

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.



ALL OF US OR NONE

NEWSPAPER

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!

JUNE 2023



Quest for Democracy 2023 Group photo. Photo by Scott Braley

QUEST FOR DEMOCRACY

by Jeronimo Aguilar, LSPC Policy Analyst

In my experience working in the policy and community organizing fields it is always special when you're able to witness REAL power being formed and real lives impacted and changed because of the collective movement we are all helping lead. It was these types of experiences that changed my own life and set me on a path to serve my community and give all that I can to our collective liberation. I am so proud to say that Legal Services for Prisoners with Children and All of Us or None's 11th Annual Quest for Democracy event was life changing for many and helped to continue to propel our sacred movement forward. In addition to a powerful program and a beautiful space where organizations across the state were able to set up resource tables; Q4D 2023 saw us advocate for a powerful policy platform that included 12 pieces of legislation that address the needs of our people

and communities. To say I was moved by the impact that the entire Q4D program, legislative trainings, and the roll out of legislative visits had on our people would truly be an understatement and speaks to the talent and leadership of everyone that contributed to this year's Quest for Democracy.

[The Q4D Program] Shout out to everyone who contributed to the program and was willing to come up and perform, engage with the community, speak, or help MC. I'd like to extend a warm thank you to the amazing lineup of legislators we had come out and speak to the community including Assemblymember Matt Haney, Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, Assemblymember Mia Bonta, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Senator Dave Cortese, as well as Kapri Walker who shared some words on



Photo by Scott Braley

behalf of the beloved Senator Nancy Skinner's office. This year's Q4D program was especially strong and was followed up by a march to 1021 O St, which is where all the legislative offices are located near the Sacramento Capitol. One of many personal highlights was the march that saw hundreds of us take to the street, rally, and raise our voice as a collective community of survivors, activists, allies, and formerly incarcerated leaders. To hear the beautiful chants of "WHOSE HOUSE? OUR HOUSE!" and of course our infamous, "ALL OF US!!! OR NONE!!!" reverberating throughout the entire area you just knew the elected officials and everyone that works at the Capitol had no choice but to acknowledge our comrades and cause. We also marched with huge banners that read in big bold letters, "INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE IS SLAVERY". It was truly a sight to see.

It was a cool 90 something degrees in Sacramento that day but we didn't let the heat stop us as we marched together and let out some of that passion that we constantly try to harness and direct as organizers, strategists, policy analysts, and



An emotional testimony from children directly impacted by visitation restrictions. Photo by Scott Braley

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NEWSPAPER

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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



AOUON Editor in Chief:
TaSin Sabir
4400 Market Street,
Oakland, CA 94608



**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**

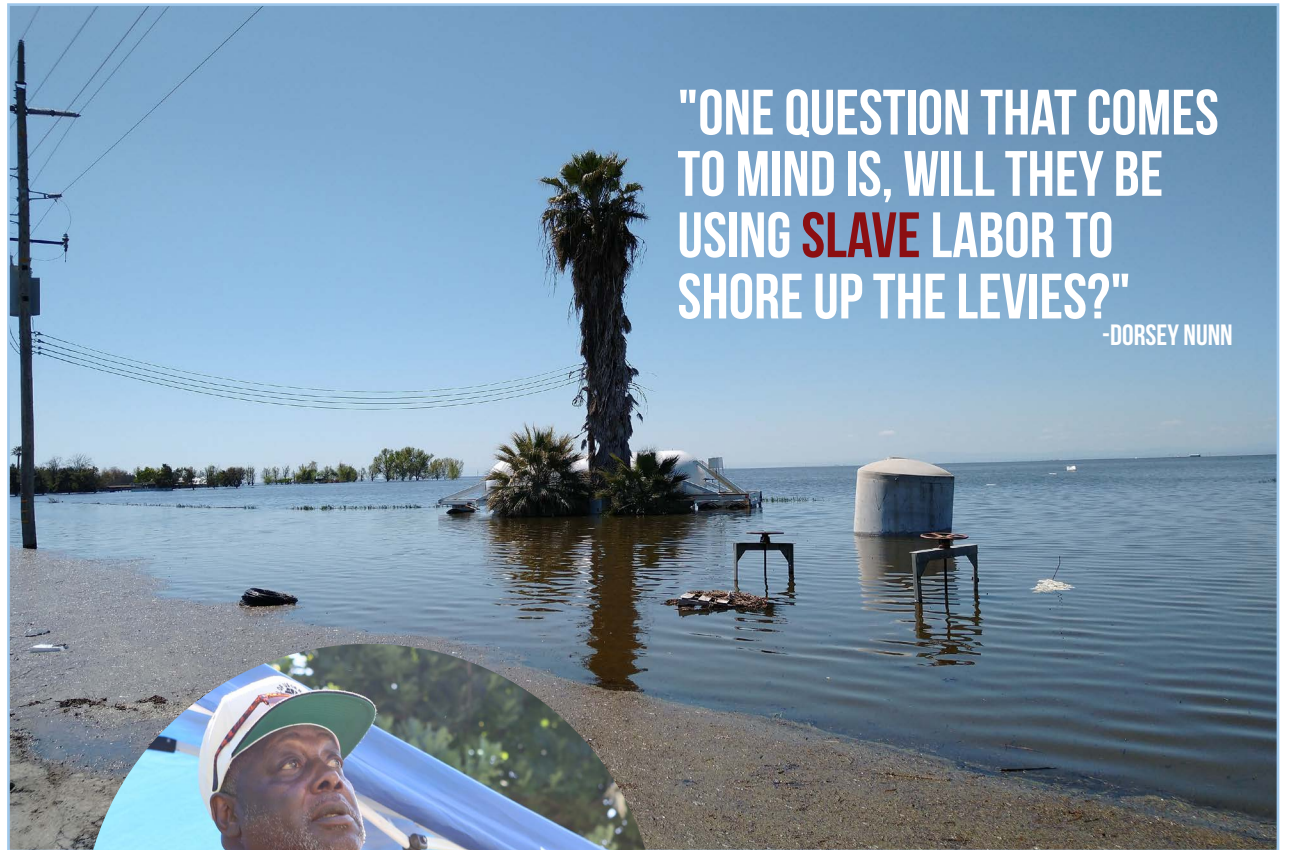
**To claim and take care of our own
children and our families**

