



# ALL OF US OR NONE

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 prison industrial complex. Through our grassroots organizing, we are building a powerful political movement to win full restoration of our human and civil rights.



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

# Message from Dorsey

Co-Founder of AOUON and Executive Director of LSPC



Dorsey Nunn

Our extensive Policy Work is inspired by people both outside and in prison, and usually benefits both parts of our community.

This year, sponsoring and passing SB 1008 with Senator Becker and the other co-sponsors was a big win: free phone calls for people in California prisons! Phone calls are vital to keeping families connected, and the high cost of the calls hurts families already struggling with the loss of loved ones.

Co-sponsoring and passing SB 731 with Senator Durazo was a big win: the Sunsetting Convictions law will prospectively and retroactively seal conviction and arrest records after four years and

thus remove barriers to employment, housing, and services.

Successfully campaigning for the Governor to veto SB 1262 (Bradford) was a big win: we don't want to make it easier for background check companies to search conviction histories! We demand the end of background checks! If you've completed your sentence, there shouldn't be any barriers to employment, housing, education, etc.

Please see the Policy Roundup section below for all the wins we accomplished this year.

But we also had some setbacks. The VISION Act (AB 937 – Carrillo) failed to pass the Senate by three votes. This means that people who have completed their prison sentences will continue to be turned over to ICE instead of being reunited with their families while fighting deportation. We will continue the fight to keep ICE out of CA prisons in 2023.

To do so, we need our people who are currently incarcerated to get more engaged. With the passage of Prop 17 in 2020, we won the restoration of voting rights to California citizens outside of prison. And while we work to restore voting rights for all—inside or out, just like Maine, Vermont, and D.C.—those of you currently incarcerated still have an important role to play: To take a greater role educating each other and family members about the issues that matter to people inside. To turn those convos on the yard into opportunities of enlightenment and inspiration. To ask your family members to support you with their vote in addition to your books. To learn before you walk out how best to fight for our own freedoms, and to return to our communities an asset instead of a liability.

Our current campaign to abolish prison slavery is a perfect opportunity for people inside to get involved, because YOU are the ones doing the slave labor. YOU are the ones being paid pennies for hard, dangerous work. YOU are the ones being punished for refusing to work. Your voice and experience are key to removing the last vestiges of Jim Crow and slavery from our governing documents and prison practices.

Together we can continue to do the work that keeps us connected with family and community while dismantling the prison-industrial complex from both the outside-in and the inside-out.



## SELF DETERMINATION PLEDGE

**As members of All of Us or None, we pledge:**

**To demand the right to speak in our own voices**

**To treat each other with respect and not allow differences to divide us**

**To accept responsibility for any acts that may have caused harm to our families, our communities or ourselves**

**To fight all forms of discrimination**

**To help build the economic stability of formerly-incarcerated people**

**To claim and take care of our own children and our families**

**To support community struggles to stop using prisons as the answer to social problems**

**To play an active role in making our communities safe for everyone**

# Movement Maker

T	E	P	N	P	A	H	I	A	E	I	L	M	E
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N	O	H	Y	T	E	E	R	F	R	E	A	V	V
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N	R	O	P	N	T	O	N	G	I	P	N	R	N
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- FREE
- INHUMANE
- INVOLUNTARY
- PROPERTY
- GOVERNMENT
- UNCOMPENSATED
- LEGISLATION
- PUNISHMENT
- PRISON
- SLAVERY
- ERADICATE
- OUTPUT
- LABOR
- SERVITUDE

Answer key on page 6

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## Cover Image

Beauty Even in the Dark by Scotty Scott Acrylic and watercolor on paper, 3/2022

# Common at the Freedom & Movement Center!



On Wednesday, September 28, Common—rap superstar, actor, and founder of Imagine Justice—visited LSPC to meet the staff and then go door knocking around the Longfellow neighborhood of Oakland California to ask people to vote in the election this November 8.

