonely people who don’t get to see nobody. And it felt like a privilege, and the prison department calls it a privilege, but it should be called a right, because it is a right.

The visit brings that humanity to you. You’re not a robot on the yard trying to be tough. You’re not trying to be hard or fit in. You’re not trying not to blend in or avoid being noticed. When I was having a visit I felt noticed. I felt like me. I felt like Darryl, like I was human again. When a person came to visit me, it lit up everything up inside me.

Now that I’m out, I always have money on my phone so people can call me, because I know that it was a godsend to get on the phone have someone pick up, or have some peace of mind knowing someone had money on their phone so if you wanted you could call them. That’s why I put money on my phone now. I want to be ready for people to call, because I know people need to talk.

Darryl Poole
those incarcerated and those on the outside, has been devastating. Parents that we have come in contact with report their children are feeling depressed, show low to no interest in attending their school meetings and often go to bed crying because they are missing seeing and hugging their incarcerated parent.

To take on the injustices facing system-impacted families, we needed to form a strong, united front. To that end, the Family Unity Matters program of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children formed the Coalition for Family Unity. It includes system-impacted families and organizations such as Place4Grace, Fathers and Families of San Joaquin, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Communities United for Restorative Youth (CURY), Young Women’s Freedom Center, Silicon Valley DeBug (Participatory Defense), Starting Over Inc., A New Way of Life, California Families Rise, Families United to End LWOP (FUEL), California Families Against Solitary Confinement (CFASC), the Ball Project, Community Works (including One Family and Project What!), Root & Rebound, California Coalition for Women Prisoners, and All of Us or None chapters in Bakersfield, Sacramento and Riverside.

We intend to fight for the visiting rights of incarcerated people and their loved ones and to address other ways in which mass criminalization and incarceration has adversely impacted families in California. That means restoring visitation as a right, as it was in the original 1973 constitution (section 2601) until it was stripped away during the 1990’s “tough on crime” hysteria that caused the constitutional right to maintain family relationships. Although we are in a form of rehabilitation. Although we are in a state of emergency and the pandemic has made it more difficult to maintain relationships, we need to ensure that families have access to in-person visits.

Visiting was never easy, requiring a three-hour round trip for our young children, but it was worth the long drive and waiting and processing time to finally hear my daughter scream “Daddy!” when she saw him. We went every weekend before the pandemic, fostering the bonds between my kids and their father, and between me and my husband, and keeping our family and faith strong. While it was unacceptable the way CDCR controlled any showing affection — “Mendoza, do that one more time and your visit will be terminated” if we were to cuddle — we wanted to see him even if we could only kiss hello and goodbye.

Since CDCR closed visits back in March, we have not been able to visit and we barely get to talk to him on calls. This is a huge toll on my kids’ lives. They miss doing homework, playing board games, hugging and seeing their father in person. My oldest son, who is 12 years old and entering puberty, needs important conversations with his dad about growing up and the changes that are happening to him. CDCR should take the necessary safety steps to open visits now and allow families to reunify and bond again.

Now that there will be video calls, I can’t wait for my husband to meet our baby girl, but there is nothing like sitting close to him and being able to hold his hand.

My husband, Emmanuel Mendoza, has never met our baby born in July, and our seven-year-old recently broke my heart when she told me, “I forgot what my daddy’s face looks like.”

Visiting was never easy, requiring a three-hour round trip for our young children, but it was worth the long drive and waiting and processing time to finally hear my daughter scream “Daddy!” when she saw him. We went every weekend before the pandemic, fostering the bonds between my kids and their father, and between me and my husband, and keeping our family and faith strong. While it was unacceptable the way CDCR controlled any showing affection — “Mendoza, do that one more time and your visit will be terminated” if we were to cuddle — we wanted to see him even if we could only kiss hello and goodbye.

Since CDCR closed visits back in March, we have not been able to visit and we barely get to talk to him on calls. This is a huge toll on my kids’ lives. They miss doing homework, playing board games, hugging and seeing their father in person. My oldest son, who is 12 years old and entering puberty, needs important conversations with his dad about growing up and the changes that are happening to him. CDCR should take the necessary safety steps to open visits now and allow families to reunify and bond again.

