Our All of Us or None newspaper serves to link those of us who have been locked up, those who are locked up, as well as our families and allies in this struggle.



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 stories matter!



This young man was one of our youngest volunteers who spent the day moving bikes and helping setup.

Connecting Families One Bike at a Time

23rd Annual Community Giveback gifts bikes to children on behalf of incarcerated loved ones

by TaSin Sabir AOUON Editor/LSPC Communications Associate



he 23rd Annual Community Giveback is an event held in December where AOUON gifts bikes and other toys to children on behalf of their incarcerated loved one.

The event reminds children that they have a whole community of people who care about them, and also supports former prisoners in their efforts to positively impact their communities. It is dedicated to the memory of Robert Moody, a formerly incarcerated activist who helped initiate the project.

The Community Giveback empowers and uplifts our community, and serves as a powerful way for formerly incarcerated people to reclaim our humanity. We are motivated by love and hope, a



love and hope that our community is often denied.

Over 100 children and their caretakers gathered at the Freedom and Movement Center because their loved one inside had a gift for them. 9 year old Paris was one of the children who showed up with her Grandmother Kimberly. Paris is the daughter of Lance who is serving time at CA State Prison, Sacramento since Paris was 2 years old.

In an interview with Kimberly she reflects on one of the times she took Paris to visit her father.

"I asked Paris if she wanted to play in the play area and she said, 'no'. She just sat there patiently waiting to see her dad, but as soon as her dad walked out

Continued on page 4

A Welcome Home

Recently released individuals and their family and friends joined us for our Annual Homecoming Event



hen LSPC purchased the Freedom and Movement Center in Oakland CA we dreamed of a place where we could welcome people home. To be a place for guidance, truth and a safe place full of love and kindness.

On December 16, 2022 we hosted our Annual Homecoming Event at the Freedom and Movement Center. At this event we welcomed home comrades released in the past 12 months to enjoy food and fellowship with people who have experienced the trauma and relief of being released after living decades inside prison walls. We are honored to have you with us and welcome you back to your community.

Here are interviews from three of the attendees who share with us their journey so far.



Donald Diggs

How did you like the event?

I appreciated the event immensely because I am still fresh from when I left in 1979. It was quite a good event for me. I don't normally go to gatherings like that. I enjoyed it. I thought the food was good and everybody seemed cordial. I think that the seating could have been a little bit more room for us. A little less crowded. I enjoyed it and that's all I can say. I really did enjoy it. There wasn't anything bad about it for me.

How long have you been home?

Today makes 15 days. My biggest challenge so far was getting my ID card and not having my birth certificate. I didn't realized it was such a necessary part of what I needed to use so that is a challenge. I still am trying to get my ID card and my birth certificate. My sister is helping me get a hold of the vital statistic people and do what I need to do.

What kind of support would you say you need most?

For me I need patience. Just yesterday I talked to a guy who is going to be my mentor. If I have

Continued on page 5

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Photos by TaSin Sabir

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.

www.prisonerswithchildren.org



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



Dear family and friends,

Thank you for supporting Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. In a speech titled "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution," Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." I believe that it is because of people like you that our struggle continues to succeed in building a more just America.

That said, we are in the Great Revolution Dr. King spoke of, and we must remain awake. Historically conservative states like Texas and Alabama have passed by "progressive" California in the struggle to end slavery in American prisons, and much of America, plagued by placing revenge over rehabilitation, still sees prison as the solution and not the problem.

With that in mind let me share with you some of our accomplishments. We sponsored/supported statewide legislation to improve the lives of incarcerated, formerly incarcerated persons and their families. Through our aggressive litigation efforts, we are seeing prisons across California end their long-term solitary confinement units. We work to ensure our voting rights are secure and to eliminate or reduce fines and fees for Californians who are the most vulnerable. Additionally, we held our 10th annual Quest for Democracy, conducted legal webinars, and attended our national conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where we touched over 97,000 lives in advance of one of the closest elections in Georgia history. People impacted by the criminal justice system and the prison-industrial complex are able to move political mountains when we create opportunities for ourselves and our communities. Our movement springs from you--especially you who are still behind walls. Let's keep moving together.