While much Criminal Justice “reform” focuses on Federal and State sentencing laws, the D.A. decides who to charge and with what, effectively being the Gatekeeper of the Prison-Industrial Complex. LSPC encourages all voters to know who is running for their county D.A., and how that person’s politics and platform affects our community.



The GOTV event followed a short performance by Common after a panel discussion on “Why District Attorneys Matter” in Downtown Oakland. Moderated by Irene Kao of Courage California (below, far left), the panelists included (left-to-right): Cat Brooks (Anti Police-Terror Project, KPFA host), George Galvis (Executive Director of CURYJ, LPSC Board President), Wanda Johnson (mother of Oscar Grant), and Dorsey Nunn (Executive Director of LSPC).

Live your Life for  
The Release Date You Want,  
Not the Release Date You have!  
- Jessie Milo  
Serving 200 years to Life



## It's Okay to Dream!

by Jessie Milo  
"As a kid in the hood I chased death—Now I chase freedom and a better future!"

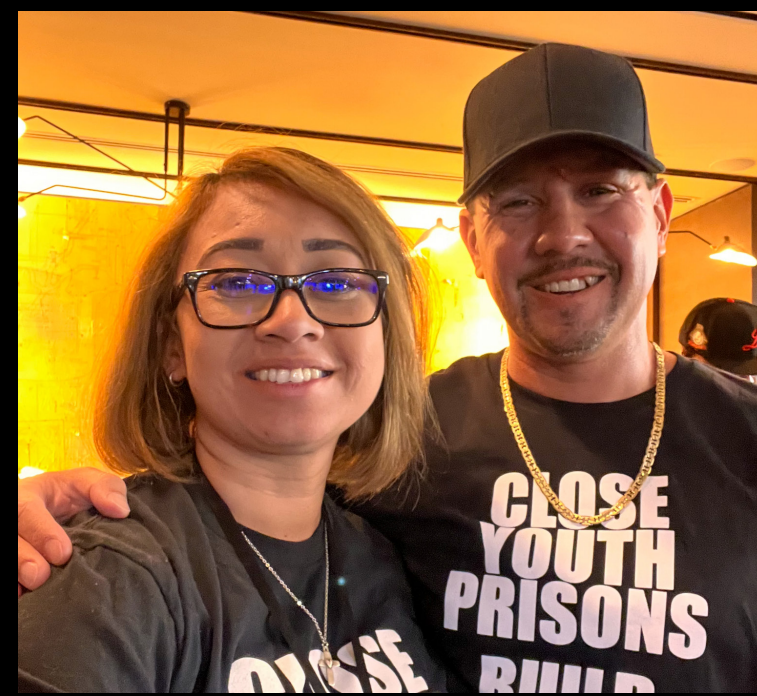
I was sentenced to die here in my youth (174 +6 lives) for attempted murder. I am sorry for my crimes and changed years ago. 20 years and still no release date or hearing. I pray for freedom and a chance to get out and share what I've learned with little versions of me.

# Spotlight

## FICPFM: Free the Vote 2022 National Conference



All of Us or None joined the Formerly Incarcerated, Convicted People and Families Movement (FICPFM) at their annual National Conference October 6th - 9th, 2022 in Atlanta, Georgia. This years conference was dedicated to providing space for the individuals and communities directly effected by the criminal legal system to share their stories and network with one another. The conference was also an opportunity to gather and prepare for the 2022 Midterms Elections with the "Free the Vote" campaign to change the narrative surrounding formerly incarcerated people and families.



Attendees said the conference was great, focusing on many topics ranging from gender and prison pipeline and offering different perspectives and ways to find common ground. This conference was also a way from organizations and individuals to network from all over the country. It helped connect activists and shine light on additional plans or resources needed in states that are more conservative or have "KKK legislatures".

