Our Stories

Khalfani Malik Khaldun, an incarcerated writer, artist and activist in Carlisle, Indiana, offers perspective on prison abolition as someone closest to the problem. Page 4

Prior to becoming a 2021 Elder Freeman Policy Fellow, Jesse Clyde Burleson organized a hike for the residents of his transitional home. Read his firsthand account of the how and why. Page 10

Visitation

After presenting powerful testimonies from system-impacted families, the Coalition for Family Unity celebrates a victory in the CA legislature. Plus Bill Watch. Page 8

The INjustice System

A Place to Call Home

The state of reentry housing and how the formerly incarcerated people’s movement is stepping in to take care of our own. Page 6

All of Us or None is an organizing movement started by people who have been in prison in order to challenge the pervasive discrimination that formerly incarcerated people, people in prison, and our family members face. Our goal is to strengthen the voices of people most affected by mass incarceration and the growth of the prison industrial complex. Through our grassroots organizing, we are building a powerful political movement to win full restoration of our human and civil rights.
About the Artist: Cover Image

“Ancestor’s home near Derby” is an acrylic piece by Bruce Fowler. Bruce, an incarcerated artist at San Quentin State Prison in California, is 55 years old and has been imprisoned since September 2000.

Inside This Issue

Feature Story

What does housing look like for the thousands of individuals who are released from prison? Too often, the options are merely an extension of incarceration, with restrictions on movement, constant surveillance, and an infraction system designed to reincarcerate. This month, we look at the state of reentry housing and how the formerly incarcerated people’s movement is stepping in to take care of our own. Page 6

The INjustice System

Khalfani Malik Khaldun, an incarcerated writer, artist and activist in Carlisle, Indiana, offers perspective on prison abolition as someone closest to the problem. Page 4

Mail Bag

A letter from a California prison detailing the daily threat of sickness and violence many incarcerated individuals face with little chance of finding safety or justice. Page 5

Visititation Update

After presenting powerful testimonies from system-impacted families, the Coalition for Family Unity celebrates a victory in the CA legislature. Plus Bill Watch. Page 8

A Note From AOUON Founding Member Dorsey Nunn

The arrival of Spring brings the start of the legislative cycle. Committees begin hearings on bills, our coalitions start advocating in earnest, and the window of opportunity opens wide for our community to have a profound effect on state policy.

Dismissed and excluded from so much of the machinery of democracy—either through centuries of felony disenfranchisement, Jim Crow tactics, or just lack of access—it is vital that formerly and currently incarcerated and convicted people, our family members, and our allies have the opportunity to speak directly to legislators about the policies that impact us on a daily basis. “Nothing about us, without us,” as the saying goes. We are the experts on the effect of these policies, and our voices must be heard.

So as our 9th Annual Quest for Democracy approaches, I’m even more excited about the number and breadth of policies and work our organization is committed to this legislative cycle. We are pushing groundbreaking legislation to make visiting incarcerated loved ones a right, not a privilege. We’re on the verge of eliminating onerous court fines and fees statewide. We’re working to stop ICE from taking our loved ones after they complete their sentence. And we’re kicking off a major campaign to finally eliminate slavery and involuntary servitude from the California Constitution.

Our staff is so hungry for change, and it’s a testament to their passion and the quality of our work that—despite a pandemic—we have grown both in numbers and capabilities. Our capacity to process policy, craft and implement campaigns, and provide assistance to the hundreds of men and women who request legal help has increased across the board.

This benefits not only our community, but our staff as well—our 2021 Elder Freeman Policy Fellows are able to dive into a structured, supportive environment, and I’m already witnessing their intellectual and experiential growth. All LSPC staff and AOUON organizers are soaking up and engaging in an intellectually rich environment I’ve rarely seen or experienced at a non-profit organization. We are full of energy and passion, and we’re ready to make a difference in crafting state and local policy to benefit our communities this legislative cycle.

I hope you will join us on May 4th from 10-2 Pacific for our Quest for Democracy. Your voice matters just as much as ours, and together we can move legislative mountains.

