

The Prison Transparency Project

2412 Irwin Street

Melbourne, FL 32901

August 1, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to introduce you to an important project we are undertaking called "The Prison Transparency Project." As part of our efforts to shed light on the realities of American law enforcement, courts and prisons, we are reaching out to individuals who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system.

The aim of our project is twofold: to collect comprehensive data on the experiences of incarcerated individuals across multiple states and genders, and to amplify the voices of those who have been marginalized or overlooked in discussions about prison reform. We believe that by providing a platform for these stories, we can offer valuable insights to policymakers and government leaders as they consider reforms to our criminal justice system.

Central to our project is the collection of personal accounts from incarcerated individuals. We are inviting system-impacted people to share their experiences through written submissions, which will be carefully reviewed and potentially included in a forthcoming book. Each submission is a crucial piece of the puzzle, contributing to a broader understanding of the challenges and injustices faced by those within the system.

For submissions that do not make it into the book, which will be limited in size, we plan to use the information shared with us for social media efforts and inclusion on **www.prisontransparency.com**. Please know that we will do our best to use your submission in one way or another, if we can. To ensure that we can share these stories responsibly and respectfully, we are providing a release form that grants permission for the use of written submissions and accompanying photos. This release form is included with this letter, along with a questionnaire for individuals to complete if they wish to participate. We are also asking you to submit a written essay, if you would like to.

We understand that this project requires a considerable level of trust, and we are committed to handling all submissions with the utmost care and confidentiality for those who desire anonymity. We prefer typed or neatly handwritten responses, which can be mailed to the address provided below.

PTP

2412 Irwin Street

Melbourne, FL 32901

At its core, The Prison Transparency Project seeks to address fundamental questions about the purpose of incarceration in America. Should prisons serve solely as places of punishment, or should they prioritize rehabilitation and restoration? And who should truly be incarcerated or not? By amplifying the voices of those most affected by these questions, we hope to foster meaningful dialogue and drive positive change within our criminal justice system.

Thank you for considering our project, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require further information. Together, we can work towards a more just and equitable future for all.

Please respond by December 31, 2024 if possible. And please note: if someone is in jail, on parole or probation, or on other forms of government monitoring, they may also participate in this research, and provide their submissions to us as well.

This is your chance to make your voice heard; we look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to use additional space on other sheets of paper if needed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Angela Meyers Jennifer Muntz

Founder Director



**Survey**

**Personal Information:**

* Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_ Put a check here if you want to remain anonymous. We will not use your real name.
* Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Gender:

\_\_\_\_\_ Male

\_\_\_\_\_ Female

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-binary

\_\_\_\_\_ Gender not listed here

**Socioeconomic Status Before Incarceration:**

\_\_\_\_\_ High (upper class; lots of access to jobs and resources)

\_\_\_\_\_ Medium (middle class; adequate access to jobs and resources)

\_\_\_\_\_ Low (working class and poor; little to no access for good jobs and resources)

**Education Level:**

\_\_\_\_\_ 12th grade or less

\_\_\_\_\_ High school graduate or GED

\_\_\_\_\_ Some college/AA degree/Technical school training

\_\_\_\_\_ College graduate (BA or BS)

\_\_\_\_\_ Graduate school degree: Master’s or Doctorate degree (MD, PhD, JD)

**Ethnic Background:** (check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_\_ African-decent

\_\_\_\_\_ Caucasian

\_\_\_\_\_ Latinx

\_\_\_\_\_ Indigenous

\_\_\_\_\_ Asian

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Incarceration Details:**

* Is this your first time in jail/prison?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

* When did you begin this incarceration? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* What facilities have you been housed at?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* When do you expect to be released? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* What crimes were you charged with for this incarceration period?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* What crimes did the judge find you guilty of and what sentence did you receive for each charge?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Do you think you deserve such a sentence? Briefly explain why

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Have you ever been tried as an adult for a crime committed while you were legally a child (under 18 years old)? If yes, do you believe that being tried as an adult affected the fairness of your trial and subsequent treatment in the criminal justice system? Please provide reasons for your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I was tried as an adult, and it affected the fairness of my trial and treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I was tried as an adult, but it did not affect the fairness of my trial and treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I was not tried as an adult.