With deep gratitude,

Dorsey E. Mr

Movement Maker

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Answer key on page 7

HOME LOVE **FREEDOM MOVEMENT CENTER** LIFE **COMMUNITY GIVEBACK CELEBRATION FAMILY SUPPORT TOGETHERNESS FORGIVENESS DEDICATION** APPRECIATION **HOMECOMING APPRECIATION**

WELCOME

Jesse's Corner

by Jesse Burleson LSPC/AOUON In-Custody Program Coordinator

New Housing Rights in Alameda County

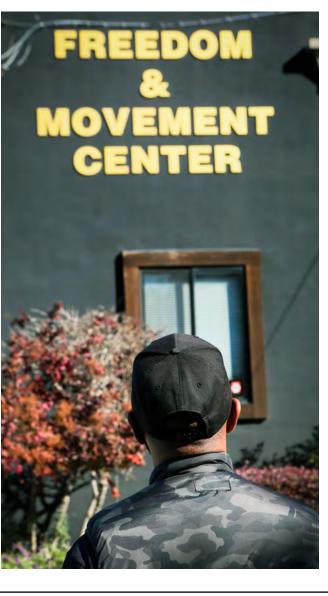
he last month of 2022 ends with positive news for our future housing rights. Just like we passed "ban the box" preventing criminal background checks on employment applications for larger businesses, we are doing the same for rental properties. Yesterday, Tuesday, December 20, 2022, the Wilma Chan Fair Chance Housing (FCH) Ordinance received a positive vote from The Alameda County Board of Supervisors, which would allow prospective renters who are formerly incarcerated to apply for apartments in Alameda County without being asked if they have been convicted of a crime on the rental application. FCH would level the playing field by allowing us to compete for housing with non-formerly incarcerated persons based on our own merits; meaning, we must still meet the other requirements of having good credit, a good housing history, stable income, and character references, but we will no longer be screened out based on having a conviction.

The Alameda County Board will conduct a final vote in early 2023 to finalize the Ordinance. The Ordinance is scheduled to become effective upon the ending of the Eviction Moratorium currently in place for Alameda County.

Our next step is to take Fairchance Housing statewide so that it applies throughout California! We want to remove any barriers that keep us from living our best lives after we have been released from prison and are working hard to establish ourselves.

How Fairchance Housing works:

FCH does not mean we would automatically get the housing we apply for. Owners and managers select who they think will make the best tenants. FCH just ensures that we aren't excluded based on our having a past conviction. So although the rental application will no longer ask if we have been convicted of a crime, we still must qualify by having our affairs in order like anyone else. So when we get out it is important that we work to build up our credit scores, establish some positive rental histories, show we have stable incomes, and good



Shout out to Lee "Taqwaa" Bonner who is the policy outreach leader for Alameda County for Fairchance Housing and the Housing Advocate for All of Us or None. Tawqaa helped get FCH passed in the cities of Oakland and Berkeley in 2020, and is leading FCH efforts for Alameda County and state-wide

Message: It is critical that we learn politics and not see it as something outside of ourselves. Politics means governance. Just as with anything else, there is leadership in every phase of life. In this society, the government controls the laws and public money. That means there are people in political positions (seats) who must make decisions about laws and money that affects all of us. Our aim should be to involve ourselves in a way that not only gets our voices heard, but gets us into positions of power within the government ourselves so that we actually sit in the seats of power! We can do this by uniting our vote.

Prop 17 enables every California-resident over 18 the right to vote, even while on parole. This means that we, the formerly incarcerated class, are now "major constituents" of those who represent our districts! There are over one million formerly incarcerated persons living in California who have the right to vote now. If we unite our votes within our own districts into a single party of our own, we can occupy the seats from our districts, and decide who gets the seats and who does not, from related districts. With strategy and planning we can build a formerly incarcerated base of collective voter and political power and change what happens where we live, and more!

