

BIMONTHLY
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EMERGING SOLIDARITY NEWSLETTER

EMERGING SOLIDARITY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- You will discover how to stand up for the abolishment of a wrong and cruel sentence
- You will hear the stories of some incarcerated human beings as well as loved ones
- You will get updates we have come to know right from the source



1,100 MEN AND WOMEN ARE SPENDING DECADES ON END FOR A CRIME THEY DIDN'T INTEND TO DO OR EVEN COMMIT FOR THAT MATTER.

WE NEED MORE EXONERATIONS AND LESS RETRIBUTION. WE NEED TO SET THESE FORMERLY INCARCERATED BROTHERS AND SISTERS UP FOR SUCCESS NOT FAILURE.



WE ARE SO MUCH MORE

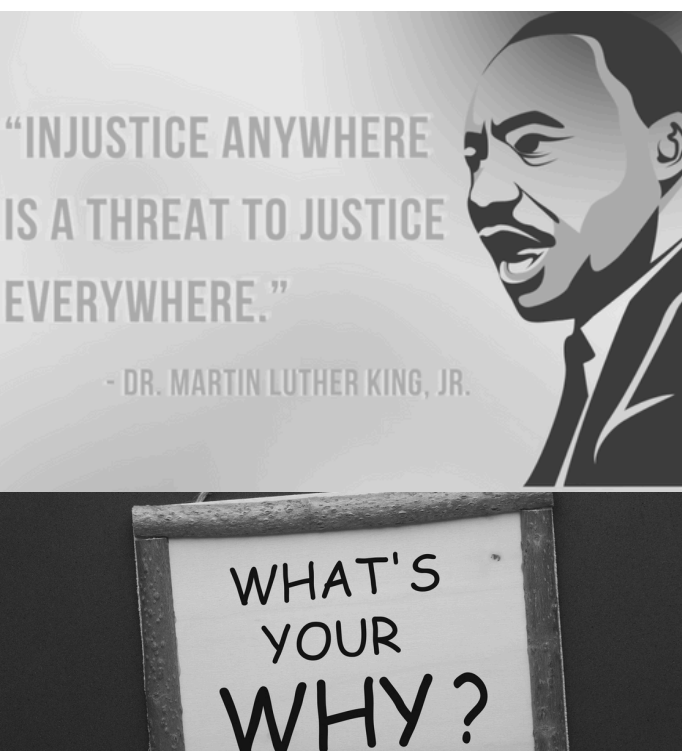
CHECK US OUT AT [EMERGING SOLIDARITY.COM](https://emerging-solidarity.com)



USE YOUR VOICE

How to Advocate For your Loved One

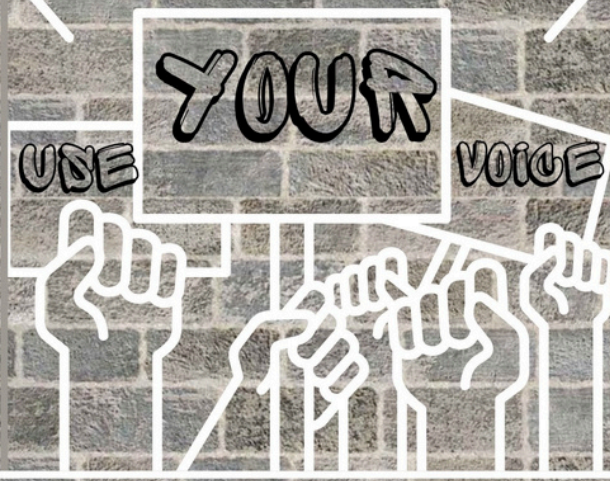
Advocating for necessary changes within the criminal justice system is crucial for addressing systemic issues and promoting fairness. Contacting your elected officials and policymakers is a powerful way to voice your support for specific reforms aimed at ending injustice. Begin by researching the issues and understanding the changes needed, whether it's bail reform, sentencing laws, or police accountability. Write a compelling, concise letter or email stating your concerns and the reforms you support. Highlight personal stories or data to illustrate the impact of these issues. Additionally, attend town hall meetings, participate in advocacy groups, and use social media to amplify your message. Remember, your voice matters and can contribute to the momentum needed to achieve meaningful, lasting change in the criminal and legal systems.



BE EMPOWERED



Comment and write to us who or what is your why Why do you fight for freedom and justice for all?



ADVOCATE FOR
YOUR LOVED ONE
BE THE VOICE OF
THE VOICELESS
BRING AWARENESS
TO YOUR SITUATION

BE EMPOWERED TO ABOLISH
FELONY MURDER IN PA



INMATES MATTER TOO

"In this moment, Our incarcerated brothers and sisters remain voiceless, their cries muffled by the harsh walls of confinement.