**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**

Message from Dorsey

by Dorsey Nunn, Executive Director and Co-Founder of AOUON



(Above) Although usually dry, Tulare lake occasionally reappears during floods following unusually high levels of rainfall or snow melt, as it did in 1969, 1983, 1997 and now in 2023. Photo: Shutterstock

(Left) Dorsey Nunn speaking at Quest for Democracy. Photo: TaSin Sabir

Recently, Dorsey Nunn made an appearance on KPFA's Law and Disorder show, hosted by Kat Brooks. The focus was the current state of Tulare Lake, which has undergone a remarkable change. Once dry and barren, the lake is now brimming with water, thanks to the melting snow. However, this transformation comes with a significant risk—the lake's rising water levels pose a threat to the levees protecting the town of Corcoran. Situated in Kings County, in the heart of California's Central Valley, Corcoran is not only a home to over 22,000 residents, but it also both California State Prison, Corcoran, and the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility — a dual prison complex that holds about 8,000 incarcerated men. As the snow continues to melt, both the town and the prison are at high risk of flooding. Joining the conversation was Kurtis Alexander, a reporter from the SF Chronicle, known for his coverage on the water's impact on public lands, wildlife, and the widening rural-urban divide across the nation.

The following is an excerpt from KPFA's Law and Disorder hosted by Kat Brooks. Listen to complete recording at kpfa.org/episode/law-disorder-may-2-2023

Kurtis Alexander:

As most Californians know, it's been a crazy wet year this winter and that in Tulare Lake which is in southern San Joaquin Valley. It was particularly wet the snow there in the mountains above the basin was something like three times what it normally is, and that water, that wetness has begun to come down the mountains through the rivers and move into the low point in the valley which is the old lake bed of Tulare Lake, which is now developed with agriculture and roads and a few small communities. The systems there, the waterways, the canals, the ditches, the levees that are designed to corral this water and move it to cities and farms safely was just overwhelmed with the surge of water that has come in March [2023] and the real fear going forward is all this snow which is only started to melt is going to continue to melt over the next coming months

and create even larger problems for the lake bed. The lake right now is about 100 square miles and it's overtaking farms. And as you mentioned there's a few small communities in the valley there that have been threatened by the floodwaters and will continue to be threatened as the snow melt comes down.