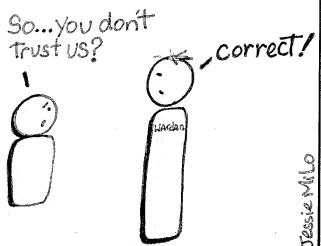


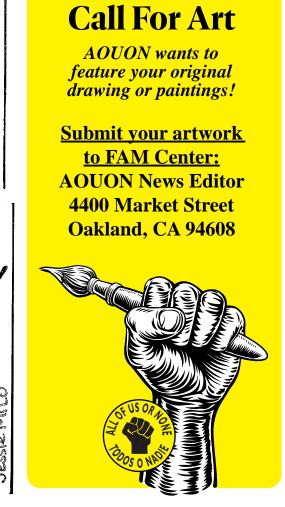
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Comic by Jessie Milo
California State Prison - Corcoran

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Connecting Families One Bike at a Time

(Continued from page 1)

Paris screamed to the top of her lungs. She was scared and so it did something to Lance. It triggered him and so everything that I had on that table, I think I had \$60 worth of food on the table, he just started passing it out to everybody around, then he said 'You guys can go."'

That day in the visitation room when Paris didn't recognize her father, Kimberly continues to say that she didn't leave as her son requested, but took Paris into the bathroom and talked with her. "I said you are going to go in. You just don't have to sit by him. You can just stay on the other side. She said, 'Granny you going to sit by me?' 'I said yes, I'll sit

I told Lance to take baby steps. He wanted a picture with his daughter so he worked his way over there. It was around Christmas time so he said, 'What I'm going to do is I'll draw a Christmas tree and then see Paris draw a Christmas tree and mom you're going to tell me who draws the best and so after they were finished I said, 'Paris' and Paris said, 'but you don't have any ornaments on yours' and he said, 'I don't know how to draw it.' She said, 'oh let me show you.' She starts slowly working her way over there by him so I went to the guy that takes pictures that had the job in the visitor room to take pictures. I asked him is there a possibility for him to come over to our table, but not let her know that you've taken a picture and snap those pictures and that's what happened. She end up taking a picture. Afterward she was excited, but when it came to the end she would not give a hug or kiss. She was like, 'Granny I hug you and you hug him'. So I went ahead and passed the hug along.'



An emotional Kimberly holds the phone while Paris talks to her father, Lance.

In situations like this children's emotions are high and outcomes are unpredictable. Through Kimberly and Lance's quick thinking and creative parenting a visit that didn't start off as ideal was salvaged.

In the past Lance has asked his mother, Kimberly, to buy gifts for Paris on his behalf, but those gifts were tainted by some family members telling Paris that her gifts were not from her dad, but from her grandmother. Paris, caught between adult pettiness, has had snatched away her belief in her father and his ability to provide.

But on Saturday, December 10, 2022, Paris arrived at the Freedom and Movement Center holding onto her grandma's hand tight. eyes low but



A volunteer helps a new rider get used to her bike. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff that helped make this event possible!



A family creates a thank you card for their loved one inside.

When Paris returned home, she told her mom and grandfather with excitement, "My dad bought me this bike!"

observant, scanning the scene of families and over 100 bicycles. The event starts off with families registering and then being escorting through the different stations. A testimonial area where children created thank you cards to be mailed to their loved one inside along with a photo. A helmet fitting area, face painting, food, and finally the moment where the child can select their bike.

During the event Lance called his mom Kimberly and on speaker phone and I could hear Lance telling his daughter, 'I bought you a bike. That's why you're there, to pick your bike.' He asks her, 'Can you hear me, do you understand?' I can only describe the look on Paris' face as shock as she listens to her father explain to her that this gift is from him. Kimberly says, "I felt good going to the Giveback because I knew he had to submit papers and he had to put in the work and effort to get his daughter on the list to get a bike. No one can tell her that her dad didn't get her that bike."