Now that there will be video calls, I can’t wait for my husband to meet our baby girl, but there is nothing like sitting close to him and being able to hold his hand.
Chapter Updates

As we say goodbye to an intense year, we pause for a moment to reflect on all the work we’ve been able to accomplish in 2020. It was a strange year, full of twists and turns, progress and calamity, but the resilience of All of Us or None members shined bright. From voter registration and education to decarceration efforts and political advocacy, the strength of our movement showed itself in the refusal to allow anything to come before the fight for our rights and the fight for our lives. The following does not accurately capture ALL of the work our chapters did this year, but it’s a fair sampling. Thank you to everyone who supported our efforts along the way.

Oakland (Nat.)

In addition to the massive effort around voting rights (see Page 2), this year the National chapter launched campaigns to allow members of our community to speak truth to power. Our “One Community, One Mic” web series featured freedom fighters from across the country. We reimagined Quest for Democracy, creating a virtual day of advocacy with members of the community and legislators. We organized an in-person demonstration at the capitol featuring photographs of individuals killed by police. We also relaunched THIS NEWSPAPER.

For our inside members, we sent COVID-19 manuals and demanded a comprehensive plan by CDCR and the governor surrounding incarcerated people during this pandemic. We provided hotel vouchers and care packages for people released due to overcrowding.

Bakersfield (CA)

The Bakersfield chapter members protected the right to shelter, successfully pushing for the implementation of an eviction moratorium during the pandemic. Additionally, the chapter was selected to receive COVID-19 funding for formerly incarcerated people in Kern County. The funds went towards providing financial relief of up to $500 per applicant, to be used for rent/lease assistance, food, utilities, or medical expenses. Members also participated in several Free Them All rallies and, when people were released, they were provided with a care package and rides home. The chapter also supported its outside members with get out the vote events, featuring information on Prop 17. On top of all that, the chapter completed its building renovation!

Los Angeles/Long Beach (CA)

The LA/Long Beach chapter has been focusing on census work. Measure R, the Free Zoey Bill and the Holly Mitchell campaign. Members also wrote letters to Gov. Newsom for housing resources for those being released in the COVID-19 decarceration efforts. As co-sponsors of SB 144, a bill that would limit the assessment and collection of various fines and fees for people in county jail, representatives from AOUON LA spoke truth to power at D4Q4 about the harm these policies cause. Members also attended a Mother’s Day protest at the Lynwood county jail to demand the release of mothers to their children. They also participated in a #LetThemFree protest at the California Institution for Women in Chino.

Orange County (CA)

With instances of COVID-19 rising rapidly in SoCal, Orange County teamed up with teams in LA to demand Gov. Newsom provide a housing and reentry plan for people being released. The chapter is also conducted a large-scale effort to have community members fill out the 2020 Census, ensuring our people are not undercounted. In October, the chapter held a voter education event, where members provided help registering voters and explaining crucial ballot measures like Prop 17. The chapter also distributed Prop 17 masks and newspapers to attendees.

Riverside (CA)

AOUON Riverside helped raise COVID-19 relief funds for system-impacted families. These efforts were part of the COVID-19 System Impacted Relief Fund launched by Starting Over Inc. Individuals living in the Inland Empire region who applied received $100 gift cards. The chapter was also a crucial member of the Free the Vote 2020 coalition and created a toolkit for the campaign that included talking points and social media posts to help generate support for Proposition 17.

Sacramento (CA)

The Sacramento chapter officially opened the doors of its new office space and quickly went to work. In response to the coronavirus, Sacramento AOUON, in collaboration with other organizations and the public defender’s office, secured release for 421 people incarcerated in the county jail. Organizers continue to work with local property owners to identify vacancies that can be used for emergency reentry housing. Additionally, they provided care packages for those being released from jail and prison.

Members attended FreeThemAll events nearly every weekend and helped organize the “Stop Killing Us” rally at the state capitol to protest police homicides.

