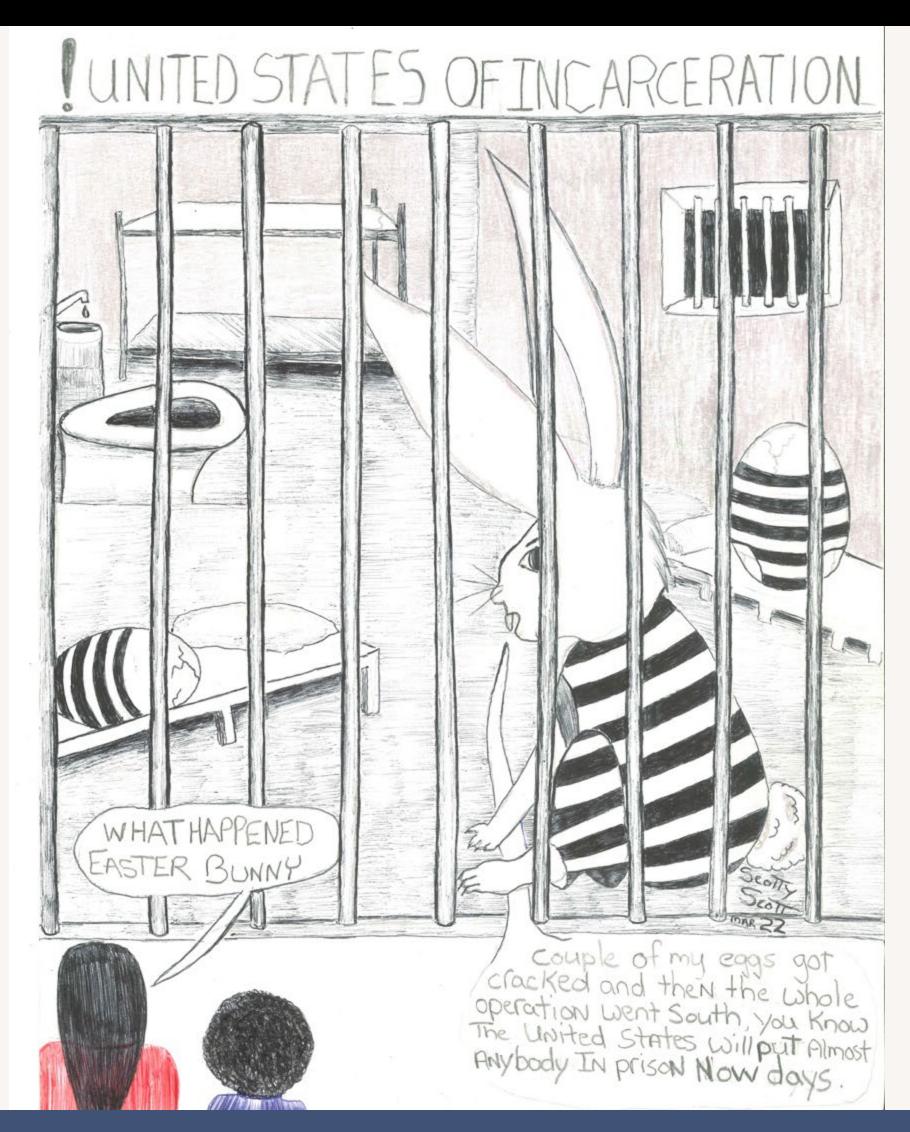


All of Us or None is an organizing movement started by people who have been in prison in order to challenge the pervasive discrimination that formerly incarcerated people, people in prison, and our family members face. Our goal is to strengthen the voices of people most affected by mass incarceration 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

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Message from Dorsey

by Dorsey Nunn

Co-Founder of AOUON and Executive Director of LSPC



ver the course of being the Executive Director for the past 15 years, and as one of the Co-Founders of All of Us or None since its inception in 2003, I've had a clear vision of what kind of organization LSPC could be with our unique combination of legislative advocacy, litigation strategy, and grassroots organizing.