Dorsey Nunn

(an excerpt from the March 2021 E-Newsletter from Legal Services for Prisoners with Children)
We invite you to join us at #DQ4D2021, where hundreds of formerly incarcerated and convicted people, family members, and allies will convene online for community advocacy training, and legislative visits. We speak in our own voices to convince lawmakers to pass a platform of bills to improve access to employment, housing, and education, and to restore our civil and human rights.

“WE are the experts about the legal justice system. Quest for Democracy is an opportunity to speak Truth to Power in our OWN VOICE.”
—DORSEY NUNN

Digital Quest for Democracy Advocacy Day
Training - Rally - Meet with Legislators
Tuesday, May 4 – 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

RSVP: bit.ly/DQ4D2021

www.prisonerswithchildren.org
A Prisoner’s View of Defunding the Police and Prison Abolition

By Khalfani Malik Khaldun

We must not see this young Black man, Jacob Blake, as a victim -- he’s more like a survivor of a wanton, bloodthirsty, trained killer: the Kenosha police. Instead of looking to the video to base the focus of factual evidence on this shooting, the media was given a story that Jacob Black was simply just another Black criminal. They were looking to undermine the seriousness of this man being shot seven times in his back at almost point-blank range.

Where were you the night Jacob Blake was shot? I was sitting in a prison cell when the story came across my TV screen. As I watched this scene play out before me, I instantly felt human compassion for his mother. I felt a deep sense of rage for Jacob's father, as if Jacob Blake was my own son. Jacob Blake was shot and, had he died from his injuries, he would have left behind four beautiful, Black sons. As they had to see their father lying flat on a hospital bed, unable to move, their hearts and brains must have been weighed by questions like, “What did he do wrong?” and “I thought police were here to protect us.” Jacob Blake’s sons will never get over what these callous police did to their daddy.

In 1983, I was 14 years old. My mother and eldest brother, who is now deceased, went out to a party to celebrate my brother graduating from high school. I stayed up until late that night waiting for them to come home. I saw my mother’s car bend the corner and a police squad car followed, pulling up behind them in front of our house. The officer pulled out his weapon and ordered my loved ones to get out of the car. They were told to put their hands on their heads. The officers conducted a pat search, then they searched the car, discovering a 22-millimeter derringer gun in my mother’s purse. As I watched on, I witnessed the police manhandle my mother, place her in handcuffs, and arrest her for the gun. My mother was slammed up against the squad car, forced into the back seat, and taken to the local jail. She bonded out and released. We picked her up and headed home.

I have never forgotten what happened to my mother, who died from cancer in 1997. That caused me not to trust or call the police for anything. But while activist groups and revolutionary organizations push the Defund Police campaign around this country, we must never forget about these prison plantations. They should be defunded also. Officers who may lose their jobs on the force could become a prison officer and perpetuate the same violence to men and women who are incarcerated.

One example of what I’m trying to say is the recent removal of a warden at the Pendleton Correctional Facility here in Indiana. He was replaced by the man who once ran the Guantanamo Bay Prison for accused terrorists. This guy is enforcing behavior modification programs and wants to be seen as a “law and order” type of person. His actions have an impact on prisoners right now.

I have been a ward of the state since 1987. Between the years 1994 and 1997, we lost several comrades to state executions. Gregory Resnover was the last person to be murdered here in Indiana by electrification. His co-defendant, Tommy Smith, was the first to be murdered by lethal injection. For some years now, the death penalty in Indiana was somewhat on hold, but as Election Day 2020 drew near, there was pressure to resume the murder of prisoners on death row. In the fall months, as the people of Indiana panicked over the spread of COVID-19, the state murdered half a dozen prisoners by lethal injection. I have not witnessed this many executions in this state in my three decades of imprisonment. President Trump wanted his supporters to know that he is the “law and order” leader. We must stand in solidarity and say, “Not in our name!”

Please join the progressive groups in your cities and states. Get involved in the fight for justice. Speak up and speak out as our movement builds its focus and reshapes its vision to bring change in America. Let us get some real justice for Jacob Blake, and all our brothers and sisters who have suffered at the hands of the police. Stand together in solidarity.

Khalfani Malik Khaldun is an incarcerated writer, artist and activist in Carlisle, Indiana.
This letter to All of Us or None -- pictured above and transcribed below -- was written by Issac Coronado, an incarcerated writer at California Medical Facility in Vacaville. Issac is a 63-year-old Hispanic man serving life without parole. He has been incarcerated for 22 years.