San Bernardino (CA)

The San Bernardino chapter petitioned Gov. Newsom to expedite decarceration in light of the coronavirus. They also launched an effort to alert community members to the $27 billion in tax credits that are not being claimed because people do not know they are eligible.

San Diego (CA)

AOUON San Diego spearheaded a program to secure a 115-unit hotel to provide the houseless and formerly incarcerated with safe housing during the coronavirus pandemic. Their efforts caught the attention of the local press and the exposure brought in donations from local restaurants and stores for food and supplies to provide guests. In October, the chapter accepted a proposal to join the SD Regional Task Force for Black Homelessness. Along with members of the local Black Lives Matter chapter, the chapter formed a committee that seeks, among other things, to establish a category with with SD Housing Commission for formerly incarcerated people.

Idaho

Idaho is the newest All of Us or None chapter. Members are building a foundation fast, focusing their immediate efforts on public awareness and the first step of enacting a policy.

Central Illinois

The Central Illinois chapter has done a ton of advocacy this year around electronic monitoring, including demanding data on whether or not it is an effective deterrent for recidivism. The chapter also worked with Chicago’s Decarceration Collective to make a Social Bio Packet for Brian Burnside, who has been serving a life sentence since 2007 under the Three Strikes Law. Brian was resentenced under the First Step Act and will be coming home next year. The chapter is now a 501(c)-3 organization as defined by IRS and all donations are tax-deductible.
Together with the Movement for Black Lives, AOUON Chicago issued a blanket COVID demand letter to local officials. Both organizations called for the release of all people from county jail and resources for formerly incarcerated individuals. The city’s jail in Cook County was one of the hardest-hit detention facilities. The Chicago chapter also raised $4,000 through individual donors and distributed it to community members in the form of gift cards.

**New Jersey**

AOUON Northern New Jersey launched several ongoing initiatives this year. In addition to a general letter writing initiative, the chapter’s Birthday Card Writing Initiative reached out to each person incarcerated at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women on their birthday to let them know there is a whole community of people that see them and support them. The New Book Initiative provides each new member with a book of their choice. Outside members received healing from a complimentary Health + Wellness initiative that included a series of comprehensive workshops designed to improve well-being through exercise, mindfulness, and stress management. Thanks to the Public Health Credit Bill that the chapter advocated for, it was also able to expand its Welcome Home Initiative to include money, clothes and food instead of only toiletries and personal hygiene products to returning citizens. The NNJ chapter shed light on the state of COVID inside prisons and jails with powerful storytelling. It’s #JusticeForTiffany brought attention to the preventable death of Ms. Tiffany Breland, who was incarcerated at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility. Two subsequent campaigns - #LetThemGo and #WeRemember kept the pressure on, with the former telling the stories of people trapped in the current conditions and the latter telling the stories of people who died inside from complications due to the virus.

**New York**

AOUON New York continues its legislative efforts around restoration of voting rights (S.1931/A.4987), fair and timely parole (S.497A/A.4346A), and elder parole (S.214/A.9040). Throughout the year, the chapter provided educational workshops for justice-involved populations hoping to vote in 2020. This included a workshop on Executive Order No. 181 (Individual Voting Restoration Pardons), a “Debunking Myths” workshop on voting rights in New York State and a webinar about shifting power through civil engagement. The chapter also held voter registration drives in the Bronx, Brooklyn and East Harlem and organized a massive event providing food for folks incarcerated at Bedford and Fishkill Prison. Members also participated in numerous protests and rallies to hold NYPD accountable for their practices and perpetuation of white supremacy.

**Greater Cinci (OH)**

AOUON Cincinnati teamed up with 53 community partners for a massive get out the vote effort. Over six months, they gave 120 rides to the polls in three cities; they held 25 voter registration events and four voter registration trainings; and their social media posts in the month leading up to the election reached over 116,000 people.