\_\_\_\_\_ Not Applicable to my case.

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Legal Representation:**

* Were you given any punishment for the actions of someone else?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

* What type of legal representation did you have for this case?

\_\_\_\_\_ Court-appointed

\_\_\_\_\_ Paid attorney (less than $10,000)

\_\_\_\_\_ Paid attorney (between $10,000 and $40,000)

\_\_\_\_\_ Paid attorney (over $40,000)

* My legal representation met my needs and expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

\_\_\_\_\_ Disagree

\_\_\_\_\_ Neutral

\_\_\_\_\_ Agree

\_\_\_\_\_ Strongly Agree

* Did the judge/courts treat you fairly and appropriately?

\_\_\_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

\_\_\_\_\_ Disagree

\_\_\_\_\_ Neutral

\_\_\_\_\_ Agree

\_\_\_\_\_ Strongly Agree

* Have you been incarcerated for a crime that you believe is victimless (e.g., drug possession, prostitution, gambling)? If yes, do you feel that your incarceration for this offense was justified? Please explain your answer. Have you been incarcerated for a crime that you believe is victimless (e.g., drug possession, prostitution, gambling)? If yes, do you feel that your incarceration for this offense was justified? Please explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_Yes, I was incarcerated for a victimless crime, and I believe it was justified.

\_\_\_\_\_Yes, I was incarcerated for a victimless crime, but I do not believe it was justified.

\_\_\_\_\_No, I was not incarcerated for a victimless crime.

\_\_\_\_\_Not sure/not applicable.

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Have you been wrongfully convicted?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Prison Experience:**

* How satisfied are you with the prison-provided supplies (e.g., deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, bedding, clothing, etc.)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Very satisfied

\_\_\_\_\_ Satisfied

\_\_\_\_\_ Neutral

\_\_\_\_\_ Dissatisfied

\_\_\_\_\_ Very dissatisfied

* How would you rate the maintenance of the prison facility (e.g., clean drinking water, hot water, air conditioning, mold, pests)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Excellent

\_\_\_\_\_ Good

\_\_\_\_\_ Fair

\_\_\_\_\_ Poor

\_\_\_\_\_ Very Poor

* How prevalent do you perceive illegal drug use to be in the jail/prison environment?

\_\_\_\_\_ Not at all prevalent

\_\_\_\_\_ Slightly prevalent

\_\_\_\_\_ Moderately prevalent

\_\_\_\_\_ Very prevalent

\_\_\_\_\_ Extremely prevalent

* Do the officers/guards treat you fairly and humanely?

\_\_\_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

\_\_\_\_\_ Disagree

\_\_\_\_\_ Neutral

\_\_\_\_\_ Agree

\_\_\_\_\_ Strongly Agree

* Are the staff you regularly engage with in prison professional?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, the staff are consistently professional and treat me with dignity, respect, and humanity.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, the staff are mostly professional, but there are occasional lapses in treating me with dignity, respect, and humanity.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, the staff are generally unprofessional and do not treat me with dignity, respect, and humanity.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not regularly engage with staff in jail/prison.

* If you’re someone who was already released from jail/prison, have jail/prison staff reached out to you in a personal capacity (i.e., to become a friend on social media)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

* What unprofessional behaviors have you witnessed from Correctional Officers? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Have you personally experienced or witnessed the following in prison?