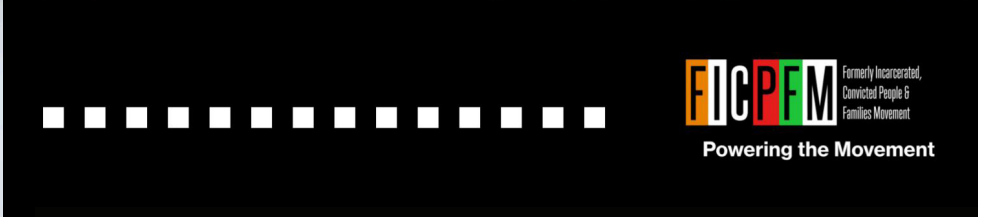
Other attendees said that it was "pretty darn joyous" meeting people and making plans for the future to visit LSPC/AOUON in California. Along with meeting several people who wanted to start AOUON Chapters in their own states.

The conference had many workshops ranging from voting rights to Crimmigation. One attendee reported back that the Crimmigation workshop hit her personally, being from an immigrant family, and goes on to mention that some people don't even know their own status.

The overall consensus from all attendees is that camaraderie is inspiring! To be able to share information and skills and make connection will only make us stronger.



## FREE THE VOTE FICPFM 2022 National Convening



The overall consensus from all attendees is that camaraderie is inspiring! To be able to share information and skills and make connection will only make us stronger.



(Left to Right) Three formerly incarcerated directors who helped restore voting rights for millions: Norris Henderson, Voice of the Experienced (VOTE NOLA), Desmond Meade, Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC), and Dorsey Nunn, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children / All of Us or None.

LSPC / All of Us or None is a proud founding member and current steering committee member of FICPFM. We organized the inaugural 2016 FICPFM National Convening in Oakland and continue to work with the other formerly incarcerated-led orgs to uplift our communities and fight for the full restoration of our rights across the country.

# Policy Update

by LSPC Policy Analyst Jeronimo Aguilar

The 2022 close of another legislative session with some impactful victories as well as some visible scars from tough losses. Our Abolish Bondage Collectively (ABC) campaign aimed to finish the work of our legendary predecessors who abolished plantation slavery and the brutal exploitation of human beings with the passage of ACA 3. In a painful loss in the struggle for human rights, the California Senate chose the preservation of slavery over allowing CA voters to determine if we as a society should continue to dehumanize incarcerated populations through forced labor practices and involuntary servitude, from which CDCR and participating corporations profit millions of dollars through cheap labor and sub-sweatshop wages and conditions.

Further, AB 937 the VISION Act was also struck down yet again in the California Senate. CDCR's inhumane practice of transferring individuals to ICE custody after the completion of their sentences has caused hundreds (if not thousands) of families to be tragically separated—many never to be reunited. Individuals who serve their sentences and earn their opportunity at redemption, even to the point of securing a release date by the Board of Parole Hearings, deserve to be reunited with their loved ones and communities. Yet this cruel practice will continue because of a strong belief in xenophobic myths regarding threats to public safety and the demonization of our migrant and undocumented communities, none of which is rooted in reality.

Nevertheless, our resolve is as strong as ever and we are determined to continue our mission of advocating for the full restoration of the civil and human rights of currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, our families, and communities. We also understand that the trajectory of justice ebbs and flows, and we must remain consistent and steadfast in our commitment to justice. Expect LSPC and All of Us or None to be back on the frontlines regarding these issues as the struggle continues!

Lives will be changed as a result of many of the legislative wins we were able to secure. As an organization that prides itself in uplifting the voices and leadership of directly impacted organizers, advocates, and activists, our communities' heart, strength, and resilience was on full display this past year. We experienced adversity but we stood steadfast and accomplished reforms that will have a direct impact on our incarcerated loved ones and their families.

I am beyond honored to continue leading our Policy/Legislative efforts into next year and beyond under the leadership of Dorsey Nunn and Hamdiya Cooks-Abdullah, and I am excited to work with all our people, inside and out, to build better communities.