Before moving from San Francisco to plant our roots in North Oakland in 2018, we were down to ten or twelve staff members, and bleeding rent every month. Since then, we've purchased our own building, earned rent from tenants, and have grown to a staff of 27. While the pandemic created some challenges accomplishing our goals, we adapted and still successfully passed legislation, held our annual Quest for Democracy Advocacy Day, assisted our community with employment and housing, and grew our AOUON membership, especially inside prisons.

In 2022, with staff back to normal—and even expanded to an office in Sacramento—I look at our work and see the pieces of my vision falling into place. Just in time, too, with Hamdiya retiring as Administrative Director next year after 20 years at LSPC, and with myself stepping away in 2024, it's imperative that we leave the organization on solid

financial footing and organized to thrive during and after the transition.

We have just hired our first Managing Director to coordinate all our moving parts into a cohesive motion. We will be hiring a Deputy Director early next year to begin the transition over the next two years. We are adjusting and refining our organizational structure to better serve our campaigns and projects, while adding more staff to support our mission.

I'm very proud of our Legal Team, who are passionate and incredibly engaged on multiple fronts, from continuing our litigation to end long-term solitary confinement, to ensuring the implementation of our voting rights victory with Prop 17, to working on eliminating court fees for people who cannot pay. We have grown, too, with the addition of a Catalyst Justice Legal Fellow for the next two year. All our lawyers are involved in responding to the thousands of letters we receive from people inside prisons and jails requesting legal information and support.

Our Policy Fellowship continues to develop into a dynamic, structured program to train formerly incarcerated people into experienced policy advocates and organizers. Instead of just complaining about the issues, our Policy Fellows engage both intellectually and practically to carry out effective campaigns while speaking in their own voices. The election cycle can sometimes look like a blood sport, but our Policy Fellows—our whole Policy Team, in truth—produced heroic work and turned adversity into the opportunity to support our community.

We are in an amazing position to continue our campaigns to Abolish Bondage Collectively, to remove structural discrimination in employment and housing, and to expand visiting rights for families.



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

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CONCENTRATE
IMPETUS
INNOVATIVE
MOMENTUM
LIMITLESS
EMPOWERMENT
CATALYST
GUMPTION
BUILD
POWERFUL

HARMONY ENDURANCE

FREEDOM

BREAKTHROUGH DETERMINATION

DEDICATION

COURAGE HUMBLE

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Cover Image

United States of Incarceration by Scotty Scott Ink pen and colored pencils



Answer key on page 6

December 2022

Jesse's Corner

by Jesse Burleson

LSPC/AOUON In-Custody Program Coordinator



oday's Corner features what is taking place in Alabama state prison, where prisoners are assigned work without adequate payment and penalized if they refuse to work. While Californian prisoners struggle to find support to end their own slavery inside of California prisons, i.e., penalizations for refusing to work, we highlight how Alabama prisoners took matters into their own hands.

The following is an excerpt from an interview done in October 2022 on KPOO 89.5 FM with Brother Kinetic Justice, and state prisoner inside an Alabama state prison, who participated in the work stoppage inside Alabama prisons in support of ending slavery inside Alabama prisons.

Peace and power and love brother man its good to be back in the presence of some real men who are struggling for freedom... We're very disgruntled in Alabama. We're dissatisfied... We got to a point of extreme dissatisfied

that we don't see nothing else to do but to express our dissatisfaction in an organized fashion... Where promoting slavery still exists and we're organizing around abolishing slavery once and for all and that was years and years ago... For the last 10 years since we've been organizing we got more sophisticated and we started recording, we started documenting, we started highlighting, we started exposing, and you know we built a case for the federal government and the DOJ came in and verified all of our claims and brought some additional ones, but the end of the story was that Alabama was running a straight slave system. There was no rehabilitation. They eliminate opportunities to go home and just said that you're a commodity. That's the Alabama way. And that's that slave system that they've had for the entire existence of this state.

