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Justice Roadmap





2024

We are human rights and social justice advocates, directly impacted people, legal service providers, and faith leaders who stand united in the belief that this is a critical moment in our country's history, one that requires our state's leaders to have moral clarity and take unequivocal action.

The Justice Roadmap is a legislative agenda designed to address the deeply interconnected harms caused by the criminal legal and immigration systems. It is a path to decarcerating jails, prisons, and immigration detention centers and ensuring the basic human dignity and core constitutional and human rights of all New Yorkers.

True community safety comes from affordable housing, quality healthcare, and robust educational and economic opportunities. But instead of meeting these basic needs, New York has built and expanded systems of criminalization and incarceration. Harmful and racist notions of criminality are weaponized to fearmonger and justify dehumanizing conditions and treatment, deny basic rights, permanently exile individuals from their communities through incarceration and deportation, and extract resources from economically-distressed communities. These systems are defined by violent policies, structural oppression, and a culture of punishment that criminalizes Black and brown people, families, and communities.

In 2024, we renew the call for bold action to protect communities of color and immigrants by passing the following legislation:

JUSTICEROADMAPNY.ORG



Choose Community Safety over Police Power

- End Qualified Immunity ((S.182A/A.710)
- Right to Remain Silent (S.2303/A.1156), (S.1099/A.1963)
- Geofence Warrant Ban (S.296/A.84), Rogue DNA Database (S.998/A.1877)
- New York For All (S.987/A.5686)

Stop Criminalizing Mental Illness, People Who Use Drugs, and Workers

- All Drug Decriminalization (S.2340/A.3434)
- Treatment Not Jail (S.1976/A.1263)
- Daniel's Law (S.2398/A.2210)
- Street Vendor Legalization Act (S.1739/A.3575)
- Stop Violence in the Sex Trades (S.4396/A.7175)

Decarcerate Jails and Prisons and End Perpetual Punishment

- Eliminate Mandatory Minimums Act (S.6471/A.2036), Second Look Act (S.321/A.531), and Earned Time Act (S.774/A.1128)
- The PromPT Stability Act (S.3066/A.3750)
- Youth Justice & Opportunities Act (S.3426/A.4238)
- Fair and Timely Parole (S.307/A.162) and Elder Parole (S.2423/A.2035)
- Dignity Not Detention (S.306/A.4354)
- Clemency Justice Act (S.222/A.155)

Protect the Dignity and Opportunity of Incarcerated New Yorkers

- Gender Identity Respect, Dignity and Safety Act (S.2860/A.709A)
- Voting Rights for Incarcerated People (S.316/A.412)
- Connecting Families (S.3512A/A.3096A)
- Right to In-Person Visits (S.3318/A.6488)
- No Slavery in NY Act (S.225/A.3412), Fairness and Opportunity for Incarcerated Workers Act (S.6747/A.7452)
- Rights Behind Bars (S.7772/A.8364)
- Human Rights in Jails and Prisons (S.6611/A.2746A)

End Wealth Extraction, Invest in Our Communities and Support Victims & Survivors

- End Predatory Court Fees (S.313/A.4183)
- Access to Representation Act (S.999/A.170)
- Unemployment Bridge Program (S.3192/A.4821)
- Reform Gate Money

THE ISSUES



CHOOSE COMMUNITY SAFETY OVER POLICE POWER

New York must address police violence, abuse and misconduct.

To do this, New York must **End Qualified Immunity (S.182/A.710)** to allow New Yorkers to hold law enforcement accountable. New York must also prohibit police from **Lying in Interrogations (S.2303/A.1156)** and require a consultation with an attorney before **Police Interrogations of Young People (S.1099/A.1963)**, as New York's police officers have a well-documented history of extracting false convictions, often by lying to the accused.

The legislature must also ban the use of invasive surveillance technologies by police, such as the **Rogue DNA Database (S.998/A.1877)**, which includes DNA samples secretly collected from people without their knowledge, and pass the **Geofence Warrant Ban (S.296/A.84)**, which would prevent law enforcement agencies from sweeping up massive amounts of data through large-scale location tracking.

ICE continues to lean on local police and government agencies to target and arrest immigrants in our state. **New York for All (S.987/A.5686)** will protect immigrants from being funneled to ICE or Border Patrol by ensuring that New York's resources are not used to fuel deportations and separate families, and ending local law enforcement agreements to double as ICE agents.

THE ISSUES



END THE WAR ON DRUGS + THE CRIMINALIZATION OF MENTAL ILLNESS

The criminalization of drug use and mental illness has not been an effective method of prevention and treatment.