Kat Brooks:

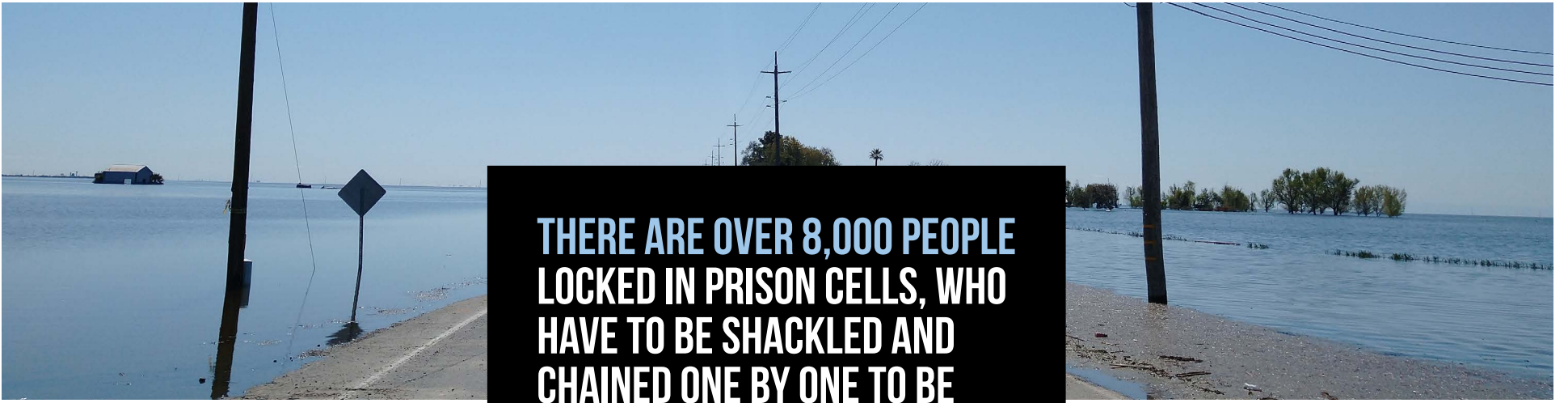
Dorsey I want to bring you into conversation. The prison is definitely in trouble should the town of Corcoran flood. What are we hearing from the prison in terms of what it's doing in preparation, anything at all?

Dorsey Nunn:

I don't believe we're truly hearing anything at all. One question that comes to mind is, will they be using slave labor to shore up the levees? If they employ such labor for firefighting, they could also exploit them in dire situations like flooding, using them to fortify the levees. It seems they are avoiding any discussion on this matter. However, I strongly believe it's a topic we should address. We mustn't forget what happened in 2005 during Hurricane Katrina when the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office abandoned 650 prisoners in their cells without food, water, or ventilation. It's evident they have never formulated a robust evacuation plan. When faced with national or major disasters, it appears they neglect these aspects. Furthermore, we cannot argue that they have no alternatives due to political circumstances affecting releases. They have suitable facilities to accommodate individuals, rather than leaving them in flood-prone areas in such a perilous state. When I mention this, I'm referring to a long-standing history of abandonment. We need not look further than New Orleans; we can also examine how the authorities treated the people at San Quentin and Dublin during the Loma Prieta earthquake. Instead of releasing them to be with their families, these individuals were locked in cages. It's disheartening to think they will never adequately prepare or develop a comprehensive plan for individuals they deem unworthy of value.

"They're Just Prisoners"

by Jessie Milo - Reporting from California State Prison - Corcoran. Recently transferred to San Quentin, CA



THERE ARE OVER 8,000 PEOPLE LOCKED IN PRISON CELLS, WHO HAVE TO BE SHACKLED AND CHAINED ONE BY ONE TO BE MOVED, AND THEY ARE SITTING IN THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION.

-JESSIE MILO

Extreme weather and poor planning put prisoners' lives at risk. A much-needed rainfall overwhelmed the drought-stricken region of California's Central Valley.

Back-to-back atmospheric rivers caused flooding of homes, businesses, and farmland in Kings, Kern, and Tulare Counties.

Despite the flooding happening in all three counties, only two were included in the presidential disaster declaration for California. Arguably the most vulnerable flood-prone area of the three, Kings County, was left out.

This is quite concerning on several levels. The Kings County Central Valley city of Corcoran is home to 22,000 residents who provide most of the

