

RESOURCE GUIDE

How Black Women Are Rightfully “Taking Seats at the Table”



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70 Million is made possible by a grant from the Safety and Justice Challenge at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



million

ONE JAIL AT A TIME.

story

BLACK WOMEN & THE CARCERAL SYSTEM

ALESHA MONTEIRO, AN ADVOCATE TO THOSE INCARCERATED, POSES FOR A PHOTO AT THE STATE CAPITOL IN SACRAMENTO, CALIF. PHOTO BY SARA NEVIS.



More and more Black women have joined the carceral system as officers of the court, police, and judges. Still...

nearly **1 in 2** Black women has a family member in prison.

29% of women imprisoned are Black, while comprising less than 15% of the U.S. population.

35% of girls in youth facilities are Black.

64% of Black women have a family member who has been incarcerated.

... They are disproportionately afflicted by the system.



YOU SHOW UP TO ANY PROTEST, RALLY, CARAVAN, WHATEVER, YOU'RE GOING TO SEE A SEA OF WOMEN—BLACK, BROWN, AND OTHER. THIS MOVEMENT IS...RUN BY WOMEN AND WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
- ALESHA MONTEIRO

BUT BLACK WOMEN ARE ORGANIZING ALL OVER THE U.S. TO BUILD A MORE CARING WORLD

READ • JOIN • SUPPORT



Black women working to redirect conversations of power and transform systems of harm follows a continuum of their resistance to domination and oppression since the start of this country -from slavery to the Civil Rights Movement to feminism and various political, social, and class struggles.

REVIEW QUESTION

Why do you think Black women have been ignored for so long in mainstream conversations about mass incarceration even though they have always been a target?

The Essie Justice Group is led by "women with incarcerated loved ones taking on the rampant injustices created by mass incarceration."

Project NIA aiming to end youth incarceration

Black & Pink works for "liberating LGBTQIA2S+ people and people living with HIV/AIDS who are affected by that system through advocacy, support, and organizing."

Critical Resistance "seeks to build an international movement to end the Prison Industrial Complex [...] The success of the movement requires that it reflect communities most affected by the PIC."

The African American Policy Forum, "an innovative think tank that connects academics, activists and policy-makers to promote efforts to dismantle structural inequality."

Southerners on New Ground (SONG) "is a home for LGBTQ liberation across all lines of race, class, abilities, age, culture, gender, and sexuality in the South."

Designing Justice + Designing Spaces "is an Oakland-based nonprofit architecture and real estate development firm with a mission to end mass incarceration and structural inequity."

The National Bailout Collective "coordinates the Mama's Day Bail Outs, where we bail out as many Black Mamas and caregivers as we can so they can spend Mother's Day with their families where they belong!"

The Audre Lorde Project's Safe OUTside the System (SOS) Collective is "an anti-violence program led by and for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two Spirit, Trans, and Gender Non Conforming people of color."

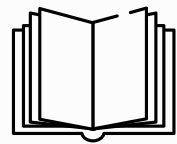
Young Women's Freedom Center, aimed "to empower and inspire cis and trans young women, trans young men, and gender-expansive young people who have been disproportionately impacted by incarceration, racist and sexist policies, the juvenile and criminal justice systems, and/or the underground street economy, to create positive change in their lives and communities."

DELEGATE
DEBRA DAVIS
IN HER OFFICE
IN ANNAPOLIS,
MARYLAND.
PHOTO BY
BRANDON
TOBIAS.

"The idea that somehow somebody's job is worth more than somebody's life is too much. [...] I'm tired of hiding my pain. This hurts. [...] My favorite poem says, if you're silent about your pain, they'll kill you and say you liked it. I'm telling you, I'm tired of dying. I'm tired of my people dying. And we don't like it." - Debra Davis

Keep Learning THIS WEEK'S MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

Reading



[Are Prisons Obsolete?](#) by [Angela Davis](#)

[These Black Women Were Fighting for Social Justice Long Before Kim K. Became 'The Princess of Prison Reform'](#) by [Selena Hill](#)

[Stacey Abrams's success in Georgia builds on generations of Black women's organizing](#) by [Nadia E. Brown](#) and [Bry Reed](#)

[Criminal justice reform won't work until it focuses on Black women](#) by [Talitha L. LeFlouria](#)

[How Black female lawmakers led Maryland's historic effort to transform policing](#) by [Ovetta Wiggins](#)

[Why Black progressive women feel torn about Kamala Harris](#) by [Derecka Purnell](#)

[Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics](#) by [Kimberlé Crenshaw](#)

Podcasts



[Gina Clayton-Johnson of the Essie Justice Group on the Electorette Podcast](#)

[The original meaning of "identity politics" \(with Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor\)](#) on [Vox Conversations](#)

Video



[So after we abolish prisons and policing...then what?: A Black Feminist Dialogue & What happens to Black women and girls in a world without police?](#) with [Dr. Brittney Cooper](#) by [For Harriet](#)



INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE SHEILA ROGERS FRAMED THE TIME MAGAZINE PIECE FROM 2018 THAT SHE WAS FEATURED IN. PHOTO BY ALYSSA POINTER.

70 Million Team

Episode Reporter: Pamela Kirkland

Executive Editor: Jen Chien

Host: Mitzi Miller

Sound Designer: Elizabeth Nakano

Photo Editor: Michelle Baker

Lead Fact Checker: Mark Betancourt

Lead Producer: Cedric Wilson

Episode Photographers: Sara Nevis, Brandon Tobias, Alyssa Pointer

Creator/Executive Producer: Juleyka Lantigua



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@70MillionPod  

Hello@70MillionPod.com

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