After repeated requests for the DOJ to intervene and do something brothers began to organize on the



inside and communicate that this was unacceptable. Why would we continue to hold this prison system up? Why in the hell are we keeping the prison system running? It's the only part of the apparatus that's working, because we are working. And part of our struggle throughout the years is we been organizing around our labor in a nonviolent and peaceful way as a means not to just express our discontentment and dissatisfaction with these conditions and this situation but to be politically organized and to start effectuating change by exerting not just our economic power and our social power but our political power. We began to organize in a fashion to use this time and this period to make this expression that slavery is over. We ain't doing it no more. We refuse. We ain't doing it no more. At present we're on a two week pause, but October 31st we're going right back down. We were three weeks in and the first time ever that an entire state has been on the same page, the women, death row, and all of the men's prisons. That for three weeks we were able to make a statement that this was no longer acceptable, and following that coming up on the election of taking slavery out of the constitution. The timing just was perfect and what was different this time was we had consensus not just in three or four prisons, we had a consensus in every prison. 77

This month the people of Alabama voted to remove slavery from their state constitution! Power is in the hands of the people who use it. Congratulations to all those prisoners in Alabama who endured whatever came to them but still stood up and stood together in support of themselves!

Excerpts from Letters

"My aim for change is to see things for what they are, not for what they should be... I must understand it's not about being right it's about doing right."

"The echoes in the

Bruce M. Dixon
Soledad state prison (2022)

"The echoes in the night, stir me in my sleep. I toss and turn while concrete walls remain still into the night."

Francisco "Frank" Gonzalez RJ Donovan state prison (2022)

"Let's remember to continue to share and expose the truth... Women prisoners have it the worst and are not safe inside the walls of prisons."

Angel M. Garza Corcoran state prison (2022)





"Convicted Beauty"

by Scotty Scott, 2022

Call For Cover Art

AOUON wants to feature your original drawing or painting on the cover.

Submit your artwork to FAM Center:
AOUON Newspaper Editor
4400 Market Street
Oakland, CA 94608

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Honoring Sandy Williams



THE SPOKANE SP

This paper is dedicated to Sandy Williams, activist, founder, and editor of The Black Lens, an Eastern Washington based Newspaper.

The Black Lens gave a voice to the black community inside and out. Changing the lives of it's contributors and readers through

addressing racial disparities and uplifting and educating the community of Spokane and beyond.

Sandy died in a plane crash in the Puget Sound on September 4, 2022.

Sandy you were a bright light and will forever be missed.



I will Always Believe A letter to Sandy Williams

Dear Sandy,

I never got the opportunity to tell you thanks for providing a listening ear when very few paid attention. From the moment you first walked into Coyotes Ridge Correction Center in 2015, I knew that you were special. You identified in a moment's notice that the voices of the men who surrounded you needed to be empowered and heard throughout Washington State. I will always believe in a process that involves a care similar to what you have produced.

Sandy, you single handedly redefined what support is supposed to be for those who exist in a broken system (prison). You never gave up on me, and I will never give up on you. What you connected me to has inspired me to express activism in a whole new way. All I can pray for is one more second with you to share the growth that you helped develop in me. At this time, I cannot. Until we are face to face again, I will always believe.

It was through the Black Lens Newspaper that I established a relationship with professors at Eastern Washington University. The Black Prisoner Caucus' hosted African American seminars that informed brothers of the greatness attached to their black skin.

A soldier for true change you stood grounded upon principles elevating a community of people smothered in atrocities. When any issues regarding the practices of these entities disregarded the 13th amendment, a plan to expose the oppressors treacherous behavior was presented. The black Lens Newspaper became my intellectual home. A place that felt like home even though I was physically in prison. This type of assistance turned my cries into a voice that would eventually transform into a worldwide call for social justice. As the president of the Black Prisoners Caucus (BPC) at Coyote Ridge Corrections Center, the Black Lens became a mechanism to unite the men and we moved in the capacity of commUNITY. When anyone is doing time, there is this feeling of separation at a degree that can diminish the human mind. However taking the time together to write articles brought back that humane feeling, and once again liberation was restored although temporarily. Words cannot express that overall appreciation for Sandy, but the actions that I put forth as a result of what she taught me will render great justice.

