

**Press Release - February 21, 2019 (DRAFT)**

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**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Justice Day to be held at the Capitol**

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On February 26<sup>th</sup>, 34 co-sponsoring organizations\* from the Justice Reform Partnership will host the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Justice Day at the Capitol. Formerly incarcerated individuals, their families, and concerned citizens will gather to discuss needed policy reforms in Georgia and engage with state lawmakers on these issues.

Under the leadership of Governor Nathan Deal, Georgia's Council on Criminal Justice Reform helped make the state a national leader in criminal justice reform. "Significant progress has been made over the last 8 years," Marissa Dodson, Public Policy Director at Southern Center for Human Rights, explained, "but there is still much work ahead in transforming the system into one that increases public safety, reduces racial disparities, addresses the criminalization of poverty in Georgia, and reduces barriers to reentry for Georgians who want to get back to work and take care of their families."

Douglas Ammar, Executive Director of Georgia Justice Project, remarked, "The primary purpose of Justice Day 2019 is to show our legislators that the demand for comprehensive criminal justice reform remains strong and should continue to be a priority for Georgia's new leadership."

Individuals directly impacted by the justice system and their families will speak about their experiences and lead the lobbying efforts at the Capitol, highlighting the issues of juvenile justice, bail reform, restriction and sealing of convictions and the mental and behavioral health needs of justice-involved individuals.

Speakers on the program include:

- Rabbi Peter S. Berg, The Temple
- Representative David Dreyer, D – Atlanta, District 59
- Pamela Winn, Founder, RestoreHER
- Yusef Salaam, Member of the Central Park 5; Activist and Inspirational Speaker
- Josie Duffy Rice, Senior Reporter for The Appeal, Senior Strategist for The Justice Collaborative
- Marlon Peterson, Writer and Host of DEcarcerated Podcast
- Marilyn Winn, Executive Director, Women on the Rise
- Sara Totonchi, Executive Director, Southern Center for Human Rights
- Imam Furqan Muhammad, Masjid Al-Mu'minin

The Justice Day 2019 Award will be presented to New Georgia Project for their leadership in empowering hundreds of thousands of unregistered Georgia voters of color through outreach and advocacy.

The Justice Reform Partnership is a coalition of over 80 organizations engaged in the fight for criminal justice reform. To learn more, visit <https://JusticeDay365.com/>.

Justice Day 2019 will take place from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Floyd Room of the James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Veterans Memorial Building.

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\*Co-sponsoring Organizations: ACLU of Georgia, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta, Barton Child Law and Policy Center, Common Good Atlanta, Community Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc., End Mass Incarceration GA Network, End "New Jim Crow" Action Group, Atlanta area, Faith in Public Life, Foreverfamily, Georgia Alliance for Social Justice, Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Georgia Innocence Project, Georgia Justice Project, Georgia Public Policy Foundation, Georgians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, Georgia Shift - Inner-City Muslim Action Network, Legal Action Center, Liberty County Reentry Coalition, Gideon's Promise - NAACP, Georgia State Conference - National Incarceration Association, New Georgia Project Action Fund, New Life Second Chance, Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative Atlanta/Fulton County, Rehoboth Family & Community Services, Repair the World, #RestoreHER, Southern Center for Human Rights, Southern Poverty Law Center, Southerners on New Ground, United Way of Greater Atlanta, Urban League of Greater Atlanta, Voices for Georgia's Children, Women on the Rise