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.

**You are worth more than your greatest mistake!**

—Jessie Milo

Tired of falling off the floor, I had to make a change.

Life in prison was one bottom
And when I thought I couldn't get any lower, I'd hit another bottom.

I got tired of falling, I identified my patterns and picked up new tools to deal with old issues.

Today there's still love & drama but I don't give up & spiral out of control!

My freedom focused now and that keeps me on the right track.

—Jessie Milo

Serving 200 years to life

Our All of Us or None newspaper is a multi-faceted venture linking those of us who have been locked up, those who are locked up, as well as our families and allies in this struggle. As we envision a monthly paper that speaks to our concerns and hears our cries, we want to ensure that the voices of our people inside are heard and the inside artists are recognized for their contributions to this movement. Your articles and poetry are important to us and your art is a valuable tool as we work together to dismantle the injustices in the Prison Industrial Complex. Please submit any articles, poetry and artwork to the following address: AOUON Editor, 4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608
Coalition for Family Unity (CFU) Update

T he Coalition for Family Unity (CFU), a project of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, is fighting to restore the right to visit as a right, not privilege. We are fighting to increase the availability of visiting in addition to other means of maintaining contact with incarcerated loved ones (such as video, phone, and email). We are also working to lift CDCR’s unreasonable restrictions on the right to visit, such as denials of visits for non-visiting rule violations and denials of visitor applications for innocent errors on the application.

In 2021, CFU sponsored a bill that would have increased the availability of visiting that was added to CDCR’s budget (on an ongoing basis) in 2021, along with transportation support for every prison in the state. Unfortunately, CDCR is trying to cause divisions within the community of incarcerated people and their family members by suggesting that an increase in in-person visiting necessarily means a reduction in video calling, as explained further below. We need to stand united in demanding at least three full days of in-person visiting in addition to video calling.

In 2021, the Governor and Legislature allocated $20.3 million for a third day of in-person visit and transportation support for every prison in the state. Although this funding became available in July 2021, only Pelican Bay State Prison currently provides three days of in-person visiting with transportation assistance.

In the beginning of 2022, the Coalition for Family Unity (CFU) is fighting to restore the right to visit as a right, not privilege. We are fighting to increase the availability of visiting in addition to other means of maintaining contact with incarcerated loved ones (such as video, phone, and email). We are also working to lift CDCR’s unreasonable restrictions on the right to visit, such as denials of visits for non-visiting rule violations and denials of visitor applications for innocent errors on the application.

Meanwhile,CFU is working to require CDCR to fully implement the third day of in-person visiting that was added to CDCR’s budget (on an ongoing basis) in 2021, along with transportation support for every prison in the state. Unfortunately, CDCR is trying to cause divisions within the community of incarcerated people and their family members by suggesting that an increase in in-person visiting necessarily means a reduction in video calling, as explained further below. We need to stand united in demanding at least three full days of in-person visiting in addition to video calling.

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In the beginning of 2022, the Coalition for Family Unity reached out to Senator Maria provenance of her home state. The state of California, just decided not to vote on slavery. The state of California, just decided not to vote on slavery. The state of California, just decided not to vote on slavery. The state of California, just decided not to vote on slavery. The state of California, just decided not to vote on slavery. The state of California, just decided not to vote on slavery. The state of California, just decided not to vote on slavery. The state of California, just decided not to vote on slavery.

I hope this letter finds you in the loving embrace of freedom and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

Dorsey Nunn

Dorsey Nunn's take on failure of ACA3

In Response to a California’s Supermajority Democratic State Legislature’s Failure to Vote to End Slavery

And I know that a couple times on the floor [California Senate] they start talking about they didn’t wanna pay inmates. The reality of it is that before those people are inmates or anything else, they’re people. They couldn’t see prisoners as people. They couldn’t see inmates as people. They couldn’t see prisoners as people. They couldn’t see inmates as people. They couldn’t see prisoners as people. They couldn’t see inmates as people. They couldn’t see prisoners as people. They couldn’t see inmates as people.

The fact that the matter is, they couldn’t see themselves as divorcing themselves in the vestiges of slavery. They couldn’t divorce themselves from the vestiges of slavery. They couldn’t distance themselves from the practice of slavery because the practice of slavery had them talking about please don’t close the prison because it’s gonna affect the economy of the city.