What I learned from the constant flow of informative articles manufactured through the Black Lens is beyond describable, but I will do my best. In the black community our history is lost. Most men and women can go as far back to the plantation and after this mental journey is taken in the mind, no other recollection comes to forth. A part of the African tradition is to pass knowledge down orally, which could not be done because the slave masters would not allow it. Our ancestors could not speak in their native tongue, gather more than three to a group, or come together on a regular bases. Sound familiar? Prison is a reflection of that method of cutting off the ability to pass down knowledge.

Getting ahold of the



Black Lens Newspaper was symbolic to the oral tradition that Africans were forbidden to utilize. Everytime I picked up one of the newspapers, I was in sync with blacks across the entire world. To be informed of the conditions of your people brings an awareness that is life changing. It breeds a different spirit of compassion. A deeper meaning of love flourishes. The eyes see beyond the boundaries set by racism, which allows you to embrace.

Sandy made sure that a facility filled with approximately 2500 people had the privilege to share in the love, growth and uplifting of a commUNITY. She could have easily charged for every stack of newspapers delivered. What we learned quickly is that the compassion in her heart would never allow such behavior. She is the definition of a true humanitarian. Most men in prison when they enter into a room where a cultural group is assembling, they are there because something is missing. Once the relationship was established, the BPC was able to provide a deeper service which was a call to be a better version of themselves, and to share that upgraded version with society through writing articles.

With memories and experiences like this, I can never say a final goodbye. These are the things that live on and legends are born. You helped birth and activism within the black population in prison that will continue to expose the harms of prisoners.

America established systemic racism with a pen, and therefore, it can also be eradicated with a pen, and it has already begun.

At one point in my life I lived through you, and now you will live through me.

Sandy, I will always believe that plane ride elevated your spirit up so God could grab your spirit more easily. I know your body was found in the Puget Sound because it had to return to where it is from. Just like your spirit was called back to that heavenly place. As long as I have breath, I will always believe in the hope you had in me and I will have in others.

Love Always, Michael Linear

Family Co-Chair for Black Prisoners Caucus Family Committee Washington State and All of Us or None Washington State Concrete Organizer December 2022

Involuntary Servitude

Letter from Jessie Milo California State Prison - Corcoran



Hi Ivana Gonzales,

I hope you are well. It's so exciting to hear from you about all the good work going on out there. I got a copy of the bill about the phone calls being free come January. People can't believe it. Calls used to be around \$8.00 for 15 minutes. I couldn't call home for years because I couldn't afford it. I hope we get our tablets by Christmas. I asked the Warden at our last meeting if we could keep the tablets on 24/7 and if the IAC could participate in the discussion about implementation. Either way it's going to be so exciting to text and get video:)

I am also excited for you about the Womans Policy Institute and the Criminal Justice group. You are doing great things with your time that are helping to shape the future and make lives better.

You brought up an important topic about canteen prices. Prior to getting your letter I sent Dorsey a copy of my pay and some canteen order slips.

Canteen, Restitution and Wages are all intertwined.

20 years ago I was billed \$9,000.00 for restitution. At my reduced wage after 20 years of work I still owe \$8,000.00 Restitution.

Still having my restitution over my head after 20 years of work is depressing. Its like the state intentionally gave me this bill they knew I could never pay.

The issue is the rate/percentage. They gave me a bill at regular rate but my pay is a reduced rate.

My \$24.00 paycheck for 160 hours worked is equivalent to \$3200.00 in society.

Half of my \$24.00 is taken for restitution should equal \$1600.00

I propose: If the state doesn't want to pay me a regular wage for everyday life at least pay it to me on a conversion scale to allow me to pay my restitution.

Paying restitution is a part of my amends to my victims and society. I pray the State create a pathway for me to fulfill my restitution.

My \$9,000.00 restitution should of been payed off by this work year alone. At a conversion rate after 6 months $(6 \times 1600 = 9,600.00)$ my restitution would be fulfilled.

Would the Governor go for that? Or legislature?