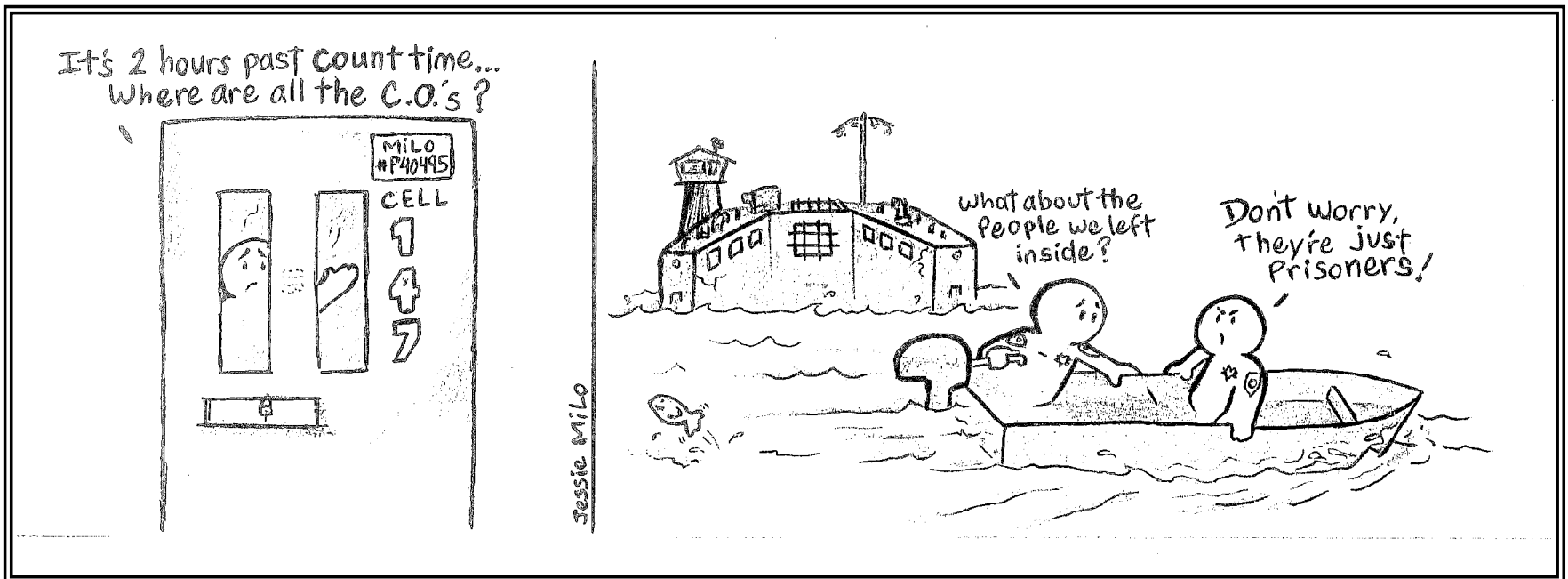
to evacuate the prisons and the failure to include this area in the initial presidential disaster relief declaration all the more frightening.

CSP-COR has never been for the faint of heart. Once known as one of the most dangerous prisons in America, it is home to one of the largest segregated housing units in the state. It used to house men for decades under the old "Debrief or Die" policy in solitary confinement. To this day, men still get transferred into CSP-COR from other prisons

one. Spending six months there is not a "short term" in solitary confinement where you can't feel any grass, go outside when you want, hug your family, or go anywhere unchained.

I watched on TV from my STRH cell news reports of floodwaters kept at bay just two miles from the prison. Pictures flashed on the screen of houses and cars submerged nearby. I remember Hurricane Katrina and news reports of how officers there abandoned a local jail in a rush to go save their own families, leaving the prisoners locked in their cells. The water rose through the bars higher and higher until they drowned.

If all the roads around Corcoran flood, and if they wait for the levee to break, how would they evacuate 8,000 people in chains? The fact that



Comic by Jessie Milo

labor for local farmlands, including tomato and cotton fields, pistachio groves, and dairies. Located in Corcoran is one of the state's largest prison complexes, California State Prison-Corcoran, and California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility. The prisons are connected and house a combined total of 8,000 incarcerated people. All of this was built in the remnants of a dead lake that has flooded and reemerged multiple times over the last century.

And this was no secret when the land was purchased by the state from area land baron J.G. Boswell in 1985.

The last great flood of the Tulare Lake Basin occurred in 1983 due to 6 million acre-feet of water from the snowmelt in the Sierras and reservoirs. And this year, the Sierras had record snowfall. The snowpack and reservoir measurement are about a million acre-feet more than they were in 1983, making this the largest flood of the dead lake in 40 years.

What makes this disaster different from the one in 1983 is that now there are over 8,000 people locked in prison cells who have to be shackled and chained one by one to be moved, and they are sitting in the path of destruction. This makes the lack of action

throughout the state to serve out their "SHU-Terms" for disciplinary action, using solitary confinement and sensory deprivation as punishments for serious rule infractions.

The prison also houses many of the state's high-profile prisoners who are medically incapacitated. Prisoners like Charles Manson, the infamous cult leader of the Manson Family, and the Dating Game killer. I worked in the hospital where I pureed food and added a congealing agent for elderly mafia members with dementia and several life-ending illnesses. One inmate with mental illness housed in the hospital decapitated his cellmate and disemboweled him over a period that spanned many officer security checks, where they were supposed to check on inmates' health and safety, in 2019. Two decades ago, officers at CSP-COR were indicted for staging death matches by intentionally housing rival gang members with each other and placing bets on who would win or die. It is no surprise that CSP-COR was recently chosen by the court for its officers to wear body cams.

