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CAMPAIGN FOR SMART JUSTICE

The United States incarcerates too many people for too long.



Imprisonment is a brutal and costly response to crime that traumatizes incarcerated people and hurts families and communities. It should be the last option, not the first. Yet the U.S. incarcerates more people, in both absolute numbers and per capita, than any other nation in the world. For the last four decades, this country has relentlessly expanded the size of our criminal justice system, needlessly throwing away too many lives and wasting trillions of taxpayer dollars.

The ACLU Campaign for Smart Justice is an unprecedented, multiyear effort to reduce the U.S. jail and prison population by 50% and to combat racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

We are working in all 50 states for reforms to usher in a new era of justice in America – and we're already implementing solutions:

- **Sentencing Reform:** We are working to reduce both the number of people entering jails and prisons and the extreme laws and policies that drive extraordinarily long prison terms.
- **Bail Reform:** We're overhauling the unjust and for-profit bail system that strips people of their rights, targets poor people and people of color, and hurts families and communities.
- **Prosecutorial Reform:** Prosecutors across the country work towards convictions, not justice. We're challenging prosecutorial abuse in the courts and legislatures and through voter education.
- **Parole Reform:** We are working to ensure systems are fair, respect people's rights, and promote safety and success for those returning to their communities.
- **Reentry:** We are working to end the collateral consequences that are imposed on people living with a criminal record.

WHY WE NEED TO END MASS INCARCERATION

Racial disparities are 6 to 1

At the end of 2014, the imprisonment rate among Black men was nearly six times that of white men. And the rate for Black women was double that of white women.

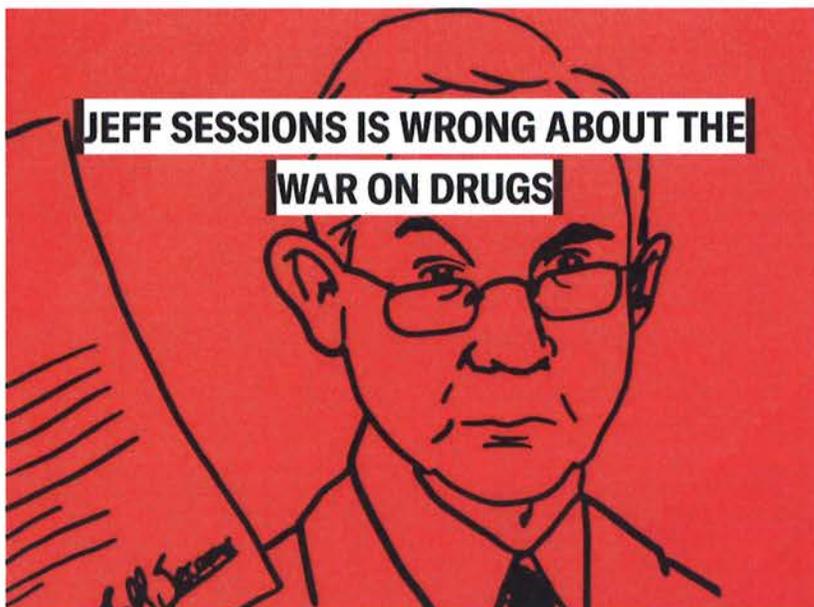
The world's prison capital

Since 1970 our incarcerated population has increased by 700 percent to 2.3 million people in jail and prison today, far outpacing population growth and crime. The United States spends over \$80 billion on incarceration each year.

50,000 barriers to success

Each year 600,000 people nationwide return from prison to immense challenges – including nearly 50,000 federal, state

and local legal restrictions that make it difficult to reintegrate back into society.



ADD YOUR NAME



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Guess Who's the Most Powerful Person In The Justice System?

Take a guess. The most powerful person in the criminal justice system isn't who you think it is.



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How to Fight the War on Drugs

46 years ago, President Richard Nixon declared drug abuse to be "America's public enemy number one," and ignited decades of racist, harmful, and misguided policies—locking up millions of people in prison for decades for small drug offenses. The failed War on Drugs is our country's most shameful attack on families and Black communities.