**Charlotte (NC)**

The Charlotte chapter has been partnering with the Durham chapter to learn more about Participatory Defense as a tool to disrupt the criminal legal system. They’ve also partnered with the NC Community Loan Fund to launch the NC Pregnancy bail fund. Members volunteer with homeless neighbors, providing them with meals and resources. They’ve also been working tirelessly to decarcerate the county jail to prevent an outbreak of coronavirus inside.

**Durham (NC)**

Since COVID-19 started, the Durham chapter has been doing rolling protests at local jails as well as state and federal prisons. Members have partnered with Communities In Partnership (C.I.P) to provide those in need with fresh fruits and vegetables biweekly. They also deliver hot meals every Friday to elders in the community.

**E. North Carolina**

The Eastern North Carolina chapter is focused on fair housing policy and initiatives. Members are making sure resources are in play when people are released from prison, addressing the issue that many individuals who are released end up homeless. They are also ensuring individuals who were displaced after Hurricane Florence have housing, as many comrades did not qualify for government assistance.

**San Antonio (TX)**

AOUON Texas joined the Statewide Leadership Council and other orgs from across the state to launch a Parole Day of Action (#FreeThemAll) campaign to demand the release of 15,000 Texas detainees. The chapter provided inside members with petitions for compassionate release, and participated in a car rally to decarcerate alongside SA Stands Coalition, RAICES, and The Immigration Legal Resource Center. In partnership with SA Stands, the chapter was successful in getting $9.2 million for immigrant communities and formerly incarcerated people who did not qualify for stimulus or other assistance. The San Antonio chapter is expanding the reach of AOUON in the state of Texas, with plans to start 3 new chapters. They are also working on preparing bills for the upcoming legislative session, including a repeal of fines and fees as well as a youth diversion program.

**E. Washington (WA)**

AOUON Eastern Washington challenged grassroots outreach programs in the area to donate to HelpSpokane, an initiative with a goal to provide food from local restaurants to those in need. The goal is to raise $50,000 by May 4 and AOUON’s donation was highlighted on Live at 5 with Rick Clark. The chapter assisted families of and previously incarcerated people with the reentry process.

Earlier in the year, members participated in a rally for no new jails and spoke at a reentry fair. The chapter was also wrote letters to local jail, prison and juvenile detention officials, demanding an increase decarceration efforts and ensure access to healthcare in light of the pandemic.

**Wisconsin**

Members of the Wisconsin chapter travelled to Minneapolis to stand in solidarity with their comrades and provide organizational support in the immediate aftermath of George Floyd’s death. They also held a powerful response to a similar incident in their own backyard: the shooting of Jacob Blake. After a peaceful demonstration was attacked by a white militia group, the chapter re-strategized its security and continued to march insolidarity of all victims of police homicide.
enormous hurdle of convincing the California Legislature to agree, by a two-thirds margin in each chamber, to put the issue before the voters. We formed a unique coalition consisting entirely of organizations either led or staffed by formerly incarcerated organizers. We knocked on countless doors asking legislators for their support. We sought out those who were on the fence and, in some cases, used our first-hand experience as individuals directly impacted by disenfranchisement to successfully change their minds to support the amendment. We secured resolutions of support from the city councils of Oakland and Richmond, and from the boards of supervisors of Alameda and San Francisco counties. We purchased and developed the web domain www.freethevote2020.org.

With the support of FICPFM, we were able to run a full page ad in the Sacramento Bee. We ran it three times in the Sunday paper—the day with the largest circulation of 168,000. Over the course of the same two weeks, our ad received 369,017 digital impressions. The ad had star power, highlighting the names of a host of influential supporters, among them Angela Davis, Michelle Alexander, Eva Patterson, Susan Burton, Dolores Huerta, and, of course, the FICPFM steering committee.

ACA 6 passed the legislature to appear on the November 2020 ballot as Proposition 17. Now, the people would have a chance to weigh in on a basic right we believe our state government should have embraced and defended decades ago. In more “firsts” for formerly incarcerated-led organizing, we hired a communication strategy group to ramp up our digital presence, run op-eds, and refine our messaging ahead of the November 2020 election. We wanted to center the voices of the formerly incarcerated, so we collected video testimonials from people directly impacted, and we rolled those out on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. We amplified the platforms for those key voices by including high-profile influencers such as Michelle Alexander, John Legend, Dolores Huerta, and Danny Glover, who, like so many who have done time in lockup, are also people of color.