Yet, we stand as advocates, ready to amplify their silenced stories. They are not defined solely by their crimes; they are more than the worst moments of their lives.

Within those prison walls, they have undergone profound transformation, enduring rehabilitation and growth. Some have spent more years imprisoned than they have lived. Let us be the change they need, weaving compassion into the fabric of justice."

THEY ARE PEOPLE TOO

URGENT CALL TO ACTION

CALL THE
GOVERNOR'S
OFFICE AND LET
THEM KNOW OF
YOUR CONCERNS
AND DEMAND
MEANINGFUL
ACTION NOW.



717-787-2500

LEARN HOW TO DO MORE AT EMERGINGSOLIDARITY.COM

STAND UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS

A D V O C A T E



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Three States and Three cases Challenging its Felony Murder Laws

PENNSYLVANIA

Derek Lee is currently in prison, and he's challenging the fairness of his life sentence. Derek argues that this punishment is "cruel" and violates the state constitution. You see, Pennsylvania's constitution should be interpreted independently from and more broadly than the Eighth Amendment (which is part of the U.S. Constitution). Derek believes that his life sentence doesn't make sense because he didn't actually kill anyone or intend to kill anyone during the crime. He thinks it's unfair to keep him locked up for life when there's no good reason for it.

Interestingly, many people and organizations agree with Derek. Former prosecutors, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, and even some former state Department of Corrections officials all support his claim.

So, Derek Lee's case is shining a light on a bigger issue: the use of life imprisonment in the U.S. criminal justice system. It's a complex situation, but it boils down to questions of fairness, punishment, and what's best for our communities.

COLORADO

In 2018, Wayne Sellers was found guilty of a serious crime called "felony murder." At that time, the law required him to receive a life sentence in prison without any chance of parole. However, in 2021, Colorado changed its law. Now, for future cases of felony murder, the sentence can be anywhere from 16 to 48 years in prison, allowing for more flexibility and discretion.

Unfortunately, this change in the law doesn't apply retroactively to Wayne Sellers. He's now asking the state's highest court to declare that his sentence is unconstitutional. During recent discussions, some judges seemed hesitant to override the legislature's decision, even though the court has previously recognized that changes in sentencing laws reflect evolving standards of fairness and decency.

MICHIGAN

In 1976, Edwin Lamar Langston (Case #: 163968) was held responsible for a murder committed by another person during a robbery, even though he was not present at the scene. It's a heart-wrenching situation that raises important legal questions about justice and fairness





A Ray of Hope for Lifers: Support Legislation to End Death By Incarceration

By the Administration of this Newsletter and Site

My loved one, along with an estimated 1,200 others, has been dealt an unjust hand by the judicial system. Their crime? No harm, no ill intention. Yet, life as they knew it was brutally stripped from them. I fight for these souls, determined not to rest until justice is served. Representative Tim Briggs introduced HB 2296 a transformative piece of legislation in Pennsylvania, offering hope to these lives in limbo. This law is not an open door for dangerous offenders to re-enter society unchecked, nor does it serve as a free pass for life-sentenced convicts. It injects balance back into the system, offering individuals who have served 25 years of a life sentence and shown redeeming qualities an opportunity to be considered for release.

Let's clarify: the bill does not necessarily guarantee release. It offers a chance, a spark of hope, to those who have demonstrated the ability to change. In the United States, where around 206,000 people are serving life sentences (source: Sentencing Project), the introduction of such legislation is not just a step but a leap toward restorative justice.

Together, let's support this audacious step towards justice and rehabilitation. Let's endorse Representative Briggs' proposed legislation. Embrace the principles of redemption, transformation, and second chances. Let's change not just the lives of the 1,200 who've been unfairly disenfranchised - let's change our society for the better.



GLIMMER OF LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

In 2019, Pennsylvania witnessed a profound moment of justice as 14 individuals were exonerated, thanks to the relentless efforts of dedicated lawmakers and Philadelphia's district attorney. This was just the beginning. Over the subsequent years—2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024—countless more have been freed, their wrongful convictions overturned, their lives restored.

Yet, despite these victories, Pennsylvania still lacks a law to compensate or support those who have suffered the unimaginable pain of wrongful imprisonment. These individuals, who have lost years, sometimes decades, of their lives, are released into a world that has moved on without them, with no safety net to catch them.

The Conviction Integrity Unit has been a beacon of hope, tirelessly reviewing case after case, uncovering the truth, and righting the wrongs of the past. Their work is far from over, but with each exoneration, we move closer to a future where justice prevails.

Freedom is not just a distant dream—it is within reach. The tide is turning, and with continued advocacy and support, we can ensure that every wrongfully convicted person is not only freed but also given the resources they need to rebuild their lives.