Other positive side effects would be:

- Inmates would parole with less debt
- Agencies/Victims would get whats owed them.
- Prisoners would feel a sense of accomplishment for completing an obligation that was a result of their old criminal life.
- Free up future paychecks from being garnished which would allow more to be bought in store

At the current rate I will die before I can pay the other \$8,000 because it will take 160 more years to pay the other \$8,000

I think this idea would be a good pitch because it ties in with making amends and rehabilitation and preparing a prisoner for a more successful future by paroling with less debt.

I know a fair wage is the goal, but for now I think it would be hard to argue against this idea of a pay conversion rate for restitution.

If I was allowed to get my whole \$24 dollar check without paying half to restitution I could buy:

• 1]	Folgers 8oz	7.80
• 41	pars Irish spring	8.00
	ampoo	
	blet	
• Cr	reamer	4 10

I'll end this topic here. Float it by someone for feedback if it's a good idea to have reduced rate conversion for restitution and canteen.

That would be AH-MAZING!!!!!! :) *Jessie Milo*

Reflections from Ivana Gonzales

AOUON Family Unity Matters Coordinator

I had a great visit with Jesse Milo (IAC Secretary) at Corcoran Prison this weekend. My first time in a visiting room as a visitor. Going through the process was a little intimidating after all the stories I've heard from the families. The C.O.'s were very helpful and friendly I should mention. I gave them a heads up that this was my first time visiting as soon as I got there just in case I screwed up. It took 30 min from the time of our visit for Jessie to be notified that he had a visitor. As I waited in the visiting room, I observed all the families and children with their incarcerated loved ones. It was very emotional to see them interact with their partners, children and parents. Some families were coming from Sacramento. It took me 3.5 hours each way from the East Bay. These trips are long and costly. The sacrifices the families make to stay connected with their loved ones brought tears to my eyes.

Jessie advocates for better visiting conditions in the Level 2. He is trying to get flat screens in the visiting rooms for kids to watch movies or sports together with their parents. The flat screens are already sitting in the storage rooms waiting to be set up.

We spoke about Involuntary Servitude and the Visiting Bill. Jesse has some great policy ideas of his own I will take back to the rest of the team. Jessie is serving a 200 year sentence for three attempted murders. He is waiting for a resentence under 1170.3. He had a restitution bill of \$9,000 20 years ago when he went in and has only been able to pay \$1000 in 20 years with his \$24 monthly CDCR income.

As we walked outside in circles in a small yard connected to the visiting room, many families kept thanking Jessie for advocating for the yard to be reopened. This was the first time in 10 years that families got to walk outside together.

Jesse is willing to support organize inside for AOUON. He supports many organizations from the inside such as FUEL, ARC, Initiate Justice and Ella Baker. Jesse has agreed to share his letter on the impacts of Involuntary Servitude in the AOUON Newspaper in hopes to motivate others from different prisons to write how Involuntary Servitude is affecting them and their families to create change this legislation session.

If you have involuntary servitude stories you would like to share please send them to:

AOUON Newspaper 4400 Market Street Oakland, CA 94608



Jessie Milo and Ivana Gonzales

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Iron Sharpens Iron: The Ella Baker Way

by Dortell Williams

For the past six months I have had the honor of serving as an Inside Fellow for the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. My primary responsibility is to motivate my peers to take an active roll in their own destiny. This entails mentoring them on the particulars and nuances of the political process. I don't take the role of mentor lightly; though I would prefer to call it a co-facilitatorship.

I describe it as such because prior to this privileged position with two other inside Fellows, Steve Brooks and Mara Placentia, I taught peer-topeer cognitive behavioral intervention for over a decade. I accomplished this experience through our academic group, Men for Honor when I was at the prison in Los Angeles County. It was during that ever memorable period that I learned the true meaning of the proverb, iron sharpens iron. In each of the classes I taught, I also had the benefit of being a student. My participants taught me as much as I was teaching them.

For that reason, in some ways it seems destined that I would be a member of the Ella Baker organization. My experiences have instilled in me that human beings, no matter what ethnicity, socioeconomic background, or other demographic factors, are incredibly creative, resourceful, and boiling over with potential. Potential that blatantly defies those myths of race, marginalization, or other deceptive generalizations imposed on us incarcerated folk.