When the flooding started, I was housed in CSP-COR's "Hole" or short-term restricted housing (STRH) unit, where I had been since November 2022. My mental health started to suffer from day

more drastic safety measures and immediate action were not taken and that the prisons were built in the dead lake prone to flooding is indicative of the devaluation of the lives of the incarcerated.

The weather has been permeating the cells at CSP-COR for some time. In the summer months, cell temperatures reach over 90 degrees, and when you factor in the heat index from the humidity pumped in by swamp coolers, it makes it hard to breathe. And when it rains, water drips down cell walls and through light fixtures in the ceiling.

They called me for transfer amidst my fears of drowning.

Thank God, but what about everybody else? And if the prisons survive the flood this time, will they survive the next?

Call for Submissions
 Send your stories and/or artwork to:
 AOUON News Editor
 4400 Market Street
 Oakland, CA 94608

Q4D Continued from page 1



Hundreds of people march the streets of Sacramento California to the legislative offices to advocate for policy change. Photo by TaSin Sabir

HOPE IS WHAT KEEPS US GOING IN THIS FIGHT. FOR ALL OF YOU INSIDE AND OUT THAT FEEL LIKE YOUR HOPE IS WEARING THIN, I PRAY THAT OUR WORK AND MISSION CAN RESTORE SOME OF THAT HOPE AND GIVE YOU A REASON TO KEEP ON PUSHING.

-JERONIMO AGUILAR

community members. Following this incredible march to the legislative offices we had our participants begin to prepare for and attend their scheduled legislative visits. For those that either did not participate in legislative visits or had visits later in the afternoon we gave our people the opportunity to witness a public screening of "The 13th Amendment" Documentary which outlines the struggle with slavery/involuntary servitude in regards to the "exception" clause present in the Federal and many State Constitutions which gives the State the right to dehumanize and exploit those "punished for a crime". This screening was another opportunity that we took to highlight one of the major themes of this year's Quest for Democracy, our Abolish Bondage Collectively campaign to remove the exception to slavery and involuntary servitude present in Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution. This is a fight that our fearless leader Dorsey Nunn has been helping push for the better part of 4 plus decades. The education Dorsey received from leaders within the Black Liberation and Civil Rights struggles of the past are the lessons and political education he has passed on to All of Us or None, LSPC, and the modern day criminal justice reform movement as we know it. This must have been evident when Dorsey's name and face was featured in the 13th Amendment Documentary. But it is up to all of us, the next generations and beyond, to ensure that we are properly carrying this legacy forward. Our predecessors have put too much on the line, sacrificed too much, and have given their heart and love to this struggle in a way that leaves us no choice but to make sure that we persevere and keep fighting until we complete our mission.

I happened to help lead 4 legislative visits with a passionate team and I got to hear some personal experiences that moved me and I know for a fact, opened the eyes of the legislative offices we were meeting with. Our team was made up of members of All of Us or None, TimeDone,

Starting Over Inc, and Community Healers, and CURYJ (Dream Beyond Bars Fellowship). I would like to highlight a brother I met that day named Michael, an individual from the San Bernardino area who has been home for I believe about 3 years. Michael has been trying to rebuild his life on the outside after being sentenced to life at 16 years old and serving 24 years on the



Planting Justice, one of the 70+ organizations that supported Q4D, on stage with Sol Mercado, their Reentry Coordinator at the mic. Photo by Scott Braley

inside. To hear Michael open up and share his experience navigating a system that robs so much from us, nearly brought tears to my eyes. A specific story he mentioned about the day he realized that he was going to qualify for some case relief because of legislation that was passed in Sacramento was very humbling; but then you saw the tears well up in this brothers eyes as he started to talk about the folks he left behind, specifically a close friend of his who was serving an LWOP sentence. You see his friend didn't qualify for the same relief and with a life without the possibility of parole sentence he was contemplating taking his own life because his hope was

all but lost. It's these stories that are our people's reality. It's these stories that these legislators and their offices NEED to hear. We live in a society that allows those who operate in the dark to not be exposed to the light. But we are all here to change that, WE are the love and light. And we will be the ones to expose and combat the darkness with our stories, our truth, and our DEMANDS for change.

Hope is what keeps us going in this fight. And for all of you inside and out that feel like your hope is wearing thin, I pray that our work and mission can restore some of that hope and give you a reason to keep on pushing. We still have so much work to do to ensure that we bring all our people home and All of Us or None WILL NOT stop until we do. It's this mission that keeps us going and will keep us fighting until we achieve our liberation. It's been such a blessing to have the opportunity to serve this community and I just pray that I continue to engage in this struggle in a way that would make all of you proud. We are about half way through the first year of this legislative session (2023) and I want to end this section by providing an update on the legislation that we pushed at Q4D and where those bills are in the legislative process.