Even with the tough losses, we achieved some notable victories this year. All of these bills were cosponsored by Legal Services for Prisoners with Children and All of Us or None:



**SB 1008 (Becker):** This bill will ensure FREE telecommunication for all individuals incarcerated in CDCR (CA State Prison). This legislation will end the longstanding economic exploitation and price gouging experienced by incarcerated peoples and their families, paying exorbitant amounts for telecommunication with their loved ones.

**SB 731 (Durazo):** This bill will implement a system to prospectively and retroactively seal conviction and arrest records to remove barriers to employment, housing, and services for those living with past convictions.

**SB 1106 (Wiener):** This bill would prohibit judges from denying petitions for expungement based on outstanding restitution.

**AB 1720 (Holden):** This legislation will increase access for individuals with criminal backgrounds to work in Community Care facilities by requiring the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to create a simplified record exemption for applicants seeking a license or special permit to operate or manage community care facilities, certain residential care facilities, and child daycare centers.

**SB 1139 (Kamlager):** This bill will make it possible for incarcerated loved ones to have a family member by their side when in hospice and will implement a format of guided steps and tools to afford incarcerated people and their families a humane health care process.



**[LSPC Successfully OPPOSED] SB 1262 (Bradford):** Makes open to the public, sensitive information concerning background checks from local court indexes. Increases (dangerously) access to background information. This harmful legislation would have overturned the AOUON Riverside V. Hamrick decision and increased public access to community members' sensitive background information.

"Spread the Word" - Cut out & mail to family!

**REGISTER TO VOTE!**

USE YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA TO SCAN THIS QR CODE:



ARE YOU:  
• A California Citizen?  
• Out of Prison?  
**YOU CAN VOTE!!!**  
• On Parole?  
• On Mandatory Supervision?  
**YOU CAN VOTE!!!**