We furthered our commercial media presence by running radio ads in Bakersfield, Fresno, Oakland/San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego three times a day over a three week period. We expanded our reach through digital advertising on Spotify and Pandora, and we advanced our media presence by appearing on both commercial and public radio talk shows—progressive, liberal, and conservative—in both Northern and Southern California.

By Election Day, our staff and stipended AOUON members made 50,000 phone calls in our phone banking efforts, and we sent out over 300,000 text messages.

We distributed over 10,000 “Yes on 17 – Let All People Vote” face masks in front of stores, on buses, on corners, at rallies, in laundromats, at re-entry and drug treatment centers, in barber shops, and at every other imaginable place where our staff could gain entry. To ensure that our message was reaching people incarcerated in the local county jails, we distributed hundreds of masks to the Offices of the Public Defender in San Francisco and Alameda counties, and to the office of San Mateo County’s Private Defender Program. We also distributed masks to non-profits and coalition partners located across the state. And to guarantee that our engagement didn’t escape the attention of our inside-prison membership, we directly mailed Prop 17 information in English and Spanish.

To live up to our commitment to breaking bread with each other instead of wrestling over crumbs, we shared financial resources with other All of Us or None chapters across California to engage in the get-out-the-vote efforts.

Now that the election is over, and 50,000 Californians on felony parole have their voting rights restored, I am anxious to learn the outcome of such a massive effort. Will it be challenged and mitigated by more Jim Crow-style laws, as has happened in Florida? Will it bring us the respect that such a long-fought struggle deserves? Will Black and Brown communities see our votes as their gifts? Now that Prop 17 has passed, will people across the nation be able to connect the dots and realize that formerly incarcerated people have successfully amended three state constitutions in three years? Will they be able to extrapolate that so many caged bodies, if released, could produce fundamental political change in marginalized communities? Will we be viewed as potential assets, instead of liabilities, to our communities? Will we be accepted as the leaders with the experience necessary to lead the movement for the restoration of our own rights? Because next: we’re restoring voting rights to all people in prison.

John Lewis, who was brutally beaten in pursuit of voting rights, taught us more than slogans. He taught us the necessity of sound practices and endurance. No matter the outcome of the election, the ultimate prize could come from the lessons we learned, the hands-on experience we gained, and the willingness to fight back using the law as our tool. We have got to make Black Lives Matter, and we believe we can and will get there.

The passage above is excerpted from Free The Vote 2020: Disenfranchised Californians Lead the Campaign to Restore Our Voting Rights. Hard copies of the report are available upon request. The report can also be accessed online at: bit.ly/FreeTheVote2020Report

About the Artist: Feature Story Background

William Brown is an artist incarcerated in California. Since March, William has been in “quarantine lockdown,” only allowed to leave his cell for 45 minutes, three times a week to contact family and 15 minutes, three times a week to shower. They’ve recently added Rec Yard time, allowing William one hour, three times a week, but the rest of his time is spent in total lockdown in his cell. The intense isolation has stilled his creative energy, but he knows he must find a way to get back to it.

In a recent interview with the Justice Arts Coalition, William said about his ability to create art, “Having this outlet has given me the opportunity to hold on to my true self and to be honest in a way that the brutality of incarceration aims to beat out of you.”
December 2020

Resources & Events

Coronavirus Resources
Supporting directly and system-impacted people during crisis
https://www.beyond-prisons.com/covid19

Safety manuals for individuals in state, federal and California correctional facilities
prisonerswithchildren.org/Coronavirus

COVID-19 Mutual Aid
(Newark, NJ)
https://www.allofusornone-northernnj.com/covid-19-newark-mutual-aid

Join Participatory Defense
ON ZOOM
Every Friday 6PM-7PM

Join the national movement to end slavery in America
Learn more at abolishslavery.us

Welcome Home Initiative
Since the Public Health Credit Bill was signed into law, our communities must prepare for the influx of need to make sure that our brothers and sisters have the mutual aid support they require during this critical time following their immediate release.