Together, we can make freedom inevitable.

PENNSYLVANIA

WHAT WE
NEED



Our mission is to end the practice of sentencing individuals to life without the possibility of parole. We believe deeply in the power of redemption and the boundless potential for personal growth and transformation. Through heartfelt advocacy, education, and dedicated policy reform, we aim to build a more just and compassionate criminal justice system. One that honors the inherent dignity and worth of every person, and offers hope and a second chance at life.

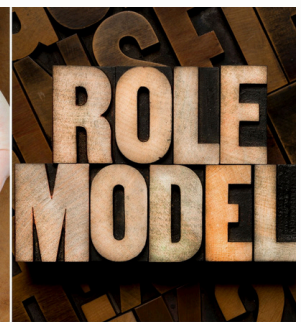
Granting parole eligibility to individuals serving life sentences is not just a policy change; it's a profound act of humanity. It recognizes the inherent potential for transformation within every person and offers a lifeline of hope. By allowing these individuals the chance to rehabilitate and reintegrate into society, we affirm our belief in second chances and the power of redemption. This step is essential for building a more just and compassionate criminal justice system, one that values growth, healing, and the possibility of a brighter future for all.

**PAROLE
ELIGIBILITY
FOR LIFERS**



WE ARE NOT JUST INMATES
WE ARE NOT THE CRIME WE ARE CONVICTED OF
WE ARE SO MUCH MORE
WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS

WE ARE MOTHERS FATHERS SONS
DAUGHTERS BROTHERS SISTERS
AUNTS UNCLES GRANDPARENTS
GIVE US THE CHANCE TO PROVE
OURSELVES AND BE PRODUCTIVE
MEMBERS OF SOCIETY AND HELP OUR
COMMUNITIES BECOME SAFE AGAIN!



OUR INCARCERATED BROTHERS AND SISTERS POSSESS A UNIQUE ABILITY TO CONNECT
WITH OUR YOUTH HAVING EXPERIENCED SIMILAR STRUGGLES, THEY CAN OFFER
INVALUABLE GUIDANCE AND COPING MECHANISMS. BY RELEASING THEM, WE ALLOW
THEM TO TOUCH THE LIVES OF TROUBLED YOUNG INDIVIDUALS, STEERING THEM AWAY
FROM THE SAME PATHS AND TOWARD BETTER CHOICES

ABOLISH FELONY MURDER IN PA NOW!!

MOST RECENT EXONERATION ***JAMES "JIM" KELLY***



*Welcome!
Home!*

*Welcome!
Home!*

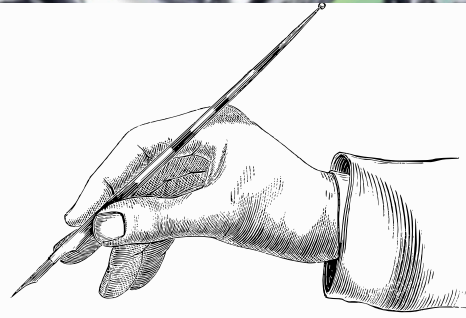
James' journey to prove his innocence was a long and arduous one. For decades, he fought tirelessly, filing numerous petitions and motions, including a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel for his trial lawyer's failure to present crucial alibi and character witnesses.

In 2009, James reached out to us for help, the same year our Project began. Despite the thorough investigation, Mr Kelly's Legal team couldn't uncover new evidence that would allow him to seek a new trial. However, in 2018, His legal team asked the Conviction Integrity Unit and the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office to review his case. Their review unearthed critical evidence of James' innocence that should have been disclosed before his trial. Armed with this new evidence, James' legal team filed post-conviction petitions, arguing that his constitutional rights had been violated due to the suppression of this evidence. In May 2024, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office recommended that the court grant The Innocence Project's petition and vacate his convictions and sentences. Judge Glenn Bronson did so on June 12, 2024. Then, on July 18, 2024, Judge Bronson granted the Commonwealth's motion to dismiss all charges against James, leading to his exoneration and release.

James' story is a testament to his unwavering determination and the power of justice. His exoneration is a profound reminder of the importance of perseverance and the relentless pursuit of truth.

CONGRATULATIONS MR. KELLY

EMERGING SOLIDARITY



EDITOR'S NOTE:

**WE APPRECIATE YOU TAKING THE TIME TO READ
OUR NEWSLETTER. IT BRINGS US GREAT JOY TO
PUT THIS TOGETHER FOR THOSE IN SEARCH OF
VALUABLE INFORMATION, AND I TRUST IT WILL
BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO YOU.**

**WARM REGARDS FROM THE EMERGING
SOLIDARITY TEAM.**



*We will always fight for our
loved one and yours as well.*