I would like to speak about the injustice system, how unfair it is. District attorneys lie, plant evidence and tie up our assets. For their evil ways, they get immunity. This is just wrong. How can we expect for them to be held accountable?

The system of mass incarceration is disproportionately Black and Brown and that can’t be because Black and Brown people commit more crimes. Rather, the system is discriminatory toward us. The system, as well as the government, is made up of whites. I have no hate for white people, I just seek to understand this unfair system. One day, I look forward to a justice system where judges and DAs reflect the populations they serve; where each race and religion is represented in Congress and the House of Representatives. Then we will have a country that is fair, a country of immigrants, a country ruled by truth, honesty, love and God. Right now, this country is ruled by the rich. The one's on top control the country.

This goes all the way back to the Native Americans. How was the west won? I’ll tell you how. With alcohol and guns against bows and arrows. Here in California, in Arizona, Texas, New Mexico and Colorado, so much of this land was taken, not purchased. If it was purchased, it was pennies for acres. A lot of people don’t realize but Blacks weren’t the only ones enslaved. So, too, were our Aztec-Mexican ancestors, yet people don’t like to acknowledge that.

I’ve seen silent films about drinking fountains, ones for whites and ones for Mexicans. I’ve seen pictures of trains loaded with Mexicans, so full they were even on top of the train cars, forcing them to move farther south, off the land. Stay here and work as a slave or die by defending our land. My grandfather died when my dad was three working on sewers in California in the early 1900’s.

I don’t claim to know all the answers to life’s problems. I see hate, discrimination toward Hispanics, the poor and those that put the food on the table. This is a country of immigrants and the changes needed in the House and Senate to properly represent all people will not likely be seen in my generation, nor will I ever see a Hispanic president in my lifetime. Look at the past, study it, and hopefully we will see a better future.

My hope is a world where peace, unity and love exist; where there are no divisions or hate amongst religions; a world free of nuclear bombs, guns, chemical agents. One day, I wish I could see. Maybe my grandchildren’s world will be different.
A Place to Call Home

THE QUEST TO FIND, FUND AND CREATE STABLE REENTRY HOUSING OUTSIDE THE PRISON NATION

As a condition of his probation, Ali Birts had to wear a GPS ankle monitor. As the sun set over San Francisco, you could find him watching the horizon from a bench in Oakland, tethered to a wall with a spare outlet so that the device could recharge. He had to pay for the device -- approximately $840 a month -- an expense that forced him to live in his Ford Escape. He knew to go back to the old neighborhood, where he might be able to crash on someone’s couch, would mean going back to his old life, so he made the extremely difficult -- and, therefore, extremely rare -- decision to stick it out until he could afford his own place.

The next evolution of the system of mass incarceration has arrived, with a vast network of surveillance and government-run housing that keeps people with conviction histories under continued control. This is what activist journalists Maya Schenwar and Victoria Law describe as the Prison Nation. (“Prison By Any Other Name,” The New Press, 2020) Often the options for housing as a newly returned citizen are either a restrictive transitional house or the streets.

According to data gathered by Volunteers of America, approximately 700,000 individuals return home from state prisons in the United States each year, with an additional 9 million released from county jails. More than 10% of those coming in and out of prisons and jails are homeless in the months preceding and following their incarceration (Council of State Governments, 2016).

There are more than 1,300 criminal record-related barriers to housing and residency across state, county, and city jurisdictions, and 26 barriers at the federal level, according to a 2021 analysis by the National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction. From background checks to financial assistance exclusion, these barriers often keep newly returned citizens from living with their families and force them into transitional housing.

According to the Prison Policy Initiative, the federal government currently maintains 154 active contracts with Residential Reentry Centers (RRCs) nationwide, and these facilities have a capacity of 9,778 residents. Lack of oversight has made the number of state-run facilities much harder to count. What we do know from the countless experiences of our comrades is that these transitional facilities have become a way to extend incarceration beyond prison walls.