Instead, it has created more dangerous conditions: enabling police harassment and subjecting more people to the violence of prisons and jails. And for immigrants, a single substance-related arrest can result in detention and deportation by ICE.

Treating drug use as a public health issue, not a criminal legal system one, has proven a more successful model for expanding access to treatment and reducing fatalities, while also working to address extreme racial disparities in enforcement. **All Drug Decriminalization (S.2340/A.3434)** would eliminate criminal penalties for low-level drug possession and the possession of personal use drug paraphernalia, and also allow for the expungement of arrest and conviction records for drug possession. And by passing **Treatment Not Jail (S.1976/A.1263)** New York can provide an off-ramp from the criminal legal system that allows New Yorkers with mental health and substance use issues to obtain robust treatment and support in their communities, rather than languish in jail.

New York designates police as the default responders to individuals in crisis, with devastating results, like when Daniel Prude, a Rochester resident who was experiencing an acute mental health crisis, died after police held him face down on the pavement until he stopped breathing. **Daniel's Law (S.2398/A.2210)** would remove police as the default solution to address mental health and substance use needs, and assign mental health professionals as first responders to mental health crises.

Police harassment and violence stems in part from the criminalization of survival economies. By passing the **Street Vendor Legalization Act (S.1739/A.3575)**, New York can end the criminalization and intimidation of street vendors by the police and allow vendors—primarily immigrants, women, and people of color—to continue feeding New Yorkers and enriching the culture of our city. **Stop Violence in the Sex Trades (S.4396/A.7175)** would decriminalize sex work between consenting adults, which would reduce the violence sex workers encounter, including police exploitation, reduce STI transmission, improve services for sex workers, and empower sex workers to use harm reduction tools.

THE ISSUES



DECARCERATE JAILS + PRISONS + END PERPETUAL PUNISHMENT

Each day in New York State, tens of thousands of people, disproportionately Black, brown and low-income, languish behind bars.

Nearly 75% are Black and brown. After a half-century of racist and draconian sentencing laws, New York must pass the **Eliminate Mandatory Minimums Act (S.6471/A.2036)**, **Second Look Act (S.321/A.531)**, and **Earned Time Act (S.774/A.1128)**, which would eliminate mandatory minimums, address excessive sentences, and create additional opportunities for people to be considered for release. **The PromPT Stability Act (S.3066/A.3750)** grants the right to a hearing shortly after a temporary order of protection is issued in criminal court, seeking to reduce the harms of these orders when they are not warranted.

Given the clear brain science research on emerging adulthood, the legislature must also pass The **Youth Justice & Opportunities Act (S.3426/A.4238)**, which would expand alternatives-to-incarceration and immediate record sealing for young people up to age 25 who are arrested and prosecuted as adults.

New York must also pass key parole justice legislation. No matter how much time has passed, New York's Parole Board often denies parole based on the nature of the offense alone, despite someone's accomplishments in prison and minimal public safety risk. **Fair and Timely Parole (S.307/A.162)** would ensure that the Parole Board evaluates already parole-eligible people based on who they are today, including their rehabilitation, personal transformation and their current risk of violating the law. To address very long and life sentences that amount to de facto death penalty sentences, **Elder Parole (S.2423/A.2035)** allows people in New York State prison categorized by DOCCS as older adults (aged 55 and older) who have served 15 or more consecutive years an opportunity to be considered for parole.

Immigration detention continues the cycle of perpetual punishment. **Dignity Not Detention (S.306/A.4354)** would end ICE's contracts with our local jails, both shrinking the deportation and detention machine in New York and nationwide. . The **Clemency Justice Act (S.222/A.155)** would create transparency around the clemency process in New York State.

THE ISSUES



SECURE THE DIGNITY AND OPPORTUNITY OF NEW YORKERS BEHIND BARS

When faced with the dehumanizing effects of prison, incarcerated people—and their families and friends—can lose hope and purpose.

New York can secure dignity and opportunity for New Yorkers by passing the **No Slavery in NY Act (S.225/A.3412)** and the **Fairness and Opportunity for Incarcerated Workers Act (S.6747/A.7452)** which would work to address the modern day slavery that currently exists in our prisons and jails by outlawing forced labor, providing fair wages and worker health and safety protections, and ensuring that all prison labor programs provide the skills and training necessary for successful rehabilitation, reentry and reintegration into the community.

Respecting the dignity of all New Yorkers also requires recognizing everyone's right to gender self-determination. That's why New York must pass the **Gender Identity Respect, Dignity and Safety Act (S.2860/A.709A)**, which would ensure that people are placed and given access to commissary items based on their self-identified gender.

