



Accounting for Violence

How to Increase Safety and Break Our Failed Reliance on Mass Incarceration

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Tumblr, Inc. 35 East 21st Street, New York, NY 10010

9:00 - 9:20 a.m. Arrival and breakfast

9:20 - 9:35 a.m. Welcome and opening remarks

- Martín Abregú, Ford Foundation
- Leonard Noisette, Open Society Foundations

9:35 - 9:45 a.m. Accounting for violence

- Danielle Sered, Common Justice

9:45 - 10:40 a.m. Survivor-centered responses to violence

- sujutha baliga
- DaMareo Cooper
- Susan Jackson
- Dorothy Johnson-Speight
- Aqeela Sherrills
- Moderator: Fatimah Muhammad

10:45 – 11:15 a.m. Accountability-based responses to violence

- Donnell Penny
- Johnny Perez
- Sonya Shah
- Moderator: Marlon Peterson

11:15 – 11:30 a.m. Break

11:30 – 12:10 p.m. Safety-driven responses to violence

- Eric Gonzalez
- David Kennedy
- David Muhammad
- Laura Sager
- Moderator: Nick Turner

12:10 – 1:00 p.m. Racially equitable responses to violence

- Soffiyah Elijah
- Donna Hylton
- Alan Jenkins
- Michael McBride
- Scott Roberts
- Bruce Western
- Moderator: Malika Saada Saar

1:00 p.m. Adjourn

sujatha baliga's work is characterized by an equal dedication to victims and persons accused of crime. A former victim advocate and public defender, sujatha was awarded a Soros Justice Fellowship which she used to organize a successful restorative juvenile diversion program in Alameda County. sujatha is a frequent guest lecturer at universities and conferences, has been a guest on NPR's *Talk of the Nation* and the *Today Show*, and her work has been profiled in the *New York Times Magazine*. She often speaks publicly and inside prisons about restorative justice, her personal experiences as a survivor of child sexual abuse, and her path to forgiveness. Today, sujatha is the director of the Restorative Justice Project at Impact Justice, where she helps communities implement restorative justice alternatives to juvenile detention and zero-tolerance school discipline policies. As a Just Beginnings Collaborative Fellow and co-founder of Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice, she is dedicated to advancing restorative justice to end child sexual abuse and intrafamilial and sexual violence. sujatha earned her A.B. from Harvard College, her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and has held two federal clerkships. sujatha makes her home with her partner of 20 years, Jason, and their 11-year-old son, Sathya.

Damareo Cooper is the executive director of the Ohio Organizing Collaborative (OOC), a statewide organization dedicated to improving the lives of everyday Ohioans. He has played an integral role in shaping and developing electoral and community organizing campaigns across the state since 2008, specifically in northeast Ohio. Damareo has spent his career working with leaders in communities of color developing campaigns addressing issues of vacant properties and housing, criminal justice reform, state and local fair hiring policies, stopping "stand your ground" laws in Ohio, and ending zero tolerance in schools. Cooper works on statewide and local electoral campaigns, and trains and develops new staff and leaders to integrate community organizing and civic engagement work. During the last decade of organizing he has trained hundreds of low-income grassroots activists in Ohio in traditional organizing models, movement building models, and running effective civic engagement programs in communities of color. Damareo is also the co-founder and director of the Way of Mind and Body, an independent community culture center located in Akron, Ohio. Damareo is also an adjunct Professor at Kent State University where he teaches Black community organizing at the university's Pan-African Studies Department. Damareo lives in Akron, Ohio.

Soffiyah Elijah is the Executive Director of Alliance of Families for Justice (AFJ). Established in 2016 in NY, its mission is to support families of incarcerated people and people with criminal records, empower them as advocates and mobilize them to marshal their voting power to achieve systemic change. Prior to founding AFJ, Ms. Elijah was the Executive Director of the Correctional Association of NY (CANY) where she was the first woman and the first person of color to lead the 170 year old organization. Ms. Elijah has dedicated her life to human rights and social justice, and is a frequent presenter at national and international forums on criminal justice policy and human rights issues. Prior to leading CANY Ms. Elijah served as Deputy Director and Clinical Instructor at the Criminal Justice Institute at Harvard Law School. Before moving to Harvard, she was a member of the faculty and Director and Supervising Attorney of the Defender Clinic at the City University of New York School of Law. Ms. Elijah has also worked as a Supervising Attorney at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, a Staff Attorney at the Juvenile Rights Division of the Legal Aid Society, and in private practice.