What makes that argument any different than the argument they had during the civil war? It’d be one thing if we didn’t have any existing lessons of the past to draw from, but you know, what the 21st century man, we practiced chattel slavery. It shouldn’t be that difficult to come up and say slavery under all circumstances is wrong.

I think that they don’t they want to admit that they’re holding slaves. I don’t think that they want to admit that they’re exploiting the hell outa people. And the other thing that we should clarify is that people can’t volunteer at gunpoint or nobody would be guilty of robbery.

What does it mean when the so-called free slaves never get a chance to vote on slavery. When all the black people in California don’t get a chance to have a vote to say should their relatives be enslaved. The descendants of slaves don’t get a chance to say should we still maintain that [slavery] as part of our constitution. The legislature denied people the possibilities of voting on the question of slavery in California. The general public could’ve had a whole different take on whether or not they want to maintain the notion of slavery in the constitution. They [the California Legislature] wouldn’t give ’em their privilege. The democratic party holds a super majority in the legislature, meaning that they’re controlling the assembly and the Senate. We also have a governor that’s a democrat.

This is what makes me sad is that I got a grandson serving 25 years in the California department of corrections. I didn’t have a say whether the state of California get to maintain my grandson as a slave.
What to the descendant of enslavers is the 4th of July?

by Cindy McPherson

G rowing up in Baltimore, with my grandmother driving near D.C., for 4th of July we oftenummersed to the Washington Monument. Huge crowds set out picnic blankets to watch a tremendous fireworks display. It seemed awesome and beautiful when I was a kid.

I was taught the dominant narrative about the Revolutionary War, that it was fought for freedom. Francis Scott Key wrote the national anthem while watching a battle at Fort McHenry. The song makes war sound like a joyful fireworks display: “the rockets’ red glare, bombs bursting in air,” a flag waving for the “land of the free.”

I made it through twelve years of private school and four years at a progressive college without learning a true and proper accounting of U.S. history. I am sure the knowledge was available, but the force of white supremacy culture let me succeed without questioning the foundational myths about America or facing our origins in colonization, genocide, and slavery.

I started to question these myths in my forties, meeting with white people to raise our awareness of structural racism and white conditioning. It can be harder for folks like me who are benefitting to see the cost of these structures, because the system that centers white, cis, hetereo, class-privileged people tells us we’re “normal.” The conditioning of silence and numbness wants us not to see or speak about racism.

As I started to pursue new knowledge, thankfully, artists and organizers opened my eyes. I first learned of All of Us or None after seeing Anna Devere Smith’s one-woman show depicting the school to prison pipeline. In the program she listed groups working for criminal justice. From Critical Resistance and their History of Policing workshop, I began to learn previously whitewashed history: the first police in the U.S. were slave patrols; police have never had the goal to keep communities safe; but to protect property for those with wealth and power.

Seeking information about my ancestors, I found that my 4x great grandfather placed an ad in the paper for "a runaway slave." Three generations of my family enslaved people in Pennsylvania, before and after the Revolutionary War. Northerners weren’t the “good ones,” we were complicit and depended on land theft and products of slavery for our economy and wealth building. Many northerners also enslaved people.

One thing I can do about this legacy is to keep learning the history and advocating for truth to be told, including on 4th of July. Like Frederick Douglass passionately persuad in his speech, “What to the Slave is the 4th of July?” slavery goes in direct conflict with the U.S. Constitution. Freedom can’t exist when others are oppressed.

As a descendant whose ancestors profited from slavery, this 4th of July I join with other white folks to grieve the loss of independence and continuous multi-telling community and taking reparative action. I am grateful for the political education I’ve received from All of Us or None, for each one who tells their story, and for all who are reclaiming their ancestry.

Coalition for Family Unity (CFU) Update Continued from page 2

Durazo for support through the Budget Sub 5 Committee in hopes that CDCR would be held accountable for the allocated budget. On May 28th, 2022 the Budget Sub 5 Committee held a hearing and made the first items in the agenda on visiting issues currently happening in California prisons. Three CFU impacted family members testified on the need to follow the directives by legislators in the 2021 May Revised Budget.

Laila Azir from Pillars of the Community testified, “I call in prison families because every day I witness how it directly impacts our children as we fight with every bone in our bodies to keep our families connected.”