The disenfranchisement of people in prison is rooted in New York's past racist policies designed in the 1800s to deny Black people the right to vote. New York can undo the ongoing legacy of this policy and the systematic disenfranchisement of Black and Latinx New Yorkers by **Restoring Voting Rights for People in Prison (S.316/A.412)**

Penalizing families for supporting their loved ones behind bars is cruel. **Connecting Families (S.3512A/A.3096A)** would make phone calls in prison free so that people do not have to choose between paying the bills and being there for the people they love. New York must also codify the **Right to In-Person Visits (S.2698/A.2483)** in all jails and prisons, so that families can spend time with their incarcerated loved ones in person, and not just through a screen.

Rights Behind Bars (S.7772/A.8364) aims to reverse the set of interrelated policies and practices that have inflicted even greater repression on people in NY prisons, jails, and forensic facilities, and their loved ones, in the last couple years, including the ban on family care packages, restrictions on visits and mail, systemic violations of the HALT Solitary Confinement Law, and rampant officer brutality and abuse. **Human Rights in Jails and Prisons (A.2746A/S.6611)** would extend the protection of human rights law to incarcerated people by bringing these facilities under the purview of the Division of Human Rights for investigation and enforcement of the anti-discrimination provisions of current law.

THE ISSUES



END WEALTH EXTRACTION + INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Every day, New Yorkers are arrested and imprisoned because they cannot afford to pay fines and fees.

New York must **End Predatory Court Fees (S.313/A.4183)**, which are part of a racist system of taxation-by-citation that encourages policing-for-profit, criminalizes poverty, and endangers Black and brown communities. This legislation would eliminate court, parole and probation fees, as well as mandatory minimum fines, and would end the practice of arresting and incarcerating people solely for an inability to pay fines and fees.

Addressing systemic harms of the criminal and immigration systems means investing in and supporting the people who have been harmed by these systems. New York must invest in a right to counsel for all immigrants facing deportation through the **Access to Representation Act (S.999/A.170)**, which would enact the first right to counsel for immigrants and help stabilize immigrants' lives.

In addition, New York must reverse discriminatory gaps in unemployment assistance by passing the revenue-neutral **Unemployment Bridge Program (S.3192/A.4821)**, which would provide unemployment compensation to an estimated 750,000 workers who are excluded from regular unemployment insurance because of the kind of work they do or their immigration status (e.g. freelancers, cash economy workers, street vendors, and formerly incarcerated workers).

Finally, New York must **reform New York's outdated prison release allowance**. Over 20,000 individuals will reenter society from New York's prisons this year. After enduring years of social and economic exclusion, they face the daunting task of securing food, transportation to an approved residence, and reporting to supervision within 48 hours—all with a meager \$40 in “gate money.” New York must replace the outdated concept of ‘gate money’ with a dynamic Reentry Cash Fund that will provide eligible individuals with a minimum of \$2,600, empowering them to address fundamental needs such as food, housing costs, court-related debts, and preparation for employment.

ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS

- ABIERTO - Coalition to Reform Grand Juries
- Academia Arrested
- African Services Committee
- Alliance of Families for Justice
- American Friends Service Committee
- Anti-Racist Catskills
- Appellate Advocates
- Association of Legal Aid Attorneys (UAW 2325)
- Beacon Prison Action
- Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Long Island
- Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
- Black Lives Matter - Hudson Valley
- Black Trans Nation
- Brooklyn Defender Services
- Brooklyn Law School Criminal Defense & Advocacy Clinic
- CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities
- Call BlackLine
- Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration
- Catskill Mutual Aid
- Center for Appellate Litigation
- Center for Community Alternatives
- Center for Disability Rights
- Center for Employment Opportunities
- Center for Law and Justice
- Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law at New York University School of Law
- Chief Defenders Association of New York
- Children's Defense Fund-NY
- Children's Rights
- Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)
- Citizen Action New York
- Citizen Action WNY
- Columbia County Sanctuary Movement
- Community Service Society
- Concerned Families of Westchester
- Congregation Beit Simchat Torah
- Correctional Association of New York
- Criminal Defense Clinic, Fordham University School of Law
- CUNY Rising Alliance
- Decarcerate the Hudson Valley
- Decarcerate Tompkins County
- Drug Policy Alliance
- DTruth Unlimited
- Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance
- Emergency Release Fund
- Empire Justice Center
- Empire State Indivisible
- End Jim Crow Action Network (ENJAN)
- End the New Jim Crow Action Network-Poughkeepsie
- Enough Is Enough
- Envision Freedom Fund
- Equitable Future, Inc.
- Exodus Transitional Community
- Families for Freedom
- Fines and Fees Justice Center
- Forefront NYC
- Free The People WNY
- Freedom Agenda
- Friends of Island Academy
- Gender Equality New York, Inc.
- Getting Out and Staying Out
- GMHC
- Granny Peace Brigade
- Greenburger Center for Social and Criminal Justice
- HALT Solitary Campaign
- Hour Children
- Hudson Catskill Housing Coalition
- Hudson Valley Strong Indivisible
- Human Rights Watch
- I Am Citizen

ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS

- Immigrant Defense Project
- Incarcerated Nation Network, Inc.
- Innocence Project
- Interfaith Peace Network of WNY
- It Could Happen To You
- Jews for Racial & Economic Justice
- Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club
- John Jay College Institute for Justice and Opportunity
- Judson Memorial Church
- Justice 4 Women Task Force
- Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier
- Justice For Families
- Laloon
- LatinoJustice PRLDEF
- Legal Action Center
- Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo
- Legal Aid Society
- Legal Aid Society of Nassau County
- Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County
- Legal Services Staff Association, NOLSW/ UAW 2320
- LIFE Progressive Services Group Inc.
- Long Island Activists
- Long Island Black Alliance
- Long Island Network for Change (LINC)
- Long Island Progressive Coalition
- Long Island Social Justice Action Network
- Make the Road NY
- Marsha P. Johnson Institute
- Memorial United Methodist Church
- Met Council Action
- Met Council on Housing
- Mid Hudson Valley Democratic Socialists of America
- Monroe County Public Defender's Office
- Mott Haven Families
- Nassau County Jail Advocates
- National Action Network NYC Chapter
- Second Chance Committee
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Huntington
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - NYS Criminal Justice
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Queens
- National Lawyers Guild Rochester
- National Solidarity Movement
- Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
- Neighbors Together
- New Hour
- New Hour for Women & Children - Long Island
- NEW Pride Agenda
- New Sanctuary Coalition
- New York City Jericho Movement
- New York Civil Liberties Union
- New York Civil Liberties Union - Nassau Chapter
- New York Communities for Change
- New York County Defender Services
- New York Immigration Coalition
- New York Social Action
- New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NYSACDL)
- New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- New York State Prisoner Justice Network
- New York State Youth Leadership Council
- >NNLB
- Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson
- Nonprofit Finance Fund
- NY02 Indivisible
- NYC Metro Raging Grannies
- Office of the Appellate Defender
- Onondaga County Bar Assoc. Assigned Counsel Program

ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS

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- Open Arms
 - Parole Preparation Project
 - Partnership for the Public Good
 - Peaceprints of WNY
 - PEER: Progressive East End Reformers
 - Prison Families Anonymous
 - Prison Writes
 - Prisoners Are People Too
 - Public Interest Resource Center, Fordham Law School
 - Quakers-Religious Society of Friends, NY Yearly Meeting
 - Queens Defenders
 - Release Aging People in Prison Campaign
 - Resource Generation NYC
 - Rise And Resist NYC
 - Rise Up Kingston
 - Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
 - Rockland Citizens Action Network
 - Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow
 - S.T.O.P. - The Surveillance Technology Oversight Project, Inc.
 - S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc.
 - Shape Consulting Inc
 - Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - NYC
 - Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - ROC
 - Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - Westchester
 - Silent Cry Inc.
 - Sister of St. Joseph, Brentwood NY Office of Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation
 - Spoke and Feather
 - TakeRoot Justice
 - Tenants Political Action Committee
 - The Bronx Defenders
 - The Fortune Society
 - The Gathering for Justice
 - The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
 - The Newburgh LGBTQIA+ Center
 - The Osborne Association
 - The Safe Center LI
 - The Women's Community Justice Association
 - Trellis
 - Turning Points Resource Center
 - United Auto Workers Region 9A
 - United Christian Leadership Ministry
 - United Voices of Cortland
 - UnLocal
 - Upstate Downstate Housing Alliance
 - Uptown Progressive Action
 - Village Independent Democrats
 - Violence Intervention Program
 - Visionary V
 - VOCAL-NY
 - Wayne County Public Defender
 - WE GOT US NOW
 - WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
 - Westchester Coalition for Police Reform
 - Westchester for Change
 - Witness to Mass Incarceration Inc.
 - WNY Peace Center
 - Women & Justice Project
 - Women's Diversity Network
 - Worker Justice Center of New York
 - Worth Rises
 - Yonkers Sanctuary Movement
 - Young Adult Perspective Project
 - Young Invincibles
 - Young Long Island for Justice
 - Youth Represent

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