Getting your first bike is a milestone and something you don't forget. Paris will think of her dad whenever she rides that bike. Through this simple



tangible gift Paris and her father are a little bit closer and hopefully when they are reunited on the outside conversations will be easier through this shared memory of when her dad gave her her first bike.

Kimberly talks about how Lance had great timing. Calling at the perfect moment during the Community Giveback.

"I said wow you called right on time. I want you to hear what Dorsey's speaking on. And Dorsey was speaking and first he was sitting at the table and talking with me and Paris and then he stood up and got on the speaker and he was saying how he's done 11 years and he wants to giveback and he's been doing this for over 23 years so that lets you know how many years he's been back. And my son was hearing, I had him on the speaker. My son was so excited and said, 'mom tell them thank you!' He's the type of person that always says thank you to someone that is doing something for his child. Every little thing I do for her. 'Mom thank you.' That's why he wanted to tell Dorsey and you guys thank you. And that's why I was like Dorsey he's on the phone and Dorsey got on the line and was explaining to him, 'man I'm about to retire, do 2-3 more years, I need some guys out to take over.' Lance was excited. Excited to join. He was like I can do that mom."

When the event was over Kimberly says that Paris didn't want to leave and that when Paris returned home, she told her mom and grandfather with excitement, "My dad bought me this bike!"





A family spends time making cards that will be mailed to their loved one inside.



(L-R) Errol Veron (Program Manager), Dorsey Nunn (Executive Director) and Hamdiya Cooks-Abdullah (Administrative Director) take a moment to embrace and reflect on a successful 23rd Annual Community Giveback.



Bikes in all sizes where provided as well as toys for non-riders

A Welcome Home - The Freedom and Movement Center. (Continued from page 1)



Donald Diggs at the Homecoming Event.

any problems or anything. So I thought that was a good thing because he's been out maybe 16 months. And he knows the kind of things I'm going through. appreciated him calling me yesterday and checking in with me. So I think having a mentor will be very helpful because he's been out longer than myself. He's obviously more adjusted than I am.

For people still inside can you share any words of encouragement?

The main thing is be true to yourself. I was inside 43 years and it took me a long time to change the narrative about myself. To become honest and credible for myself then everything changed. So I think when you are inside you have the tendency to follow the prison narrative. To give my opinion and

to give my advice on how I became eligible to get out of there because I didn't get caught up in things that go on in there like peer pressure. There is a lot of pressure in there to be with the homies, to be a thug that kind of thing. I think you got to look at it like it doesn't matter where you come from. We are from the same planet. We all live and breathe and die just like everybody else. It doesn't matter if you are from north, south, east or west. To be honest and to be fair and truthful and do what's right. Around 8 or 9 years in I started changing. I wanted to be successful. I have a past but I'm still focused. For the guys in there, everybody is different everybody has had a different reality. I was always the one to study and try to go to school and better myself. It's not easy for everybody, but I know that worked for me.

Robert Hon



How did you like the Homecoming event?

The event was hosted well. I felt comfortable and engaged and I thought the part where the staff talked about their experiences and stories was very impactful.

How has it been for you since you returned home? It takes time, just like recovery inside it's the same out here it takes time. I struggle on the technology side a little bit, but I have people around me that have patience and take time with me.

As far as housing there has been small issues with all the procedures that are a little overbearing at times and adds to the challenges that are already on my plate, but I am grateful for the things they supply so I try to keep a positive perspective on everything and try to stay humble and move in a positive direction.

Tell me about your support system?

I have a good support system of 4 or 5 individuals that did time that share their experiences with me. They are

further ahead than me and give me honest feedback and I keep it 100 with them. They help me with some of the challenges and difficulties that I may face.

How do you stay positive?