Sexual Assault: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, personally \_\_\_\_\_ No, personally

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ No, haven’t witnessed

Extortion: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, personally \_\_\_\_\_ No, personally

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ No, haven’t witnessed

Fabricated government reports (i.e., untrue write-ups):

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, personally \_\_\_\_\_ No, personally

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ No, haven’t witnessed

Excessive Use of Force: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, personally \_\_\_\_\_ No, personally

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ No, haven’t witnessed

Discrimination: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, personally \_\_\_\_\_ No, personally

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ No, haven’t witnessed

Lack of Medical Care: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, personally \_\_\_\_\_ No, personally

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ No, haven’t witnessed

Solitary Confinement: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, personally \_\_\_\_\_ No, personally

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ No, haven’t witnessed

Verbal Abuse and Harassment: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, personally \_\_\_\_\_ No, personally

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ No, haven’t witnessed

Inadequate Living Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, personally \_\_\_\_\_ No, personally

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ No, haven’t witnessed

Denial of Basic Rights: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, personally \_\_\_\_\_ No, personally

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ No, haven’t witnessed

Inadequate Grievance Procedures: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, personally \_\_\_\_\_ No, personally

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ No, haven’t witnessed

Inadequate Rehabilitation Programs: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, personally \_\_\_\_\_ No, personally

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ No, haven’t witnessed

Are there abusive behaviors you have experienced or witnessed that are not listed here? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* What has your experience of jail/prison been? (check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_\_ Abusive

\_\_\_\_\_ Dehumanizing

\_\_\_\_\_ Excessive Punishment

\_\_\_\_\_ Traumatizing

\_\_\_\_\_ Neutral

\_\_\_\_\_ Enriching

\_\_\_\_\_ Helped me grow as a person

\_\_\_\_\_ Rehabilitative

\_\_\_\_\_ Humane

\_\_\_\_\_ Helpful

\_\_\_\_\_ Just/Fair

* Has the prison system prepared you well for life after jail/prison?

\_\_\_\_\_ Strongly Disagree

\_\_\_\_\_ Disagree

\_\_\_\_\_ Neutral

\_\_\_\_\_ Agree

\_\_\_\_\_ Strongly Agree

* Have you used the grievance process in jail/prison before? What was your experience of how your grievances have been handled?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Have you used experienced any retaliation from staff as a result of filing a grievance?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Have you ever experienced whistleblower retaliation? \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No Please explain.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Have you experienced any of the following forms of human torture while incarcerated? Please select all that apply and provide details if possible.

\_\_\_\_\_Sleep deprivation

\_\_\_\_\_Lengthy periods of isolation (solitary confinement)

\_\_\_\_\_Physical abuse (beatings, excessive use of force)

\_\_\_\_\_Sexual abuse

\_\_\_\_\_Deprivation of basic needs (food, water, medical care)

\_\_\_\_\_Exposure to extreme temperatures

\_\_\_\_\_Prolonged restraint or confinement in uncomfortable positions

\_\_\_\_\_ Psychological abuse (threats, harassment, humiliation)

\_\_\_\_\_Use of chemical agents (pepper spray, tear gas)

\_\_\_\_\_Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* How do you feel about the rules you are forced to abide by in the carceral environment? Please check all that apply and provide any additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_ Fair

\_\_\_\_\_Constructive

\_\_\_\_\_Useful

\_\_\_\_\_Appropriate

\_\_\_\_\_Unfair

\_\_\_\_\_Overblown

\_\_\_\_\_Nitpicky

\_\_\_\_\_Inconsistent

\_\_\_\_\_Arbitrary

\_\_\_\_\_Punitive

* In your experience, do you feel that the prisons and jail are understaffed? Please provide your observations on the following aspects:

Are staff members overworked? \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_Not sure

Are there not enough staff to effectively manage the facility? \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_Not sure

How does the staffing situation impact the safety and well-being of inmates and staff? Please provide details. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Do you believe that prison staff are appropriately screened, hired, trained, supervised, and managed for poor performance? Please check all that apply and provide any additional comments.

