



## The Ladies of Hope Ministries Enews & Updates

9.16.20 Issue XII



### Decarceration Q & A

The LOHM National Advocate and Director of the EPIC program, Karen Morrison, joins us for a conversation about decarceration. Morrison explains the main contributors to mass incarceration and shares alternatives to corporal punishment.

#### **What have been some of the major contributors to mass incarceration in the US?**

- Sentencing Laws
- Over policing in low socioeconomic areas
- Overuse of incarceration
- War on drugs
- Tough on crime policies
- Racism
- Socioeconomic disparities

#### **How do you define decarceration?**

It is the opposite of incarceration and involves the removal of people from institutions such as prisons, jails and detention centers.

#### **What does decarceration look like?**

Dismantling unjust practices that overly incarcerate black and brown people. Ending long term supervision in the parole and probation system.

#### **Can you share examples of decarceration?**

Nationwide legislation is an effective way to implement sweeping decarceration measures. In 2010 the Federal Bureau of Prison reported 209,771 incarcerated persons housed in federal facilities. Five years later, in 2015 the number had marginally decreased to 189,192 people housed in federal facilities. Another decline was reported in 2018, with 179, 898 people housed in the federal facilities. After the passing of the monumental First Step Act later in 2018, there was a significant decrease in the population size to approximately 127,177 incarcerated persons.

### **How is the work you're doing at The LOHM helping to reduce the incarcerated population?**

The LOHM partnered up with Resource, Information, Help for the Disadvantaged & Disenfranchised (RIHD) and other organization to support the passing of Virginia's Fishback Legislation. Under this legislation, approximately 310 people are eligible for the possibility of parole in Virginia.

The LOHM also teaches family members and significant others to advocate for their loved ones serving time behind bars. We assist with parole and probation early terminations as well as compassionate release on the federal level. Our team also advocate for unjust sentences and raises awareness by speaking on criminal justice reform panels.

### **What do alternatives to incarceration look like?**

Alternatives to incarceration include addressing poverty, and providing comprehensive social services and employment opportunities. Offering treatment such as mental health support to individuals instead of punishment has also proven to be effective. Other ways to reduce the incarcerated population are to end cash bail, and also allow for house arrest, probation, or community service instead of time served behind bars.

**Image:** Menonsstocks/Getty Images

## **Voting Resources**



Represent Justice's Surrogates and Ambassadors are proud to present FREE OUR VOTE, a guide to voting for and by people impacted by the justice system.

This guide will offer historical context for disenfranchisement, explain who may be on the



Register to be a poll worker on election days. Poll workers tend to be of an older demographic and due to COVID-19 working the polls this year can put them at risk. Protect the health of your older community members, support others in their voting process and earn money while doing so.

ballot and why they are important, as well as how to find out if you are eligible to vote in your state and what your rights are once you are registered.

[Voting Resources](#)



Make sure you're registered to vote!

Voting is an essential way to advocate for your needs. Let your voice be heard.

[Register to Vote](#)

Sign up with your local board of elections.

[Apply to be an NYC Poll Worker](#)



Request an absentee ballot and vote by mail.

Due to COVID-19, some states are encouraging people to vote absentee. Check your state's requirements and apply for an absentee ballot as soon as possible to ensure it arrives on time.

[Apply for an Absentee Ballot](#)

## Save the Date

### Speakers Bureau Graduation

Our Faces of Women Imprisoned program offers professionally-trained public speakers a platform to book their own speaking engagements, share their deeply personal stories, and offer their wisdom and insight gained from their experience with incarceration and the criminal justice system.

On October 1st at 11AM, our first cohort of speakers are graduating!

Join us for the virtual graduation on The Ladies of Hope Ministries Facebook.



## Rewriting Reentry Panel

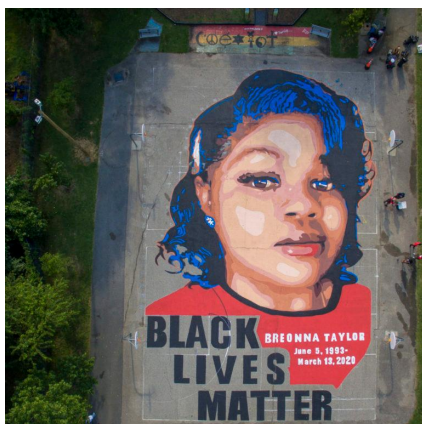


Incase you missed it, checkout the latest segment of The Rewriting Her Story Series, Rewriting Reentry.

Panelists commemorated the 15th year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, celebrated the opening of Hope House NOLA and discussed the intricacies of reentry.

Be sure to subscribe to The LOHM YouTube channel so that you never miss our new content.

## In The News



### Breonna Taylor's Family to Receive \$12 Million Settlement From City of Louisville

In the aftermath of the botched police raid in which Ms. Taylor was killed, the city also agreed to institute changes aimed at preventing future deaths by officers.

[Read the Article](#)

Support women and girls who are impacted by incarceration.

Every gift makes a difference.

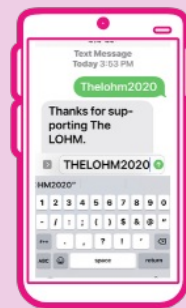
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THANK YOU!



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