Aijai Anderson (l) and Henry Ortiz perform the AOUON song. Photo by Scott Braley



Assemblymember Mia Bonta and Dorsey Nunn. Photo by TaSin Sabir



George Galvis, LSPC Board Chair (l), and comrades gave a Morning Star Blessing and a land acknowledgment at the opening of Q4D. Photo by TaSin Sabir



LSPC staff grace the stage in support of ending involuntary servitude. Photo by Scott Braley



Attendee's shouting "All of Us or None". Photo by TaSin Sabir



Photo by Scott Braley



Photo by TaSin Sabir

Q4D 2023 POLICY PLATFORM AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

FINES & FEES:

SB 474 (Becker): The BASIC Act alleviates cost pressures for incarcerated people and their families by drastically reducing price markups on items purchased in California's prison canteen stores.

Status: SB 474 has PASSED with a successful vote count on the Senate floor! It will now be moving on to the Assembly where it will begin going through committees.

Action Needed: Reach out to members of the Assembly Public Safety Committee as well as all members of the CA Assembly and ensure they are in support of this important legislation that would cap canteen markup to no more than 10% beyond the price paid to the vendor.

Reach out to Ivana Cortez at 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608 to request a Letter of Support Template to show your support to SB474. You may also request contact information for the Assembly offices to make calls and send letters. We encourage all incarcerated members that are passionate about this issue to make calls and submit letters.

AB 1266 (Kalra): Aims to amend the penal and vehicle code to remove the possibility of bench warrants for violations that are neither crimes nor

punishable by jail time.

Status: Successfully passed the Assembly floor vote and is now moving onto the Senate.

Action Needed: Please reach out to your Senate members and ensure they will be supporting AB 1266. This is a commonsense piece of legislation which finally puts an end to punitive bench warrants. Reach out to Jeronimo Aguilar at 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608 for a letter template and contact information for specific Senate members to reach out to.

AB 1186 (Bonta): Aims to offer fair and dependable compensation to crime victims while guiding young offenders towards a more effective path of rehabilitation and responsibility

Status: Successfully passed the Assembly floor and is now moving onto the Senate.

Action Needed: Please reach out to Senate members and ensure they are supporting AB 1186 and reforming a restitution system that currently sets up our youth and their families with insurmountable debt and economic instability. Reach out to Jeronimo Aguilar at 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608 for a letter template and contact information for specific Senate members to reach out to.

FAMILY UNITY:

AB 1226 (Haney): The purpose is to allow incarcerated persons to be housed in institutions close to where their children live, so as to facilitate visiting and maintain family unity.

Status: Successfully passed the Assembly floor vote and has moved on to the Senate.

Action Needed: Contact your Senate representatives and ensure that they are supporting this legislation that supports family unity which prioritizes rehabilitation. Reach out to Ivana Cortez at 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608 for a letter template and contact information for specific Senate members to reach out to.

AB 958 (Santiago): Establishes personal visits for incarcerated people as a limited civil right and ensures that revoking visitation rights are limited to special circumstances related to security.

Status: Successfully passed the Assembly floor and is moving on to the Senate.

Action Needed: Contact your Senate members and ensure that they are supporting this legislation which prioritizes the right of incarcerated people and their

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families and loved ones to maintain connection. There is a plethora of research demonstrating how maintaining family connections is essential to incarcerated people's rehabilitation.

Reach out to Ivana Cortez at 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608 for a letter template and contact information for specific Senate members to reach out to.

AB 937 (McKinnor): Ensure that DSS shall provide reasonable reunification services to families whose children they have removed, at every stage, up to the maximum services permitted by law.

Status: Successfully passed the Assembly floor and is moving on to the Senate.

Action Needed: Please contact your Senate members and ensure that they are in support of this legislation which seeks to reform a system that continues to remove black and brown children at disproportionate and alarming rates. Parents and children impacted by the system deserve every opportunity to reunite and create a lasting bond. Reach out to Jeronimo Aguilar at 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608 for a letter template and contact information for specific Senate members to reach out to.

SB 824 (Ashby): Allow more children to be placed with a non-relative extended family member (NREFM), or in the case of a Native American child, an extended family member (EFM).

Status: Successfully passed the Senate floor vote and is moved on to the Assembly.