Eric Gonzalez began his legal career in 1995, as an assistant district attorney in the Kings County District Attorney's Office. In 2011, Mr. Gonzalez became the Executive Assistant District Attorney of the Green Trial Zone. Under his leadership, the Green Zone attained a record of being one of the most successful and productive trial zones in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office. Promoted by District Attorney Thompson to Counsel to the District Attorney in March of 2014, Mr. Gonzalez was especially instrumental to the office's smooth transition during the change of administrations. In October of 2014, Mr. Gonzalez was appointed by District Attorney Thompson as Chief Assistant District Attorney, the first Latino to hold that position in Brooklyn. Mr. Gonzalez grew up in East New York and Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and attended John Dewey High School in Coney Island. He graduated from Cornell University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a dual major in government and history. In 1995, he received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School. He was sworn in as Acting District Attorney in October of 2016 after the passing of District Attorney Thompson. Mr. Gonzalez resides in Brooklyn with his wife and three boys.

Donna Hylton draws upon her experience imprisoned in a women's correctional facility for 27 years, with some of that time spent in solitary confinement. Now free on parole, she emphasizes the importance of building communities through economic, racial, and

gender justice. Donna is a founding member of From Life to Life, a national initiative dedicated to the dismantling of the prison industrial complex. Donna is a key member of the Correctional Association's "Violence Against Women Committee on the Inside." She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Behavioral Sciences with a concentration in Social Psychology and a Master's of Arts degree in English Literature from Mercy College. Donna is also an advisory committee member for the New York Women's Bar Association's Parole Prep Project, a 2015 JustLeadershipUSA Fellow, a key member of the Women and Justice Project, and a founding member of the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. Donna is also the co-author of her biography "A Little Piece of Light" to be released in the Fall of 2017.

Susan T. Jackson graduated from Medgar Evers college with a degree in Teacher Education and completed a certificate program in addressing Developmental Disabilities. She has been involved in community initiatives for many years. With the aim of improving the lives of people in her community, Mrs. Jackson co-founded, along with her daughter Alisa T. Jackson-Purvis, a non-profit organization called Volunteer Initiatives for Life- Long Learners Achieving Greater Excellence, Inc. (V.I.L.L.A.G.E. Inc.). The organization offers programs that reach people of all ages within the community. One of the programs called S.I.S.T.A.H is now on the campus of Lincoln University, in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Jackson has been at various events as a speaker, panelist, and presenter for a wide range of organizations focused on reducing community violence and advancing alternatives to incarceration including Common Justice, the Marshall Project, NYC Probation's Stop the Violence program, and many others. After the killing of her son Kenneth S. Jackson Jr. in 2007, Mrs. Jackson's focus— along with her husband Kenneth S. Jackson Sr. and daughter Alisa T. Jackson-Purvis—has been to help promote peace within the community and open avenues to success. Mrs. Jackson is currently working on the completing of her book entitled *Reflections*.

Alan Jenkins is President and Co-Founder of The Opportunity Agenda, a social justice communication lab dedicated to the idea that our nation can and should be a place where everyone enjoys full opportunity. Before joining The Opportunity Agenda, Alan was Director of Human Rights at the Ford Foundation. His prior positions include Assistant to the Solicitor General at the U.S. Department of Justice and Associate Counsel to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where he defended the rights of low-income communities facing exploitation and discrimination. Alan's other positions have included Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School, Law Clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun, Law Clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Robert L. Carter, and Coordinator of the Access to Justice Project of the American Civil Liberties Union. Alan serves on the Board of the Futuro Media Group, on the AdCouncil's Advisory Committee on Public Issues, and as an Advisor on Poverty to the JBP Foundation. He holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, an M.A. in Media Studies from the New School for Public Engagement, and a B.A. in Psychology and Social Relations from Harvard College.

Dorothy Johnson-Speight, MHS, LPC is the Founder and National Executive Director of Mothers In Charge, Inc. She is a highly regarded leader, advocate, speaker, guest radio/television commentator and a clarion voice against the war to end senseless acts of violent crime. Her work, though rooted in Philadelphia, has led to national appearances and presentations across the United States and abroad. Most recently, the Open Society Foundations named Dorothy as a member of the 2015 class of Soros Justice Fellows. A licensed family therapist, Dorothy is a proponent for the rights of children and families. She has a distinguished career in victim advocacy. Following the tragic murder of her son Khaaliq Jabbar Johnson in 2001 over a parking space dispute, Mrs. Johnson-Speight along with other grieving mothers founded the non-profit organization Mothers In Charge, Inc, a grassroots organization whose mission is violence prevention through education. Dorothy Johnson-Speight's work has been recognized by local and national media establishments including the following: *Philadelphia Magazine's* coveted Best Philadelphian Award and selection by *Philadelphia Tribune* as one of 2012 Philadelphia's Most Influential African American Leaders. She is also the recipient of the 2013 *Philadelphia Inquirer* Philadelphia Citizen of the Year Award, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Director of Community Service Award, and the School District of Philadelphia Humanitarian Award. Dorothy has served as a Board Trustee to the Philadelphia Prison System.