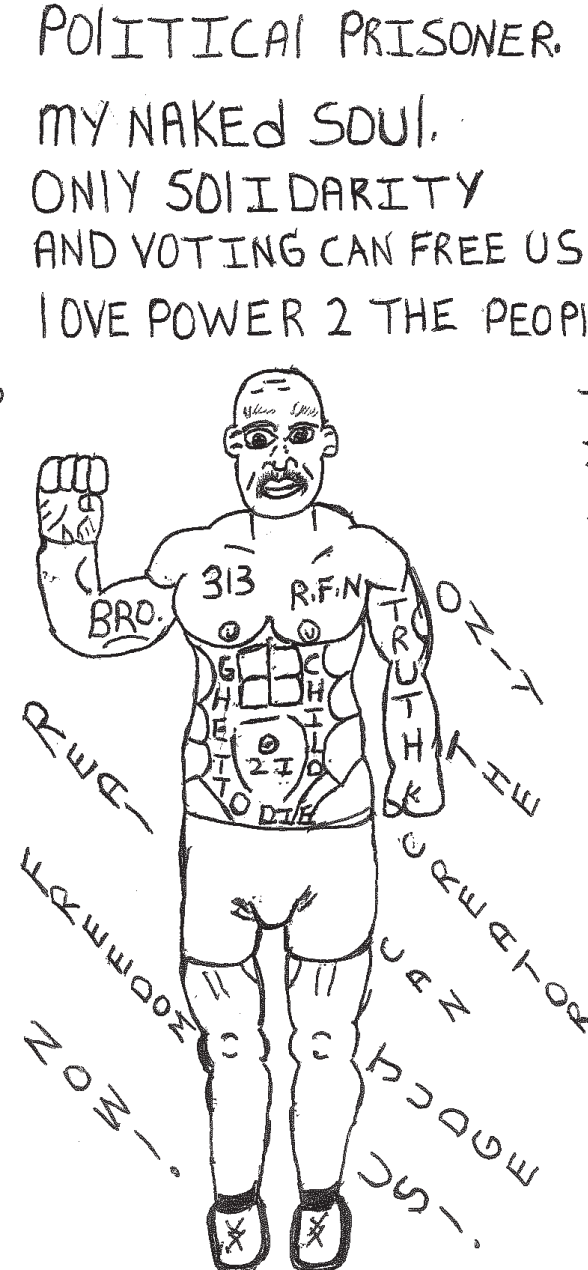
# Mailbag

## Caught Up in This Racist Pain

by Bro. Truth AKA Bro. Hernandez Wiley



TITLE) CAUGHT UP IN THIS RACIST PAIN.  
CHORUS) MADE ME TEMPORARY LOSE MY MIND, (REPEAT TITLE)  
VERSE 1) OPEN MY THIRD EYE, I WAS ONCE BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE, UNCLE SAM, AINT GOT NO SHAME, BLACK GENOCIDE, LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE COURTS, THE PENAL SYSTEM, DROVE TEMPORARY INSANE FROM THE RACIST TRAUMA, THOUGHT I KNEW IT ALL, DIDN'T KNOW NOTHING, SLEEPWALKING, MISSED OUT ON SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES, LET THE ONLY FRIEND I HAD GET AWAY, 2 BLIND 2 SEE SHE WAS THERE 4 ME, BESIDE IDA MAE WILEY, CYNTHIA MOORE, WAS THE ONLY PERSON WHO HAD LOVE 4 ME, SORRY PEEY.



POLITICAL PRISONER. CAUGHT UP IN THIS RACIST PAIN. MADE ME TEMPORARY LOSE MY MIND. (REPEAT TITLE)  
VERSE 2) THE MOST ONES, LOVE POWER 2 THE PEOPLE! THINK I'M INSANE, WHEN I SPIT THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS HOLOCAUST IN PROGRESS, MAJORITY OF MY LIFE BURIED AIVE IN THE NEW JIM CROW, SENTENCE TO 35 YEARS 4 A CRIME I DIDN'T DO, BROUGHT ME BACK 2 MY SENSES, HILLARY IRONS CALL IT THE RIGHT NAME, HOME FIRE, TOTAL DEVASTATION, NO OFF SPRINGS, OR FAMILY, GLAD I'M A WARRIOR, BUT CAN'T DO IT ALONE, NEED OUTSIDE SUPPORT.

## Hidden In the Dirt of Darkness!

by David Meade

A child may go through psychological pain of being afraid of the dark,

but the real tragedy of life is when man is afraid of the light and afraid to accomplish his goals with body, mind, and heart.

A child may be afraid of failure and not want to try to succeed again,

But it's shameful for a man to just quit and not know that the day that he fails is when his true journey then begins.

A child may not know right from wrong as he destroys and depicts the beauty of a sacred valley,

But it's like a man is hallucinating in blindness when he refuses to face the depth of his own reality.

Why be afraid of the light when it will eventually prevails after the climax of darkness?

Except the light with truthfulness and honesty even if you accept it with embarrassment and harshness.

Not accepting the truth is like falling from a bicycle and then getting up and kicking the bike,

And rather you reject the truth or accept it but that which goes on in the darkness will soon prevail within the light.

## Submit your art and/or news articles for publication.

-or-  
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



# 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 lead 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)

AOUON is a grassroots organizing project of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC) fighting to restore the civil and human rights of formerly and currently incarcerated people and our families. Started in California in 2003, AOUON currently has chapters all over the country advocating effectively to Ban the Box, restore voting rights, increase access to housing and education, and end mass incarceration. We demand a voice in building healthy communities.

LSPC organizes communities impacted by the criminal justice system and advocates to release incarcerated people, to restore human and civil rights, and to reunify families and communities. We build public awareness of structural racism in policing, the courts, and prison system, and we advance racial and gender justice in all our work. Our strategies include legal support, trainings, advocacy, public education, grassroots mobilization, and developing community partnerships.

# Chapter Contacts

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## All of Us or None Membership Form | Yes, I want to become a member of ALL OF US OR NONE!

Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Origin: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have children? YES / NO. Do you need support with family issues? YES / NO

Earliest Parole/Release Date: \_\_\_\_\_ County of Parole/Probation: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