Appropriately screened and hired: \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_Not sure

Adequately trained: \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_Not sure

Adequately supervised: \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_Not sure

Adequately managed for poor performance: \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No \_\_\_\_\_Not sure Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**System-wide Feedback:**

* What are your views on how American citizens' tax money is spent on the Criminal Justice System, including law enforcement, courts and jail/prisons?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* America has more incarcerated people than any other country on earth. In your view, what types of crimes are deserving of incarceration and what types of crimes should be addressed differently?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Do you feel that your current conditions of incarceration resemble slavery as described under the 13th Amendment, which permits involuntary servitude for convicted individuals? Please provide reasons for your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Not Sure

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* What could our government have done to help prevent the crime(s) you engaged in, which led to your incarceration? What kinds of programs would have helped avoid breaking the law?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Are there any laws which you believe are unjust--behaviors that should not actually be considered criminal?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Do you feel as if the criminal justice system is racist?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Do you feel as if the criminal justice system is classist, in other words, are the rich and the poor treated differently? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* How would you describe the culture of the carceral environment? Please share your thoughts on what it feels like and how this culture impacts your mental health and rehabilitation?

Culture Description:

\_\_\_\_\_Positive and supportive \_\_\_\_\_ Negative and hostile \_\_\_\_\_Neutral \_\_\_\_\_Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Impact on mental health:

\_\_\_\_\_Incarceration improves mental health \_\_\_\_\_Deteriorates mental health \_\_\_\_\_No significant impact

\_\_\_\_\_Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Impact on Rehabilitation: \_\_\_\_\_Incarceration supports rehabilitation \_\_\_\_\_Hinders rehabilitation \_\_\_\_\_No significant impact

\_\_\_\_\_Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Do you believe that the criminal justice system has been trauma-informed, taking into account all the factors that led to the crime you committed? Please provide reasons for your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_Yes, the system has been trauma-informed

\_\_\_\_\_No, the system has not been trauma-informed

\_\_\_\_\_Not sure

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* If you could communicate any message to government leaders and policymakers, what would you want them to know about the criminal justice system and your experiences within it? Your Message:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Release Form**

**Permission and Release Form for Participation in the Prison Transparency Project**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, hereby grant permission for my responses and personal experiences shared through this survey to be used by The Prison Transparency Project in any public medium, including but not limited to books, websites, and social media platforms.

I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I have the right to remain anonymous. If I choose to remain anonymous, my real name will not be used in any publication or shared publicly.

\_\_\_\_\_ Put a check here if you want to remain anonymous. We will not use your real name.

By signing my name below, I acknowledge that I am aware of the nature of the project and consent to the use of my submissions as described above. I understand there is no financial compensation for my story. I release The Prison Transparency Project from any claims or liabilities that may arise from the use of my responses in the manner stated.

And I do solemnly swear that everything I have stated is the whole truth and nothing but the truth to the best of my abilities.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Inmate ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a tablet? If yes, what app do you use? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Essay Instructions**

In addition to mailing back this Survey, as well as the Release Form, please also submit your story, in your own words, describing your experience with the law enforcement, the courts, your prison experience, and anything else you’d like to say regarding what you know about America’s criminal justice system, from your vantage point.

We prefer typed submissions for your essay, if possible. We suggest stories of 5 – 10 pages in length at most. Please get to the crux of your experience – boil it down, make it clear. Put it in your own words. State the facts, and share your feelings. **Tell the truth.**

We want to amplify your voices so that we can make the system better for everyone in the future. Your voice is critical in this effort.

What’s your story? What’s your truth? What do you know for sure needs to change about our criminal justice system? What should have been done to prevent crimes? What factors led up to what happened in your case? How do you believe our government could address criminal behavior more appropriately? If you were in charge, how would you fix it? What can we learn from your experience with the criminal justice system, to make it better in the future? Please answer these kinds of questions, and explain your story, in a way you want people—including government officials, citizens, and those who want to help—to understand. What’s working well, and what’s not working well, in America’s criminal justice system, through the lens of your experiences personally?