If you're able, please help us welcome our family back home.

Visit www.allofusornone-northernnj.com to donate.

The Bail Project-Louisville is providing services to anyone released from jail during the COVID-19 pandemic

Our state constitutions are not symbolic documents, they are living documents that form the basis for all of our laws. The language that remains in our constitutions permitting slavery is immoral and we must remove it.

It's been a crazy year, and we want to thank everyone for making this newspaper such a success and for all of your amazing feedback. We'll be taking a break in December. The next volume of issues will begin in February 2021.

See you next year!
Chapter Contacts

California

Bakersfield
Ucedrah Osby: AOUONBakersfield@gmail.com
Los Angeles/Long Beach
c/o A New Way of Life Reentry
PO Box 875288, Los Angeles, CA, 90087
Phone: (323) 563-3575
Fax: (323) 563-3445
Angelique Evans: angelique@anewwayoflife.org
Orange County
Stephanie Jeffcoat: stephaniejeffcoatocaouon@gmail.com
Danielle Dancer: ddancer7nap@gmail.com
Sacramento
PO Box 292967, Sacramento, CA 95829
Henry Ortiz: henry@prisonerswithchildren.org
San Bernardino
c/o A Time for Change Foundation
PO Box 25040, San Bernardino, CA 92406
Phone: (909) 886-2994
Fax: (909) 886-0218
San Diego
Curtis Howard: allosuforsomediego@gmail.com
Idaho
Idaho Chapter
Mary Failing: maryfailing@my.cwi.edu
Illinois
Central Illinois
PO Box 3026, Peoria, IL 61612–3026
Phone: (309) 232-8583
General Parker: centrallinois@aouon@gmail.com
Chicago
Richard Wallace: Chicago.IIL.2000@gmail.com
Kentucky
Louisville
Savvy Shabazz: AOUONLouisville@gmail.com
Missouri
St. Louis
Patty Berger: AOUONStL@gmail.com
North Carolina
Durham
Andrea “Muffin” Hudson: AOUONNC@gmail.com
Eastern N.C.
Corey Purdie: AOUONENC@gmail.com
Chicago
Richard Wallace: Chicago_IL_AOUON@gmail.com
Illinois
Central Illinois
PO Box 3026, Peoria, IL 61612–3026
Phone: (309) 232-8583
General Parker: centrallinois@aouon@gmail.com

Chapter Contacts

National AOUON Headquarters
c/o Legal Services for Prisoners With Children
4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608
Phone: (415) 255-7036 x337
Fax: (415) 552-3150
AOUON National Organizer:
Oscar Flores: oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org

All of Us Or None

Slave, who is it that shall free you?
Those in deepest darkness lying.
Comrade, only these can see you
Only they can hear you crying.
Comrade, only slaves can free you.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can’t better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

You who hunger, who shall feed you?
If it’s bread you would be carving,
Come to us, we too are starving.
Come to us and let us lend you.
Only hungry men can feed you.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can’t better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Beaten man, who shall avenge you?
You, on whom the blows are falling.
Hear your wounded brothers calling.
Weakness gives us strength to lend you.
Come to us, we shall avenge you.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can’t better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Who, oh wretched one, shall dare it?
He who can no longer bear it.
Counts the blows that arm his spirit.
Taught the time by need and sorrow,
Strikes today and not tomorrow.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
One alone his lot can’t better.
Either gun or fetter.
Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956)

All of Us or None Membership Form

YES, I want to become a member of ALL OF US OR NONE!

Name & Number:

Institution:

Address:

County of Origin:

Mail this form & any questions to:
Willard Birn@AOUON
4400 Market Street
Oakland, CA 94608

☐ I can organize & facilitate group meetings
☐ I can help with membership
☐ I can distribute materials & resources
☐ I can address & pass along feedback