Action Needed: Contact your Assembly representatives and ensure that they are supporting this important legislation which gives children impacted by the system to stay with extended family and those outside of their immediate family as opposed to being placed in the custody of the state. Another bill that prioritizes family connection and unity.

AB 1306 (Carillo): Ensure that Californians are not excluded based on where they were born from benefiting from criminal justice reforms passed by this legislature.

Status: Successfully passed the Assembly floor and is moving on to the Senate.

Action Needed: Contact Senate members and ensure they are supporting AB 1306 which finally ends California's two tiered system of justice which treats those not born here with increased impunity and indefinite incarceration via ICE transfers.

Reach out to Jeronimo Aguilar at 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608 for a letter template and contact information for specific Senate members to reach out to.

VESTIGES OF SLAVERY

ACA 8 (Wilson): A proposed amendment to the California Constitution, addressing the prison labor exception to the ban on involuntary servitude and slavery.

Status: Awaiting a vote on the Assembly floor.

Action Needed: Contact your Assembly representatives and ensure that they are in support of this common sense amendment which finally would see California allow us voters to weigh in on the issue of slavery/involuntary servitude. Feel free to also begin informing your Senate representatives of this campaign and how it should not be controversial to support the end of slavery and forced labor in our state. Reach out to Jeronimo Aguilar at 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608 or email me at jeronimo@prisonerswithchildren.org for a letter template and contact information for specific Senate members to reach out to.

ACA 4 (Bryan): Aims to allow those serving state or federal prison terms to vote.

Status: Awaiting a vote on the Assembly floor.

Action Needed: Contact your Assembly representatives and ensure that they are in support of this commonsense amendment which restores the right to vote for incarcerated people. These punitive laws which strip individuals and groups of their human rights such as the right to vote, are holdovers from the past that must be removed from our state's constitution.

Reach out to Jeronimo Aguilar at 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608 or email me at jeronimo@prisonerswithchildren.org for a letter template and contact information for Assembly members to call.

SB 94 (Cortese): Sets up a process for a person who has been sentenced to death or life imprisonment, before June 5, 1990, to be able to seek a recall of their sentence and be resentenced to a lesser Sentence.

Status: Successfully passed through the Senate floor and is moving on to the Assembly.

Action Needed: Contact your Assembly representatives and ensure they understand the importance of this legislation which brings an aging population home and saves the state millions of

dollars in the process. But more important than any financial gains, it is humane and right to finally bring our elders home who serve zero threat to public safety.

Reach out to Jeronimo Aguilar at 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608 or email me at jeronimo@prisonerswithchildren.org for a letter template and contact information for Assembly members to call.

AB 280 (Holden): Require every carceral facility in which individuals are subject to confinement or involuntary detention to develop and follow written procedures governing the management of segregated confinement.

Status: Awaiting a vote on the Assembly floor. It has to be heard by 6/2/23 to have any chance of moving on to the Senate.

Action Needed: Contact your Assembly representatives and ensure that they are in support of this legislation which supports basic human rights. The United Nations has deemed this type of practice as literal torture of human beings. In the spirit of Nelson Mandela and the Mandela Act, AB 280 makes necessary reforms which cap the number of days they can keep individuals in solitary confinement as well as addressing other barbaric aspects of this practice.

Reach out to Jeronimo Aguilar at 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608 or email me at jeronimo@prisonerswithchildren.org for a letter template and contact information for Assembly members to call.

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If you or your loved ones have been affected by ANY of these issues that these pieces of legislation look to reform or address, please reach out to me at jeronimo@prisonerswithchildren.org, at (415) 255-7036, or write me at 4400 Market St. Oakland, CA 94608. We are also looking for those willing to help us magnify our "Abolish Bondage Collectively" (ABC) campaign where we are pushing ACA 8. As Juneteenth approaches we want to deliver the message to the masses that INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE IS SLAVERY! It's past time to free our people from forced labor/involuntary servitude AKA SLAVERY by another name. Much LOVE to you all and may God bless you. I hope you all know that All of Us or None is here for you and we'll continue advocating for you all until you come home.

Legal Corner

by Debra Slone, LSPC Staff Attorney

On May 22, 2023, All Of Us Or None and Legal Services for Prisoners with Children brought together our CA Chapters, partner organizations and formerly incarcerated people and their families from all over California, and converged 500 strong on Sacramento, the capital of California, for a day of advocacy and solidarity. This is the 11th year we have met for Quest for Democracy (Q4D), and advocated for legislation to improve the lives of currently and formerly incarcerated people and their loved ones, by meeting with Senators, Assemblypersons, and their staffs, and put a personal face on these issues. It was my second in person Q4D, and as a Staff Attorney, the first time I participated in legislative visits.