Senator Corteze also gave testimony from his wife Pattie Corteze who works mentoring incarcerated people. Senator Corteze read from his wife’s email: “The current process to sign up for video visits is: log in at 6:29 am, not 6:28 or 6:30. 6:29 on Saturday morning for visits the following weekend. Visits cannot be scheduled earlier than 6:30 am. Even when you go through this procedure, there is a very small chance you will be able to secure a visit.”

The Senator then ended his wife’s testimony by adding in his own words, “When people’s rights are at stake and this kind of access problems are an issue...we need to go right to the core.”

Senator Newman who also is a member of the Sub 5 Committee added in ammiration after hearing Laila’s and Pattie Corteze’s testimony, “To Laila’s testimony-Inhumanity is the only word I can think of. It is not ok to dilly dally with people living their lives now. It is just a shocking situation that you have a 5 second interval to determine where your son can connect with their father. We should not allow that and I would like to hear an answer on how to fix it.”

CFU representatives Daniel Cuerva and Kristine Montgomery unfortunately did not have any answers for the Senators and the families testifying. Mr. Cuerva admitted that only one prison, Pelican Bay State Prison, was offering 3 full days of in person visitation along with 3 days of video call days.

In their written report CDCR stated to the Sub 5 Committee that they (CDCR) surveyed the Inmate Advisory Council and State Inmate Family Council and it was in fact them that decided they wanted a day allocated for video calling.

In its report to the Committee, CDCR now states: “To better understand the desires of the incarcerated and visiting populations, CDCR surveyed the incarcerated’s Inmate Advisory Councils (IAC), which are made up of incarcerated elected representatives on yards at every prison, and the statewide Inmate Family Council (SIFC), which are made up of family members and loved ones of incarcerated people who represent their interests, about the pilot video visiting program implemented in December 2020.

The response was overwhelmingly in favor of continuing to dedicate one of the three visiting days for video visiting moving forward. Video visiting occurs in the same location as in person visiting. Due to space limitation and other factors, video visiting and in person visiting typically occur on separate days.” This statement from CDCR has yet to be confirmed by the groups involved.

A Call on All Inmate Advisory Council Members

CFU calls on all Inmate Advisory Council Members to reach out to Joanna Gonzalez, Family Coordinator, LSDC, 4400 Market Street, Oakland, CA 94608 to confirm or dispute CDCR’s statements and comments survey you conduct on this matter with us.

We are seeking unity with IAC & SIFC in the fight to hold CDCR accountable on the allocated budget for 3 in person days of visit in addition to video calling.

CFU made a promise to work with the VSA vendor to resolve technical problems—This does not solve the structural problem of insufficient in-person visiting time. Moreover, CDCR’s report incorrectly suggests that it took action to stagger appointment openings in response to the Subcommittee hearing. In fact, that action was taken long before the hearing in response to outcry from frustrated family members, and it was still insufficient to prevent the experiences testified to by Laila Azir and Senator Corteze.

Regarding actions taken since the hearing, CDCR reports that it is helpful, but cannot be an excuse for failing to implement the Legislature’s budget directives and should not be used as a cover for CDCR’s not proposing or considering a solution that would accommodate both the desire for video calls and full implementation of three in-person visiting days.

We urge the Subcommittee to ask CDCR to identify the stakeholders who will be invited to participate in these discussions, and we specifically request that the Coalition for Family Unity be included, as we represent families of incarcerated people in California prisons across the state.

Finally, CDCR promised to implement the transportation funding at some unspecified date. As described above, the Subcommittee should require CDCR to account for the delay with much greater specificity. For example, CDCR argues that none of the bidders were able to accommodate 600 trips and for that reason has waited a whole year to request another bid. That could easily be solved by contracting with multiple bidders to start transporting California families to their loved ones and starting use of the ongoing allocated 2.3 million for transportation.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Subcommittee to implement the Legislature’s directives and the Governor to provide three in-person visiting days at all California prisons and the related transportation.
All of Us or None was very honored to ride on the Grand Marshal’s float at the request of DJ Black in partnership with Katie Dixon of the ACLU. It was a great experience to be in the community and see all of our people out to support one another. LSPC’s Tatiana Lewis said “Pride was amazing. I loved how we were able to come out and show love to the LGBTQ+ community. I really enjoyed myself, and all the beautiful art and themed costumes pride had to offer. I can’t wait for next year!” LSPC’s Marvin Galdamez says “It was a privilege to celebrate pride in community with all our LGBTQ+ family and see the harmony amongst us all. This is exactly why we say ALL OF US OR NONE!”