David M. Kennedy is the director of the National Network for Safe Communities, a project of John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. Mr. Kennedy and the National Network support cities implementing strategic interventions to reduce violence, minimize arrest and incarceration, enhance police legitimacy, and strengthen relationships between law enforcement and communities. These interventions have been proven effective in a variety of settings by a Campbell Collaboration evaluation, and are currently

being implemented in Chicago, New Orleans, Baltimore, Oakland, and many other cities nationwide. Mr. Kennedy's work has won two Ford Foundation Innovations in Government awards, among many other distinctions. His latest book is *Don't Shoot, One Man, a Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner-City America*.

Pastor Michael McBride (known as "Pastor Mike") is a native of San Francisco with 20+ years of active ministry. In 2005, he graduated Duke University's Divinity School, with a Master of Divinity with an emphasis in Ethics and Public Policy. Pastor McBride founded The Way Christian Center in West Berkeley, and serves as the Lead Pastor. In 2012, Pastor McBride became Director for the Lifelines to Healing/LIVE FREE Campaign with the PICO National Network, a campaign of hundreds of faith congregations across the United States committed to addressing gun violence and mass incarceration of young people of color. In 2013, Pastor McBride was selected as the #9 Top Clergy Leader to Watch by the Center for American Progress. He has served on a number of local and national task forces with the White House and Department of Justice regarding gun violence prevention, boys and men of color and police-community relationships. In 2016, he was appointed as an Advisor on President Obama's Advisory Council for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. He provides commentary on MSNBC, CNN and Al-Jazeera programs for issues related to faith and racial justice. He is married to Cherise McBride and they have two beautiful daughters, Sarai and Nylah.

David Muhammad is a leader in the fields of criminal justice, violence prevention, and youth development. Mr. Muhammad is the Executive Director of the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR). Through NICJR, David serves as a lead consultant and technical assistance provider to the Sierra Health Foundation's Positive Youth Justice Initiative, the CeaseFire Violence Reduction Strategy, and Cities United. Mr. Muhammad is the federal court appointed monitor overseeing reforms in the Illinois juvenile justice system. David is also a member of the Antelope Valley Monitoring Team which is charged with monitoring the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's implementation of a federal Settlement Agreement. The former Chief Probation Officer of the Alameda County (California) Probation Department, David was responsible for overseeing 20,000 people on probation, a staff of 600, and a \$90 million budget. Mr. Muhammad formerly served as the Deputy Commissioner of New York City's Department of Probation and was responsible for overseeing 35,000 people on probation and a staff of 800. He previously served as the Chief of Committed Services for Washington, DC's, Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS). His responsibilities at DYRS included 300 staff, a \$42 million annual budget, a juvenile institution, and 900 youth committed to his department's care.

Fatimah Loren Muhammad is the Director of Equal Justice USA's Trauma Advocacy Initiative, a program in which she runs a police/community social healing project that brings hundreds of African American leaders and police departments together to discuss issues of race, trauma, and violence. Fatimah's work also includes supporting collaborative work between criminal justice reform advocates and public health practitioners in order to build a trauma-informed justice system using a public health lens. EJUSA began this work after years of working with hundreds of crime survivors, largely families of murder victims, and finding that their needs—from unaddressed trauma to financial challenges—have gone unaddressed in the justice system, contributing to cycles of violence and incarceration. Fatimah is a psychotherapist with a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology and a specialization in trauma among adults, adolescents, and communities of color. She is a Fulbright Scholar Finalist, recipient of the 2010 Social Transformation Award in Philadelphia, and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

Donnell Penny is a Case Coordinator at Common Justice, where he works with young people responsible for violent crime who are taking part in a restorative justice-based alternative to incarceration and victim service program. Donnell joined Common Justice in March 2014 as an assistant coordinator and expanded his work to lead its MOVE (Men Opposing Violence Everywhere) groups and its engagement of program graduates before joining the team as a Case Coordinator. A Brooklyn native, Donnell has held a variety of positions in social services, including working as a youth counselor and a home health aide. Donnell brings to the project a strong commitment to restorative justice, violence intervention, and advancing the well-being of his peers and his community. He is also a proud graduate of Common Justice.

