

DECARCERATE LOUISIANA

A Social Change Movement

Our Vision

We envision having some space and a place where people from all walks of life, and without fear, can freely meet and interact, find common ground and agree to support one another and work together to create opportunities so that we all can thrive despite our differences in race, religion, culture, sex, gender, age or social status.

Our Mission

To create a forum for We, the People inside and outside the prison system to (1) discuss the impacts of racialized politics, criminalization and mass incarceration on racial minorities and poor people; (2) pool our ideas, resources and votes together to demand community reinvestment, a moratorium on jail and prison construction, penal and criminal justice reform.

Our History

For more than 25 years, prisoners at Angola have been trying to get their family and friends to join together with different outside organizations to show society as well as Louisiana Law Makers that something good can come out of Angola.

After hard fights and many battles, nothing has changed. Louisiana continues to incarcerate more people per capita than any state in the Union. Rather than investing in the human development and rehabilitation of people who made poor choices or wrong decisions and providing a release mechanism for those who no longer need to be there, the tax dollars of our families and friends are still being used to house people in prison for the purpose of exploitation and profits, dominating and controlling other human beings.



What Does the Word Decarcerate Mean?



The word “Decarcerate” is a useful concept that has nothing to do with letting a bunch of troubled people out of prison but everything to do with the proper placement of our tax dollars and the redirection of funds into higher education, economic development, jobs, affordable housing, affordable healthcare, rehabilitative and re-entry programs for prisoners and other areas of human welfare so as to end many of the social ills which would automatically prevent most crime and reduce poverty and incarceration.

Our Aim

Decarcerate Louisiana's aim is to find individuals and groups in the state and throughout the country to support us in organizing helping networks and coalitions to bring an end to prison slavery, unjust sentencing laws, the theft of public monies, from our communities, racialized politics and the business as usual in Louisiana government. We are committed to being the change we want and demand.

Our Plan

In order to stop the injustice of poverty, criminalization and mass incarceration that is causing community decay in our living places, we must purge our constitutional system and rid it of racialized politics, racial prejudice and bigotry and other systematic infirmities that we know are defeating us. To do this, We, the People will have to organize discussion forums, study circles, helping networks, partnerships, coalitions and other such organizations sufficient to mobilize the true Will of the People and present a force capable of making real change. Therefore, Decarcerate Louisiana is seeking motivated and committed activists and organizers that have experience in community organizing; good at working with and motivating people; able to prepare an operating budget; knowledgeable about public/private funding programs; know how to conduct a successful fundraiser; competent with word processing software; experienced in non-profit and/or NGO management; civil litigation; legal defense; lobby and prepare bills to present to the legislature; organizing meetings, rallies, protests, press conferences, marches, etc; building people-power movements and organizations in low and moderate income environments in our state that are knowledgeable of the state of affairs and able to show the relationship and connection between racialized politics, economic neglect, poverty, community decay, criminalization and mass incarceration of impoverished people; and developing multi-faceted campaign strategies to get these issues addressed.

We know that community empowerment is the way to enlightenment of a people and the key to self-preparation for individuals to take a bold stand and fight with intellect as opposed to violence. It is only through grassroots activism and organized effort will we ever be able to create a legal system that works not just for the rich and powerful, but for all of us without regard to how we look or how much money we have.

Our Motivation

We operate on the principle that "you can get everything in life you want if you help enough other people get what they want" and that "people don't care how much you know until they don't understand how much you care."

Contact Us

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