After an evening of training, organizing and fellowship, we came together on the Capitol grounds on Monday morning. Our Brother George Galvez recognized Sacramento's indigenous land with a customary blessing. Our Executive Director, Dorsey Nunn reminded us all that the State can force incarcerated people to work for pennies on the dollar and earn millions for others, because the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution, while ending slavery, carved out an exception to permit involuntary servitude as punishment after conviction



One of the legislative visits with Assemblymember Bryan's Legislative Director Kenneth Cruz (in suit). Bryan is the author of ACA 4, which would expand voting rights to incarcerated people. Photo by Scott Braley

of a crime. Many States have voted to remove that exception, but California has not. That's why all of us were there to uplift constitutional amendments ACA 8, which would finally remove involuntary servitude from CA's constitution, and ACA 4 which would extend voting to people serving in State prison. After lunch, we marched together to the legislators' offices to educate them and ask them to pass these bills.

Our gathering supported many bills that day, but I was thrilled to lead a group to advocate for five different Family Unity related bills, and to share personal stories. AB 958 would make visiting a right, and stop using it as punishment. Francisco, who served many years in state prison, told the legislator about losing his visitation after being attacked on the yard, just before his grandmother

tried to see him one last time. AB 1226, the Proximity bill, would mandate that incarcerated parents be placed in the nearest facility to their minor children, so that children are able to visit and maintain that bond. SB 474, the Canteen bill, would cap the mark-up on Canteen items, because it is the families who struggle to put money on the books so their loved ones have what they need inside. AB 824 would allow more unrelated "family members" to be foster parents, and protect Indian children as well. Along with AB 937, they would keep families together, and help protect kids from being adopted before their parents are able to reunify. An issue that gets left behind: immigrants in prison. AB 1306 would prevent CDCR from turning immigrants who have been released due to resentencing, commutation or other relief over to ICE, and let them return to their families.

Imagine a beautiful conference room, filled with formerly incarcerated people who are now activists, organizers, leaders, telling their personal stories and asking legislators and their aides to consider voting for laws that would slow down that sadness and hopelessness that breaks families apart, and leads to generational trauma. All eyes were on them, and it was glorious.



Mailbag



Prison Labor: Please 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?

I worked in the kitchens scullery for approximately three years for .08¢ an hour. In these jobs, the abuse was prevalent and racism is a factor in most of the prison jobs. Most of the jobs that were deemed essential are held by the whites, and the Mexicans that are considered immigrants work in jobs that know one wants. These non-essential jobs are used as a means of punishing the unfortunate inmates who land in these jobs. Staff is aware that disobedience can result in a three-year board denial, so compliance results in stress that leads to effect ones process of adjusting to the prison and its population. Also the more important jobs, have increased pay which allows one to make life a little more bearable while in prison.

by George Red
San Quentin, CA

Prison Labor: Please 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?

I'm at M.C.S.P. - MULE CREEK STATE PRISON and work as 3-shift Porter I have not been getting paid for labor work. Still telling people they have to work or get a right up. And you do legal work about it the D.A. just take it as a joke like the D.A. I have said he can get a job and they pay the prison I told the Judge no they dont. The D.A. Lie. Let all D.A. Come to prison I believe there whole thinking will change.

by Hammond Delvon
Mule Creek Prison, CA

ADUON,

I am writing to you after reading the article about the End Slavery in California Act (Wilson).

I have been incarcerated for about 28 years now. In prison 24 yrs. soon. My issue is I am 72 years of age next month. Issue - I am 'tired'. My body is tired, yet I must still program five days a week. I am not allowed to retire.

I do understand that if I went to a parole board hearing, where I answered why I don't work because I was tired, they would not find me suitable. They would say "would that be my excuse out there, out of prison?"

When truthfully I would be collecting my social security and live with my sister & hubby and my 91 yr. old mother, who all wait for the governor to commute my HWP sentence.

While I take medications for high blood pressure, acid reflux and osteoporosis as well as a multi vitamin, I wonder if my old age is why I am tired. This is not sleepy tired either. Exhausted tired from doing things like work and chores. Many times I have wanted to just stop working with the stress that comes with it - for me.

Thank you, D. Lee

by Donna Lee
Central California Women's Facility

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 our 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 ones can feed you.
 Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
 One alone her lot can't better.
 Either gun or fetter.
 Everything or nothing. All of us or none.

Beaten one, who shall avenge you?
 You, on whom the blows are falling,
 Hear your wounded comrades 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?
 We who can no longer bear it.
 Counts the blows that arm our spirit.
 Taught the time by need and sorrow,
 Strikes today and not tomorrow.
 Everything or nothing. All of us or none.
 One alone our 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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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:
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