The person, the great heroine for whom the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights is named, fervently believed in the power of the people. Like Paulo Freire, author of Pedagogy of the Oppressed, Ella Baker believed that oppressed people could solve their own problems, and could be just as selfdetermined as anyone else given the right tools. Again, iron sharpens iron. I see this truth, I live it everyday.

When the court sentenced me to life without the possibility of parole 30 years ago, with the tacit complicity of society, they were insinuating that I was incorrigible, a lost cause. I was just 23 years



Photo of Dortell Williams from Cal State LA's Prison BA Program where he earned one of his degrees. Photo by Patrick Record.

old. Over 5,200 of us have been explicitly written off with this sentence, a sentence of death by incarceration. And tens of thousands of others have been written off with sentences so enduring these eternal sanctions also amount to death.

Through the Inside Fellowship, the Ella Baker Center challenges the prison population to defy these sentences that disproportionately imply that we are worthless because of the color of our skin. Today, Ella Baker is handing us the tools to make our own case, to push back, to finally have some say so in our own destiny. As Inside Fellows our task is to encourage others, and to also learn ourselves. The Fellowship is a program that works, measured by the decreasing number of questions I am asked, as self-defeatistism loses its way and self sufficiency creates its forward path.

I am proud to give this much deserted shoutout to the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. And while

the legacy of Ella Baker, the woman, thrives in our condemned world, a world where one might expect hopelessness, the reality is just the opposite. Indeed, iron sharpens iron, and Ella Baker's legacy of people power is as alive as ever.

"Ella Baker believed that oppressed people could solve their own problems, and could be just as self-determined as anyone else given the right tools. I see this truth, I live it everyday." -Dortell Williams

Dortell Williams is 56, and has been incarcerated since the age of 23. While incarcerated, he has earned a paralegal certificate, a BA in Communication Studies, and is a prolific essayist. He focuses on crime survivor justice, personal transformation for himself and others, and prison reform. He also led an academic group on Lancaster's Honor Yard for over a decade, accumulating over 800 hours of peer-to-peer instruction. Now he joins the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights' Policy Team as an Inside Fellow for the Inside/Outside Policy Fellowship, a program that aims to support system impacted organizers through legislative training.

The Inside/Outside Fellowship is a program designed to increase contributions to the Ella Baker Center's policy work by people who are directly impacted by the policies we are advocating to change. It's also an opportunity for directly impacted people to learn more about the criminal justice movement and the process for changing policies, while receiving payment for their contributions and labor. (Bio and program description taken from the ellabakercenter.org website)

If you are involved in programs, groups, or organizations we want to hear about it! Send your stories to: AOUON Editor 4400 Market Street, Oakland, CA 94608

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Prison Labor:

Share your stories around Indentured servitude. What are your experiences and feelings? What kind of work have you done? What are the issues that you have experienced while working a job while incarcerated in prison or in county jail? Was it difficult or dangerous? What wage do you receive?

Accessing Housing:

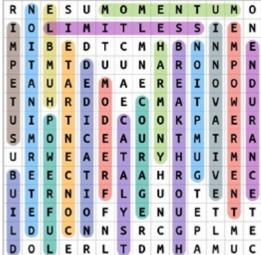
Share your stories around accessing housing with a criminal record or another stories related to this topic.

Visitation:

Share your stories around visitation. What visitation issues have prevented you from staying consistently connected with love ones?

MAIL YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO: **Freedom & Movement Center AOUON Newspaper Editor 4400 MARKET STREET** OAKLAND, CA 94608





December 2022

Mailbag

When there is Madness in the World...

by Eddie Knight





Before You, Any one, allows your-Self to get So Mad and Angry that you Hate the world. Change that Thought. And. Choose Kindness and Compassion. Back on the Right Path of the Spirit of Good will and spread Kindness and Compassion.

Friendsgiving

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children staff, AOUON members, and volunteers came together on 11/18/22 in the Freedom & Movement Center to break bread and handwrite cards to our over 900 AOUON members currently incarcerated in prison. This is our Annual Friendsgiving Feast & Card Mailing!









'AOUON wants to make sure YOU know people on the



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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.



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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 | 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:

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

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

