



**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
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### **Formerly Incarcerated Leaders to Gather for Community-Building Event in Austin**

*“From Prison to Power: Finding Your Voice After Incarceration” Event Will Take Place on December 3, 2022*

**(AUSTIN, TX)** – On December 3, a group of formerly incarcerated and justice system-impacted Texans will convene in Austin. The event, “From Prison to Power: Finding Your Voice After Incarceration,” is organized by the Texas Center for Justice and Equity’s Statewide Leadership Council (SLC) and partners.

“After years of failed policies that have criminalized countless Texans instead of supporting us, we’re taking the future into our own hands,” said **Maggie Luna, TCJE Policy Analyst & Community Outreach Coordinator**. “Those of us who have been personally impacted by the criminal punishment system—through arrest, incarceration, probation, parole, or a loved one’s experience—know how isolating and silencing it can be. Now, we’re demanding a seat at the table to tell our own stories and build a Texas where *everyone* has the opportunity to succeed.”

**WHAT:** From Prison to Power: Finding Your Voice After Incarceration. A free event featuring presentations from speakers, along with resources and information about local organizations in Austin

**WHO:** The Statewide Leadership Council (SLC), a group of formerly incarcerated and system-impacted Texans who are fighting to change the state’s INjustice system. We’ll be joined by partners including RARE Academy, Lioness Justice Impacted Women’s Alliance, and Texas Advocates for Justice (TAJ)

**WHY:** To share stories from formerly incarcerated Texans, provide resources for system-impacted people, and help new and experienced advocates access training and community

**WHERE:** RARE Academy, 1212 E. Anderson Lane, Suite 300 #7, Austin, Texas 78752

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 3, 2022, 11:00am-2:00 pm CST

**TOPICS:** Successful Reentry, Stigma and the Power of Story, Youth Justice “Finish the 5” Campaign, Self-Advocacy, Women’s Justice Landscape, and Upcoming Legislation

Registration for “From Prison to Power: Finding Your Voice After Incarceration” is free and available [at this link](#). With questions, please contact Maggie at [MLuna@TexasCJE.org](mailto:MLuna@TexasCJE.org).

This event follows a series of community gatherings in Texas cities including Beaumont, Tyler, Livingston, Pharr, Houston, Dallas, and a previous event in Austin. Members of the SLC’s Steering Committee have also recorded videos sharing the impact of these gatherings: [Maggie’s story](#); [Savannah’s story](#); [Mark’s story](#).

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*The Texas Center for Justice and Equity (formerly the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition) advances solutions and builds coalitions to end mass incarceration and foster safer Texas communities.*