The community in large expressed concern over the fact that specifically among other things the right to marry ones chosen partner regardless of sex is under attack. I would be remiss if I did not mention that All Of Us Or None understands the impact of the court's decision. Since our inception in 1978 Legal Services for Prisoners with Children has been a strong advocate specifically for the rights of women and we stand in unity with the LGBTQ+ community.

Thank you to AOUON for supporting the 2022 SF Pride Parade. I’ve been to Pride every year since being released from incarceration in 2014, and it’s always been a very important event to me. This year the Pride Parade was back after 2 years due to the pandemic. As a volunteer of AOUON, I had the amazing opportunity to be a part of the Parade for the first time. It was such an awesome opportunity, and I had a great time. I owe a big thank you to AOUON, as this wouldn’t be possible without this amazing group. I’m forever grateful to be a part of AOUON, and as I always say, this group has changed my life for the better.

KD, Volunteer
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/Los Angeles/Long Beach  
c/o A New Way of Life Reentry  
90087  
Phone: (332) 596-3575  
Fax: (332) 596-3445  
Stephanie Jefcoat (657) 262-0670  
sjefcoat@anewwayoflife.org

Orange County  
Stephanie Jefcoat:  
stephaniejefcoat@auonorg.com  
Danielle Dancer: ddancertnap@gmail.com

Sacramento  
PO Box 292967, Sacramento, CA 95829  
Henry Ortiz: henry@prisonerswithchildren.org

San Bernardino  
c/o A Time for Change Foundation  
92304, San Bernardino, CA 92406  
Phone: (909) 886-2994  
Fax: (909) 886-0218  
Kim Carter: kcartertimeforchangefoundation.org

Riverside  
1390 W. 6th St.,  
Corona, CA 92882  
Shaun Lefore: shaun@startingover.inc  
Fidel Chagolla: fidel@startingover.inc

San Diego  
Curts Howard: allofusoronesandiego@gmail.com

Idaho  
Mary Failing: maryfailing@my.cwi.edu

Illinois  
Central Illinois  
PO Box 3026, Peoria, IL 61612-3026  
Phone: (309) 232-8583  
General Parker: centralillinoisaouon@gmail.com

Chicago  
Richard Wallace: Chicago.IL.AOUON@gmail.com

Kentucky  
Louisville  
Savvy Shabazz: AOUONLouisville@gmail.com

Missouri  
St. Louis  
Patty Berger: AUONStL@gmail.com

North Carolina  
Durham  
Andrea "Muffin" Hudson: AOUONNC@gmail.com

Tri-State  
New York  
Jeeleeise Galestra: AOUONNewYork@gmail.com

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

Washington  
Eastern Washington  
Megan Pirie: EasternWAOUON@gmail.com

Wisconsin  
Madison  
Caliph Muab-el: WI.AOUON@gmail.com

Georgia  
Atlanta  
Walesah Wilson  
(404) 860-2837

South Jersey  
Ronald Pierce (732) 608-4752  
rpierce@njsij.org

South Carolina - Greenville  
Angela Hurks  
(864) 991-1388 (m) (854) 236-1393 (f)  
stepbystephopeproject@charter.net  
www.stepbystephopeproject@charter.net

All of Us or None Membership Form

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4400 Market St.  
Oakland, CA 94608 |

July 2022

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.

You who hunger, who shall feed you?  
If’ts bread you would be carving.  
Come to us, we too are starving.

Come to us and let us lead you.  
Only hungry men can feed you.

Every thing or nothing. All of us or none.

One alone his lot can’t better.  
Either gun or fetter.

Every thing 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.

Taught the time by need and sorrow,  
Counts the blows that arm his spirit.

Who, oh wretched one, shall dare it?

You, on whom the blows are falling,  
Contribute to the All of Us or None

If you would like to send feedback or contribute to the All of Us or None newspaper, please contact the Editor.

AOUON  
4400 Market Street  
Oakland, CA 94608  
info@prisonerswithchildren.org

Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956)  
Earliest Parole/Release Date: _____________  
County of Parole/Probation: _______