One of the biggest coping skills I use is looking inside, instead of just reacting to situations or things that happen during the day. I take a deep breath before responding. That usually works really well for me. I also try to keep a humble perspective and I never forget the impact of the things that I have done in my past and how those things have affected others.

Spending time with my children is a big part of my positive outlook. They are grown now so that reflection keeps me humble.

I attend church. I'm not really a religious person but I am definitely spiritual. God keeps me going in the right direction. He blesses me.

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Harvest Davision and his mother Tina Perry listen to Dorsey Nunn speak at the Homecoming event.

Harvest Davison and his mother, Tina Perry

How was the event?

It was wonderful. It was actually a blessing. Like your motto, All of Us or None, a few can't get it done but all of us together definitely gets it done. And I greatly appreciate you guys. Your love and support because it does truly mean a lot to me.

A lot of people don't have a lot of support. They don't have a mother like mine.

How's the transition been?

The transition has been very smooth. God has been showing me favor. People, places and the community. The support is crazy because without support a lot of people go down the wrong end or they get involved in the wrong things so my support has been very beneficial for me and I feel grateful for it.

Any inspirational words for people inside?

Giving up is easy. But the real work is fighting. Never give up because that is what the opposition wants you to do, is to give up, so keep fighting and never give up and there is always light at the end of the tunnel. There is always a blessing so keep the good fight up. God didn't place us here to give up hope. He always gives his toughest battles to his toughest soldiers and so keep that fight because there is a blessing coming.

Have you always been this positive?

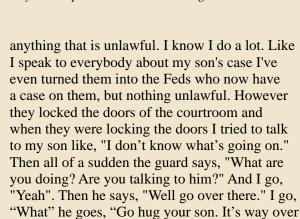
I've always been a positive person. Being incarcerated got to me at times, but I never let it change who I am. It made me stronger.

Tina Perry could you share about how it feels having Harvest home?

Having my son back is a fulfilled word from God that was given to me. He didn't turn back on his word. What he told me He was going to do He did it. It took a long time, but it happened. Having the faith and trust in God, even when it doesn't look right, even when it doesn't look hopeful, His word makes it hopeful. I continued to have hope in God and a miracle happened because they were trying to give him life without parole. He canceled out the enemies plans and He made me fight like I have never fought before. I didn't even know I had that in me to fight for the past 6 years and 9 months. Pure fighting against people in high places.

A mother's love has no boundaries. I've crossed a lot of boundaries for my son. And I didn't care what it was. I would go to the judges bench and talk to her directly concerning my son.

It was the fifth year. Five and a half years to be exact. We were sitting in the courtroom, because I never missed a court date in those years, and everybody had left and they told me to stay. I was thinking what did I do now? I haven't done



They let me go over there and hold my son. I let out the ugliest cry. And we just embraced. And everyone that was in their offices filtered back into that courtroom from the back doors and the judge came out and she goes "Ms.Perry?" I go, "Yes judge." She says "This was long overdue. You needed this."

And they let me do that every time we went back to court. They said everybody leave except Ms. Perry. The judge would say, "Go sit with your son. Go talk with him".

To not be able to touch in five and half years is torture. God gave us that back. It restored my hope and built me up.

Harvest how did it feel knowing your mom was out there moving mountains for you?

Very appreciative, there are no words to describe the feeling for that, but you just put one foot in front of the other. Enjoy each other, enjoy love and laughter and be appreciative and I just go hard for her in anyway I can. Enjoying life. Because life inside really gets you down. Just enjoying the little things like coffee and eating breakfast or late night talks. So just really enjoying the little things.

Are you and your mother closer now? We always have been close but I think thi

We always have been close but I think this separation for almost 7 years really made us more in tune. We are more than best friends we are aces.



An attendee makes a plate.



Master of Ceremony, Paul B.



Hamdiya Cooks-Abdullah amongst comrades old and new.



All of Us or None member Mark G. performs the poem "All of Us or None" by Bertold Brecht (see Page 8)



Imam Bilal Mustafa delivers an inspirational speech.