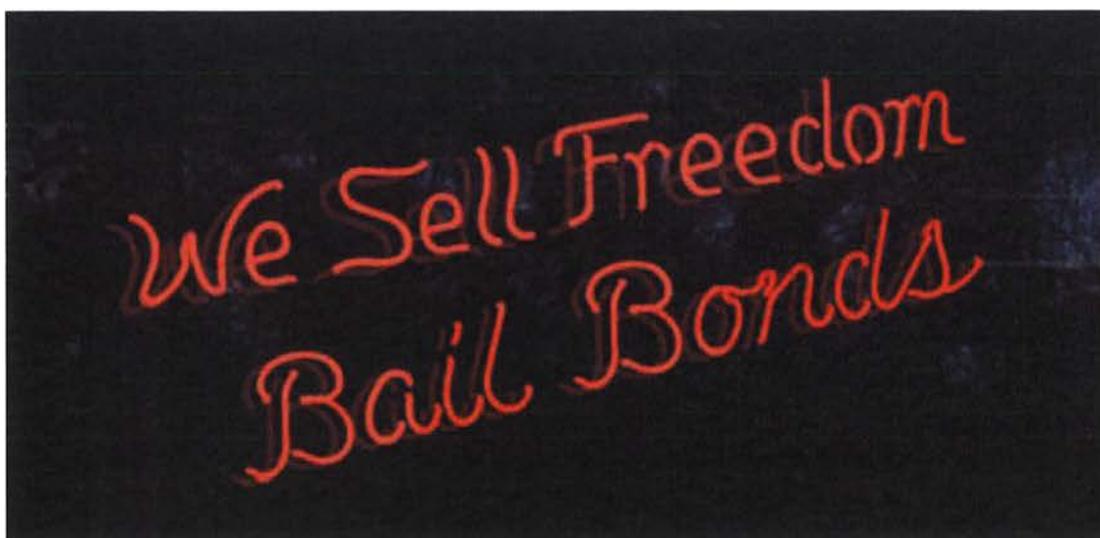




Back to Business

Doing good is good for business. When companies break down barriers to employment and provide second chances to people with a criminal record, they can have a positive impact on the lives of these individuals, the trajectory of families, on the health of their businesses, and on the growth of the American economy.

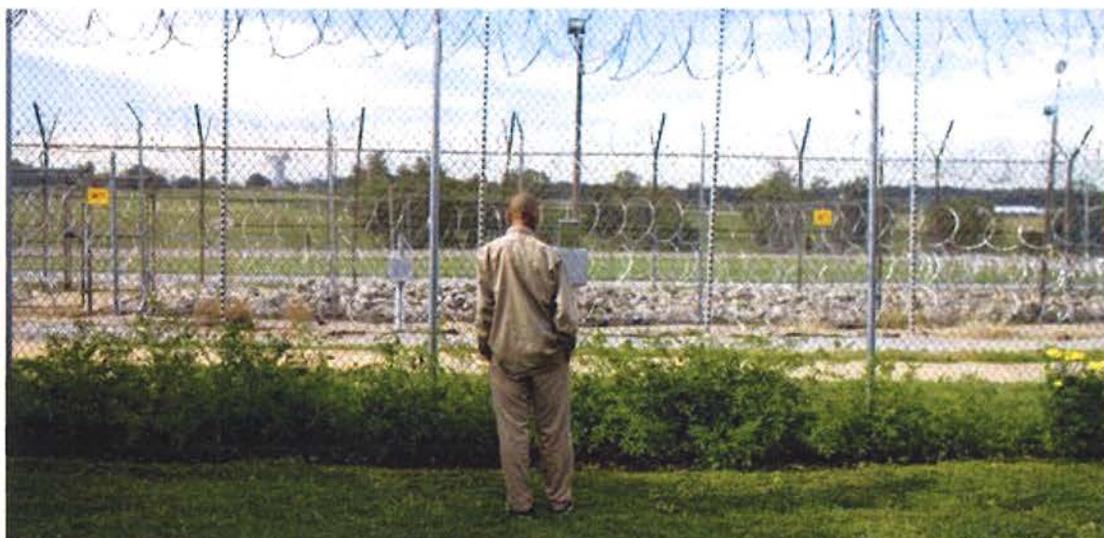
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Selling Off Our Freedom: How Insurance Corporations Have Taken Over Our Bail System

Every year in the United States, millions of people are forced to pay cash bail after their arrest or face incarceration before trial. This is despite the fact that they are presumed innocent and have not been convicted of a crime. The only winner is the bottom line of big for-profit businesses.