“In federal RRCs, staff are expected to supervise and monitor individuals in their facilities, maintaining close data-sharing relationships with law enforcement,” the Prison Policy Initiative found. “Disciplinary procedure for violating rules can result in the loss of good conduct time credits, or being sent back to prison or jail, sometimes without a hearing.”

In the time of COVID, the similarities are even more apparent. After paroling to a residential substance abuse treatment house, Cole Bienek was placed on “observation” for COVID. He and his seven roommates -- a combination of people in various stages of detox and a couple other recently paroled former lifers -- were required to provide three consecutive negative tests before entering the main program, a process that typically took two weeks.

“It was eerily similar to all the different times I was placed on orientation when I arrived at a new prison,” Bienek said.

Last month, the Department of Housing and Urban Development moved to review the disparate impact and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rules under the Fair Housing Act. Both rules were removed in 2020, allowing landlords to restore the practice of discrimination based on criminal convictions. Similar policies should be considered at the state level, removing barriers to programs and public assistance that only fuel the

“Halfway House” can refer to facilities that differ in function, purpose, and level of carcerality

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children hopes to restore this Black Historical Site in West Oakland to create reentry housing for individuals being released from prison in California.

HOME continues on Next Page
HOME (continued from PAGE 6)

homelessness-to-prison cycle and do nothing to keep communities safe.

But it’s also crucial that we, as a formerly incarcerated persons-led movement, provide the kind of dignified housing our comrades need to have a successful reentry, because we know what is needed.

For example, in the February 2021 issue of All of Us or None, we featured Tia Ryans, the president of All of Us or None Northern New Jersey. Last year, Tia opened the doors of F.O.R.T.E. house, an abandoned property that was fully gutted and renovated using funds generated by formerly incarcerated individuals. F.O.R.T.E., which stands for Forcing Out Recidivism Through Education, is a four-floor, 10-bedroom residence serving as transitional housing for formerly incarcerated students pursuing secondary education. The project is privately funded, without any dependency on state or federal support to ensure its long term survival, and provides peer mentoring to help residents avoid the many pitfalls of the reentry process. Additionally, the revitalization and upkeep of the physical home makes its residents feel empowered and invests them in their immediate community.

“What would happen if we paid attention in a measurable way not only to the impact that formerly incarcerated individuals have on communities, but to how they can enhance it?” Tia asked when she announced the project.

Besides providing crucial support, reentry homes provided by formerly incarcerated people often take into account the knowledge of those who have gone through the reentry process. For example, Susan Burton, a founding member of All of Us or None and the head of the Los Angeles chapter, had firsthand experience with unstable and, at times, unsafe housing for women coming out of prison. In fact, rates of sheltered homelessness among formerly incarcerated people differ widely by race and gender, with Black women nearly four times more likely than white men to be living in a homeless shelter, according to an analysis by the Prison Policy Initiative. That’s why before the Los Angeles chapter of All of Us or None was even founded, Susan had opened a transitional home for women coming out of prison. Today, Susan’s organization, A New Way of Life Reentry Project, owns and operates 10 safe homes for formerly incarcerated women, providing support in obtaining IDs and Social Security cards, helping residents apply for public assistance where appropriate, and deal with any outstanding debts, such as child support. A similar program is being developed in Oakland, funded by Legal Services for Prisoners with Children.

Journalist Jordan Flaherty, in his book Floodlines: Community and Resistance from Katrina to the Jena Six, wrote, “Housing is a human right. There can be no fairness or justice in a society in which some live in homelessness, or in the shadow of that risk, while others cannot even imagine it.” As AOUON continues to imagine ways to redefine the reentry process, we hope you’ll lend your knowledge. Together, we can create spaces that members of our communities can truly call home.

![Before and after images of F.O.R.T.E. House in New Jersey, a transitional home for formerly incarcerated students founded and run by the formerly incarcerated members of All of Us or None Northern New Jersey. Photos by Tia Ryans](image)

---

### Homelessness rates among formerly incarcerated people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Race or ethnicity</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Prior history</th>
<th>Time since release</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General public</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>White</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources & data notes: https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html#metholdology
Family Unity Update

On Wednesday, April 7, the Coalition for Family Unity held a press conference at the Capitol in Sacramento to address issues in CDCR's plan to resume prison visits. They also promoted AB 990 (Bonta), a bill which would make visiting a right, not a privilege.