Dorsey Nunn and other staff share their stories and welcome the attendees home.

Mailbag

Flying by the Seat of my Pants

by Donald McLauri CTF, Solidad CA

John F. Kennedy Jr. finally got his pilot's license so he could fly from work or the city back to his home which was across the water. One night he was flying back home and encountered a storm. He braced himself because he was new to flying and this was his first time flying in bad weather. All of a sudden the radio went out and he had no other option of communication or relaying a message. He noticed that his instruments were showing that his plane was descending but it didn't seem like his plane was going down so he maintained his course and made no adjustments. As he continued to fly through the storm the instruments never changed its reading and he determined within himself that it was a malfunction in the panel. According to his seat the plane was not leveling down and he was flying straight; however within ten minutes his plane plunged in the water and he died in the crash. It was shocking news around the world. John F. Kennedy's death was a tragedy and loss because he was young, possessed great potential and had a promising future. There was a major investigation to determine the cause of

his death. After months of a precise and careful investigation they found that the instruments and panels were operating in perfect condition with no errors. When JFK was flying in the air he could not see anything but sky which impaired his judgment to know if he was right side up, upside down or flying at an angle. This will cause a person to think he's flying straight because his cockpit is not moving which is commonly known as "flying by the seat of your pants". In life we receive signals, facts and reports that tell us when we're off course, misguided or going in the wrong direction. Even though it feels like we are okay we need to trust our instincts and our positive social networks and our higher power to protect and guide us to our destiny and purpose in life. No one can do us the worst harm but ourselves. We cannot get too comfortable and ignore universal signals that guide us to success and wellness. "We search our whole life looking around for the meaning of life when the answers have been inside of us all along". You were born to win!



"Fly us By The Sort CF Sor Parts"

The F. Koway Jr. Loudy get his plates

Incore so he could by from word or the city

List to he hower when was acress the

God bless you My Brethon

My name is Dimil McCharu Th.D

SI had the opportunity to read goor
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once a mouth & pass out to wanter
that are taking this path of recovery
knowledge & self emprovement. I
look formal to hearing from you

soon.

Live Lto Cintless. Affile.

Me and My Teddy Bear by Arnold Juarez

CTF, Solidad CA

I have a teddy bear in my cell

I don't feel lonely His name is Uriah and he makes me feel like a boy. I hug and kiss my soft plush teddy bear before I go to sleep I'm playful with him. Sometimes I think he acknowledges me. He warms my heart I offer my teddy bear HoneyBuns even though I don't get an answer. When I'm away from my cell, I miss him I read touching letter from family to Uriah One day I was weeping from sorrow in my heart and notices tears coming down my teddy bears eyes

May be Almighty be with you all.

I just sound your newspaper on a table.

And I bin looking soward to be part of it. I have been incarcenated since 2004 so two drive by and sentanced to literly 3 centuries seven though no one was hint.

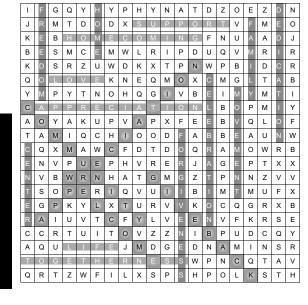
Yes, staff and inmates are stummed at my sentance, and some also angray! Well exclose is my art and a poem close is my art and a poem close is my art ond a poem close yournal should man an an im currently working on a poem with Trajectory el look forward in having my art poem and story published stations.

Sincerly,

I model your

MAIL YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:

Freedom & Movement Center AOUON Newspaper Editor 4400 MARKET STREET OAKLAND, CA 94608



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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.



Earliest Parole/Release Date: _____

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!

County of Parole/Probation:_

Name & Number:
Institution:
Address:
Country of Origin:
Do you have children? YES / NO. Do you need support with family issues? YES / NO

- o I can organize & facilitate group meeting
- \mathbf{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