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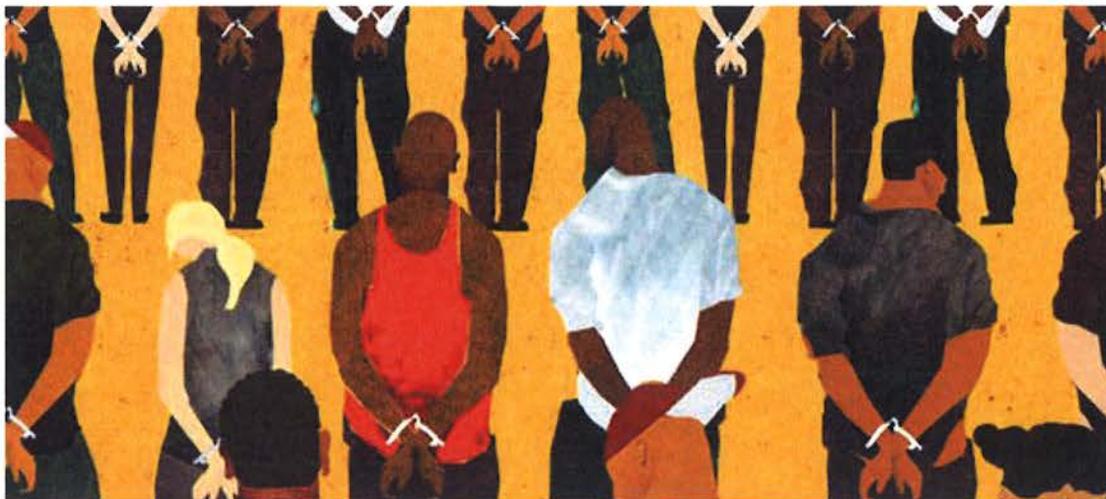


False Hope

Parole systems across the United States are failing. This report documents how these systems fail prisoners who were young when convicted of serious crimes and are serving decades or their lives in prison.

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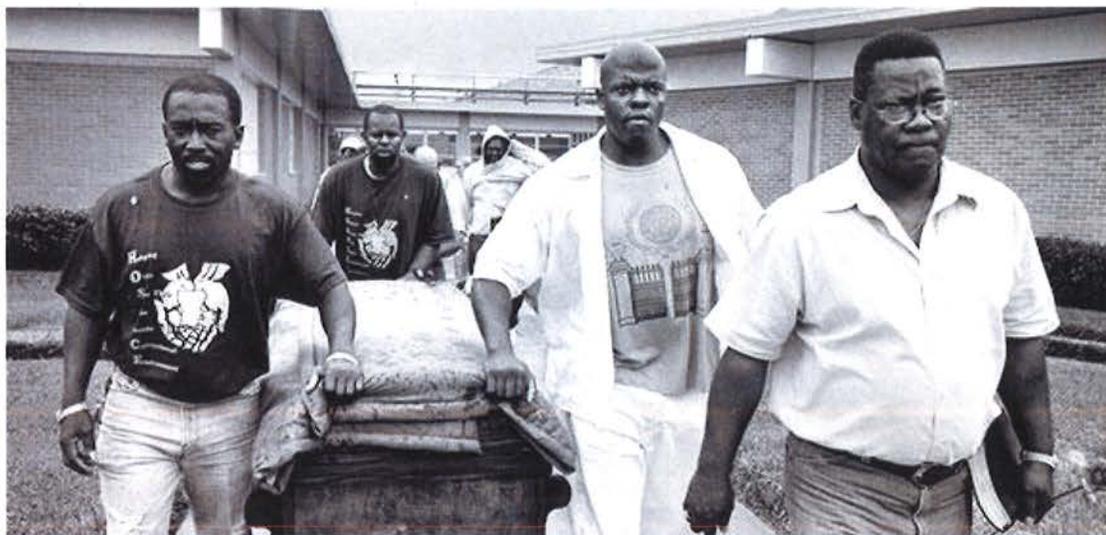




The Human Toll of Criminalizing Drug Use

Black and white adults use drugs at similar rates – but a Black adult is 2.5 times more likely to be arrested for drug possession. This report provides detailed recommendations authorities should follow to minimize the harmful consequences of current laws and policies, until decriminalization is achieved.

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Make the Sentence Fit the Crime

The hallmark of a legitimate justice system is fairness. And yet, today in America, hundreds of thousands of people are serving decades-long prison sentences that are far out of proportion to their crimes. It's time to change extreme sentencing laws and mandatory minimum laws that strip judges of their ability to make the sentence actually fit the crime.

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End the War on Drugs

We've spent trillions of dollars enforcing senseless drug laws. Drug use has not declined, while millions of people – disproportionately poor people and people of color – have been swept into a net of correctional control that is difficult to escape and derails lives. Better solutions exist.

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WE THE PEOPLE DARE TO CREATE A MORE PERFECT UNION