Johnny Perez is the Safe Reentry advocate at the Urban Justice Center Mental Health Project, a nonprofit law firm providing pro bono legal services to underserved populations in NYC. Specifically, he works directly with people with mental illness and histories of incarceration, to connect them to the services in the community that will assist them to attain better measures of recovery and

gain the stability necessary to avoid further contact with the criminal justice system. Drawing on the wisdom of thirteen years of direct involvement with the criminal justice system, Johnny also works to change unjust policies and practices in the criminal justice system through his participation as a newly appointed member of the NY Advisory Committee to The US Civil Rights Commission. Johnny is also a member of the NYC Bar Association's Correction and Reentry Committee and a member of the Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC). Johnny is a member of the 2017 JustLeadershipUSA Leading with Conviction Program and is now in the process of completing his first nonfiction book: *Uncuffed: Reflections on Criminal Justice After 13 Years of Incarceration*.

Marlon Peterson is the founder of The Precedential Group, a social justice consulting firm, and a 2015 recipient of the prestigious Soros Justice Fellowship. Marlon openly shares that he was incarcerated during his 20's for his involvement in a crime as a teenager. During that time he earned an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelors Degree in Organizational Behavior with Honors and created a letter correspondence mentorship program with middle school students. This program set the foundation for the creation of H.O.L.L.A. (How Our Lives Link Altogether). He also helped create Youth Organizing to Save Our Streets (YO SOS), a program designed to train teens to be anti-gun violence youth organizers in his Brooklyn hometown. Since his release from prison in December 2009, Marlon has held several nonprofit positions. Ebony Magazine has named him one of America's 100 most influential and inspiring leaders in the Black community. He is also an Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar, and Fall 2016 TED Resident. His podcast, *Decarcerated*, which highlights the journeys of success of people impacted by prison and jail is slated to for release this Spring. Find him talking about Trinidad, soca music, and all things justice related on twitter at @_marlonpeterson.

Scott Roberts joined ColorOfChange in fall 2015 as Senior Campaign Director for Criminal Justice. He is an organizer and strategist committed to ending mass incarceration. A native of Emporia, VA, he credits his passion for organizing and racial justice to his upbringing in a family that has been engaged in the local civil rights struggle in Southside Virginia for four generations and engaged him in politics at an early age. Before shifting his focus to full-time organizing, Scott studied political science at Morehouse College and the University of Chicago. Scott has worked as an organizer and strategist on electoral and issue campaigns including the 2008 Obama campaign and efforts for worker's rights, healthcare, marriage equality, immigrant rights and democratic reform. In his most recent position as Sr. Campaign Manager at Advancement Project, Scott collaborated with local grassroots organizations across the country on issues of criminalization. In addition, he led trainings for over 1,000 organizers working on school-to-prison pipeline issues over the last four years. In 2013, Scott co-founded Freedom Side, a national network of youth of color organizers focused on racial justice issues.

Malika Saada Saar is Google's Senior Counsel on Civil and Human Rights. Before joining Google, Malika was founder and Executive Director of the Human Rights Project for Girls, a human rights organization focused on gender-based violence against young women and girls in the U.S. She also served as Special Counsel on Human Rights at The Raben Group. As a human rights lawyer and advocate, Malika led the effort to shut down Craigslist sex ads that served as the leading site for the trafficking of children for sex, ended the federal practice of shackling pregnant mothers behind bars in U.S. prisons, and successfully advocated for millions in federal funding for treatment services for at-risk families. *Newsweek* and the *Daily Beast* have named Malika as one of "150 Women Who Shake the World." The Obama White House selected Ms. Saada Saar to serve on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights and Essie Justice Group. Ms. Saada Saar holds a B.A. from Brown University, M.A. in Education from Stanford University, and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. She lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband and three children.

Laura Sager was appointed executive director of Citizen's Alliance on Prison and Public Spending in 2013. She served as CAPPS associate director from June 2011 to February 2012. She has also been a founding member of the Interim Steering Committee of the National Network for Justice since 2012. Laura Sager has led a number of Michigan and national criminal justice reform efforts. From 2007-2011 she was the executive director of the Campaign for Justice (CFJ), a Michigan nonprofit organization working to reform Michigan's public defense delivery system. Between 1996-2007 she served as Michigan project director, national campaign director and executive director of Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM). Sager led broad-based bipartisan campaigns that won legislation rolling back Michigan's harshest-in-the-nation mandatory minimum drug laws in 1998 and 2001. In Virginia, Sager's efforts led to the enactment of a "safety valve" for nonviolent, first offenders facing draconian mandatory sentences under the Substance

Abuse Reduction Effort. Sager provided technical assistance to state officials and directed state sentencing reform campaigns in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and North Carolina. She has served as a national spokesperson on criminal justice issues. Her work was featured on television programs ranging from *60 Minutes II* to the *O'Reilly Factor*.