The 2021 Family Unity Bill recognizes that frequent contact through visits and phone calls preserves family bonds during incarceration, providing family structure for the children and spouses left behind, supporting the mental health of the incarcerated, and helping incarcerated people thrive after release.

In 2009, the California Legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20, which encouraged the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to use the San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (SFCIPP) Bill of Rights as a framework for providing services to children of incarcerated parents. The rights include the right to a lifelong relationship with their incarcerated parents, and the right to speak with, see, and touch their parents.

CFU coalition members traveled to Sacramento from across the state to share their own experiences and hardships visiting their currently incarcerated loved ones. The coalition also hosted a panel with San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin. Boudin, who ran on a platform of criminal justice reform, grew up having to visit both of his parents in prison. His father remains incarcerated and Boudin shared his own struggles growing up with restrictive visitation.

"[AB990] will break the intergenerational cycle of incarceration," Boudin said during the panel, a replay of which is available on the All of Us or None Facebook page. "It will prevent trauma, and it will build community safety through family integrity and unity in ways that we all know – if we have benefited from love from a parent – we know how critical that is and we know that that prevents future crimes."

These testimonies were as heart-wrenching as they were impactful: On April 20, the bill passed out of the Assembly Public Safety Committee with a 6-1 vote. It will now be sent to the appropriations committee for analysis before it is voted on by the entire Assembly.

The 2021 bill will:
- Restore the right to receive personal visits to the Prisoners' Bill of Rights (Penal Code 2600-2601) and strengthen the legal standard for enforcement of these rights.
- Prohibit denying visits for discipline against the incarcerated person unrelated to visiting; omissions or inaccuracies on a visiting application if the information is disclosed on a criminal background report; and a visitor’s or incarcerated person’s criminal history unrelated to visiting.
- Restore four visiting days a week at all CDCR facilities.
- Provide for emergency calls and visits to incarcerated people who become seriously ill.

Directly impacted members of the community who are interested in providing testimony or supporting the Coalition for Family Unity can call (415) 255-7036 x303 or visit the coalition’s website at prisonerswithchildren.org/family.

Steps to Passing AB 990

1) Assembly Safety Committee
2) Assembly Appropriations Committee
3) Assembly Floor
4) Senate Public Safety Committee
5) Senate Appropriations Committee
6) Senate Floor
7) Assembly Concurrence Vote
8) Governor’s Signature
May 2021

Bill Watch

California

- Removal of Involuntary Servitude from the State Constitution (Kamlager) ACA 3 would remove the vestiges of slavery from California’s foundational legal document: its constitution. As a constitutional amendment, the bill requires approval from both legislative houses. Should it be approved by the legislature, it will be posed to voters in the 2022 midterm elections.

- CRISES ACT (Kamlager) AB2054 would establish the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (CRISES) Act pilot program, which will scale up community-based alternatives to police.

- Anti-Racism Sentencing Reform Act (Lee) AB1509 would remove the 12202.5 gun enhancement completely from the state penal code and change the 10-20-25 gun enhancement to 1, 3 and 5 years, respectively.

- Visitations (Bonta) AB990 would enshrine visitation as a right (rather than a privilege) for incarcerated individuals and their families.

Idaho

- Clean Slate (Rubel and Lent) [number pending] would allow individuals with felony convictions for nonviolent and nonsexual crimes to petition the courts to seal their public records. Individuals applying for sealed records would need to have served their whole sentence and have not reoffended in the three years following their release.

Illinois

- Right to Vote (Ford) HB4377/HJRCA33, a bill and constitutional amendment, would ensure incarcerated people would be able to vote in the state of Illinois.

- Electronic Monitoring (Madigan) HB 1115 would eliminate the use of electronic monitoring for people who have completed their state prison sentences and are not required by statute to be on a monitor, ending the practice of imposing electronic house arrest for people who have already done their prison time.

Kentucky

- Kentucky Voting Rights (Higdon) SB62 would amend the Constitution of Kentucky to grant persons convicted of a felony other than a sex offense, a violent offense, or an offense against a child, the right to vote five years after completion of sentence. This bill passed the Senate but was not voted on by the House before the end of the 2020 session.

