

SUPPORTING THE GOD-GIVEN  
BIRTHRIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF  
HUMANKIND

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DECARCERATE  
LOUISIANA

*A Social Change Movement  
and Organization*

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*“Make up your mind that the world belongs to you just as much as to anybody else. Banish the idea forever from your mind that the world belongs only to the great and grand. The world belongs to him who can take it, who can use it. It belongs to the brave, the daring, the vigorous, not to the cowards, not to those who slink away out of sight and hide in some corner because they are afraid somebody will see them or criticize them.*

*“A great many people seem to think it is a great privilege for them to be allowed to make a living, to get a little corner of this great globe to stand on; they assume that it really belongs to the rich and the powerful (or to the State). If you hold this idea, you will never get anywhere. As long as you think the world belongs to others, it will. But when you make up your mind that it is a part of your birthright, that success and happiness and prosperity belong to you by a divine right you will begin to do something, to get somewhere.”*

- Sidney N. Bremer, Ph. D.

*“I am confident that if these confined men want freedom, they must free their minds and start not being prisoners and start redefining what their situation is. But as long as they act like prisoners and accept the definition of prisoners, they will keep them as prisoners. No one wants real men in prison, especially working together rather than trying to destroy each other.”*

- Na'im Akbar

## WHY ARE WE HERE

*“You were made for growth, to realize peace, poise, and satisfaction. You are born to have absolute control over your own dominion but if you voluntarily had over this power, even for a little while, to someone or to something else, then you of course, become the creature, the one controlled.”*

That it is true we were all created in equality, made in his image and after his likeness, and given the land to seize, to dominate it, to be fruitful and to multiply, this means that we were fashioned to be something higher than the slave, serf, or prisoner of circumstance.

From this, and by the grace of our Creator(s), we can safely conclude that the higher-up instructions—to define the reality of who we are, to redefine what our situation is, and to choose what we want to be—are rights that are inalienable. In addition, we can safely conclude that we were planted on earth to create, to innovate, to harness nature and the environment to advance the cause of human welfare and human dignity. Therefore, in order to become the man and woman we were born to be, it is our honor and duty to transform ourselves, our ghettos and prisons into places of community resource that offer hope, empowerment, and freedom.

## WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

*“Man certainly has an inherent right to success and happiness that is inalienable. God's children are not the victims of chance, are not the playthings of a cold, cruel destiny beyond their control. There is every indication in the nature of things that it was intended that man should find his greatest happiness, his great satisfaction in life, his chief joy, in his daily occupation.”*

Within the People we find natural born poets, philosophers, theologians, musicians, architects, scientists and so much more. However, in order for us to grow and reach our fullest potential, We, the People, have to put an end to all institutions, systems, and practices that degrade us and snuff out our lives.

We now know that deliberate and faulty and bigoted environmental design plans and practices are being used to create ghettos and crime, and an excuse to hold people down, to cause fighting among the people, to build more jails and prisons to hold back the genius in us and defeat our natural purpose to create better places for us all to thrive.

Therefore, rather than slavery in the ghetto or slavery in the prison, we choose learning centers, workshops, and qualified instructors as pathways to success and fulfillment of God's Plan.

## WHAT SHALL WE BE DOING WITH OUR LIFE?

*“Man is born for dominion; but he must enter it by conquest, and continue to do battle for each inch of ground added to his sway.”*

Our Creator(s) gave us the earth to make a life for ourselves, to make the rules, to be in charge of all decisions that is to affect our lives now and in the future and so long as there were breath and life in our bodies. Since we now know that the Wars on Drugs and Poverty were racist and used to vilify, criminalize, and imprison Black people and the anti-war left, that more law-enforcement, jails, and prisons do not make our lives any safer and are not helping to prevent or solve crime, and realizing that an investment in human welfare was the right idea in restoring balance and community empowerment, We, the People, have a moral obligation to put forth organizations and movements as part of a plan to support one another and work together from inside to outside the prison system to stop the systematic criminalization and mass incarceration of us, the People.

We invite you to join Decarcerate Louisiana in helping networks, partnerships, coalitions, and meetings to discuss and figure out ways to make good on our dreams for true freedom and justice for all.