Danielle Sered envisioned, launched, and directs Common Justice. She leads the project's efforts, locally rooted in Brooklyn but national in scope, to develop and advance practical and groundbreaking solutions to violence that advance racial equity, meet the needs of those harmed, and do not rely on incarceration. Before Common Justice, Danielle served as the deputy director of Vera's Adolescent Reentry Initiative, a program for young men returning from incarceration on Rikers Island, and ran the youth programs at the Center for Court Innovation's Harlem Community Justice Center. Danielle sits on the Downstate Coalition for Crime Victims, the Advisory Council to the New York State Office of Victims Services, the Diversity Advisory Committee to the federal Office for Victims of Crime, the New York State Governor's Council on Reentry and Community Reintegration, and the Advisory Board to the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice. She has presented at a wide range of national forums, including the Aspen Ideas Festival, the *Atlantic Magazine* Summit on Race and Justice in America, and the Bipartisan Summit on Criminal Justice Reform, and is the author of *The Other Side of Harm: Addressing Disparities in our Responses to Violence* and of *Accounting for Violence: How to Increase Safety and Reduce Our Failed Reliance on Mass Incarceration*.

Sonya Shah has 20 years experience in social justice education. She is an associate professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies, and currently works at the intersection of restorative justice practices, trauma healing, sexual harm and structural oppression. Sonya is part of an inaugural cohort of fellows and grantees with Justice Beginnings Collaborative with Project Ahimsa . She speaks regularly at conferences, colleges and on the radio, and started a blog on Huffington Post. She is also a survivor of sexual harm and a first generation immigrant from the Northwestern part of India.

Aqeela Sherrills was raised in the Jordan Downs Housing Projects in Watts. In 1989, he lost 13 friends to gang violence, catalyzing his role in organizing the historic 1992 Peace Treaty between the Crips and Bloods in Los Angeles. In January 2004, his oldest son Terrell was murdered while home on winter break. This experience inspired a shift in Aqeela's approach and gave birth to The Reverence Project, an initiative working to shift the social construct of our culture rooted in violence, shame, guilt and fear into a more balanced view rooted in reverence, forgiveness, compassion, and truth. Aqeela co-founded the Amer-I- Program, Inc with Jim Brown. He serves on the boards of Murder Victim Families for Reconciliation, L.A.U.R.A., The Center for Transformative Change, and Father of Watts. He is a Strategist for Californians for Safety and Justice and directs Newark's first community based violence reduction initiative. Aqeela is the subject of multiple films on gang violence prevention and victim services, and is currently developing The Reverence Wellness Salon, a comprehensive wellness center taking a holistic approach to supporting the healing journey of survivors of violence. Aqeela is a Fellow with the Just Beginnings Collaborative, a national network of leaders and organizations working to end child sexual abuse.

Nicholas Turner joined the Vera Institute of Justice in 2013. He is the author of several op-eds, including "Finding A Home After Prison" in the *New York Times*; "What We Learned from German Prisons" with Jeremy Travis in the *New York Times*; and "The Steep Cost of America's High Incarceration Rate" with Robert Rubin, co-chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations and a former U.S. Treasury secretary, in the *Wall Street Journal*. Mr. Turner came to Vera from the Rockefeller Foundation, where he was a managing director. He previously served as vice president and chief program officer at Vera. Prior to his work with Vera, he was an associate in the litigation department of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison and a judicial clerk for the Honorable Jack B. Weinstein, Senior United States District Judge. He is a member of the Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform and the Advisory Board to New York City's Children's Cabinet, and has served on the boards of National Council on Crime and Delinquency, Living Cities, and the Center for Working Families. He received his BA and JD from Yale.

Bruce Western is a sociology professor, the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Professor of Criminal Justice Policy, and faculty chair of the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management at Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Western served as vice chair of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on the Causes and Consequences of High Incarceration Rates in the United States, and he is the principal investigator on the Harvard Executive Session on Community Corrections and the Boston Reentry Study. He is the author of the award-winning book, *Punishment and Inequality in America*.