- Successful Supervision (seeking sponsor) is a proposed bill being made by All of Us or None Louisville and ACLU Smart Justice Advocates of Kentucky. It will seek to target supervision to ensure successful outcomes for those that are dealing with the issues from being on probation parole, including the elimination of fines and fees. It will also establish a system of compliance credits, such as Work for Time credit, Education for Time credit, and a mandatory time calculation.

Missouri

- Fresh Start Act (Koenig) SB 647 would require that no person shall be disqualified from pursuing, practicing, or engaging in any occupation for which a license is required solely or in part because of a prior conviction of a crime, unless the crime for which an applicant was convicted directly relates to the duties and responsibilities for the licensed occupation.

- Death Penalty With Mental Illness (Hannegan) HB 1756 would prohibit the execution of any person found to have suffered from a serious mental illness at the time of the offense for which they are accused.

New Jersey

- Slavery Exemption (Rice and Cunningham) SRC 96 is a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would prohibit slavery or involuntary servitude in New Jersey prisons.


- Public Health Emergency Credit (Mukherji and Sumter) A4235/S2519 would require credits to be awarded to certain incarcerated individuals and returning citizens during public health emergency. It would also prohibit the creditors to have contact with victim upon release.

New York

- Voting Rights (Parke) S 6821 would require the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, in collaboration with the state and county boards of election, to establish a program to facilitate voter registration and voting for incarcerated individuals.

- Humane Alternatives to Long-Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act (Salazar) S2836 has been SIGNED INTO LAW! The passage of the HALT Act will considerably restrict the practice of solitary confinement by limiting the time incarcerated people can be housed in isolation and prohibiting it altogether for vulnerable populations. The law will take full effect in one year.

North Carolina

- The Second Chance Act (Britt, Daniel and McKissick) H 874 would set up automatic expungement for people who are found not guilty or have charges against them dismissed after July 1, 2020, and allow people to petition for the expungement of nonviolent misdemeanor and felony charges after a period of good behavior.

Pennsylvania

- Probation Reform (Williams) SB 14 would reform how long Pennsylvanians stay on probation and the time served in prison for probation violations. It also specifies that a court may not impose a sentence of probation consecutive to another sentence of probation.

Texas

- Marijuana Reform (Talarico) HB 4089 would legalize cannabis use, expunge past marijuana convictions and use the new tax revenue to fund early childhood education.

Washington

- Earned Release Time (Simmons) HB 1282 would restore Washington’s earned time accrual rate to 33% for all incarcerated individuals, ensuring that people are able to earn time off their sentences through participation in education, employment, and rehabilitative programming so that they are better prepared to succeed upon reentry into the community.

- Juvenile Points Bill (Hackney) HB 1413 would give anyone who had juvenile crimes (also known as “juvenile points”) used against them in adult sentencing the ability to go back to court for re-sentencing under a lower sentencing range. The bill includes ALL juvenile crimes without any exclusions. HB 1413 has the potential to impact thousands and thousands of people serving (in some cases decades) longer sentences because of crimes they committed as children.
A
fter being held captive inside California
prisons for 31 years, I was invited by a
childhood friend to go on some hiking
trips. First, we went to Land’s End in San Francisco
and then to the Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve
in the Oakland hills. Sibley, being an elevated,
open space high above the hustle and bustle of
city life gave me a sense of peace.

I’d been experiencing the constant subtle vibe
of electricity for the past three decades and, when
I got to Sibley, it was noticeable that it was gone.
I felt more relaxed being away from the constant
vibration from strong electrical currents upon
my mind and body. It reminded me of when
there were blackouts in the prison and I could
hear the natural sounds of life again.

I thought about how others who have been
held in captivity could benefit from getting
out into nature. That’s when I had the idea of
organizing a hike. When we get released, most
of us are paroled into congested cities where we
are again subjected to the constant bombardment
of strong electrical currents assaulting our minds
and bodies. It isn’t healthy.

On the Sibley hike I met Wutor, a young
20-something African of Ghanian descent.
Wutor was our trail guide for the hike. I liked the
way he led the hiking team so I asked him if he’d
be willing to lead a team of formerly incarcerated
men on a hike. Wutor, who has never been
confined, agreed.

Having secured a trail guide, the next step was
getting the hikers! I called the director of the
transitional house I had paroled to and asked
if I could take out some men on a hike. It was
in the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic
and I knew that the men were not being allowed
out unless they had a job or an appointment. But
for me, that just made it even more important to
get guys out. Fortunately, the director thought it
was a good idea also and asked me to submit an
official email proposal with the details.

I got to organizing. I created a flyer and sign-
up sheet and submitted my official request in
writing. Then I called my friend Marlin Jeffreys
to request support in finalizing the details of the
trip. I met Marlin inside of prison decades ago. He
is now employed as a coordinator for a non-profit
organization doing re-entry work and he liked
the idea. He offered his support, and together
we planned a hike that included transportation,
food, and gift cards for the participants. I rented a
van and Marlin used his truck as we went around
purchasing food, beverages and snacks. My
fiancée pitched in some homemade sandwiches
and we were ready.

Several men signed up for the hike and several
more wanted to go who were at other facilities or
were former residents who heard about it. Suffice
it to say, the interest was there and the hiking
event was a success.

We hiked 5 miles, at least three of those uphill.
We ate lunch at the top of the hill and then had
a gathering where we talked and shared our
experiences. Those who recently returned shared
their feelings about getting out and what their
circumstances were, while those who had been
home longer shared stories of their transitions
and offered support and resources. Afterwards,
we hiked down the final 2 miles then tailgated in
the parking lot for about an hour eating snacks
and refreshments and just hanging out sharing
some laughs.

We talked and shared our experiences.

There hasn’t been another hike, yet, but there
was a strong buzz out that another hike is wanted.
I received several calls and messages from other
formerly incarcerated men who heard of the hike
saying that they want to go to the next hike and
to let them know when it will be. I am thinking
about doing a really big hike where we invite
more formerly incarcerated people. Stay tuned!

Nominate a formerly incarcerated person for
the Coming Home section or submit your
own story about reentry. Nominations and
submissions may be sent to:

AOUON Newspaper Editor
c/o Legal Services for Prisoners with
Children 4400 Market Street
Oakland, CA 94608

I could hear the natural
sounds of life again.
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

One Community
One Mic
All of Us or None’s bi-weekly online gathering
JOIN US! Every Other Thursday at Noon (Pacific)
Contact: William “Iqrq” Palmer / Soul Brother 9
at iqrq@prisonerswithchildren.org

No More Slavery
Learn more at prisonerswithchildren.org/abc

We have a verdict. Now What?
1. Take a deep breath.
2. Take care of yourself. Connect with your loved ones.
4. Use your voice in ALL elections. Register to vote.
5. Continue to #SayHisName.
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

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:
stephaniejeffcoatcaouon@gmail.com
Danielle Dancer: ddancermtap@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
Charlotte
Kristie Puckett Williams: AllOfUsOrNoneNC@gmail.com

Ohio
Greater Cincinnati
Zaria Davis: CincyAOUON@gmail.com

Pennsylvania
Philadelphia
Malik Azz: PhillyAOUON@gmail.com

Texas
San Antonio
Steve Huerta: AllOfUsOrNoneTexas@gmail.com

Tri-State
New York
Ivelisse Gilestra: AOUON.NewYork@gmail.com

Northern New Jersey
P.O. Box 9812, Newark, NJ 07104
Tia Ryans: AOUON.NJ@gmail.com

Washington
Eastern Washington
Megan Pirie: EasternWA2AOUON@gmail.com

Wisconsin
Madison
Caliph Muab-el: WI2AOUON@gmail.com

Idaho

Riverside
Erica Smith: riversideallofusornone@gmail.com
Sacramento
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
Kim Carter: kcarte@timeforchangefoundation.org
San Diego
Curtis Howard: allallofusornone@gmail.com

Illinois

Central Illinois
P.O. Box 3026, Peoria, IL 61612-3026
Phone: (309) 232-8538
General Parker: centralillinoisaouon@gmail.com
Chicago
Richard Wallace: Chicago.IL.AOUON@gmail.com

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:

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

Mail this form & any questions to: 4400 Market Street
Oakland, CA 94608