

MEDIA ADVISORY February 29, 2024 Contact: Cynthia Simons, <u>CSimons@TexasCJE.org</u> Madison Kaigh, <u>MKaigh@TexasCJE.org</u>

Austin Event to Highlight Solutions Outside of Criminal Punishment System *"The State of Public Safety Through Healing and Equity" Takes Place on Friday, March 1*

AUSTIN, TX — This Friday, local coalitions and organizations will gather for a community conversation focused on incarceration, public safety, and healing. "The State of Public Safety Through Healing and Equity" will be led by crime survivors and Texans who've been personally impacted by the criminal punishment system. The event is free for all community members, and will be hosted at St. Edwards University.

"Join us for an event of dialogue, connection, and action as we explore how to create a more just and equitable community for everyone, while centering those most impacted by structural inequities, systemic racism, and institutional oppression," the event organizers shared. "The theme of the discussions will be how mass incarceration and family separation impact the entire community. This event will include a diverse panel to reflect the different members of communities impacted."

Ahead of International Women's Day, this community event includes leadership from two organizations that work with system-impacted women: Truth Be Told, and the Texas Women's Justice Coalition. The event is also supported by St. Edwards University Social Work Program and Tomorrow's Promise Foundation.

Attendees can register at this link. With questions about the event or for additional RSVP, please contact Cynthia Simons at CSimons@TexasCJE.org.

Event details:

WHAT: The State of Public Safety Through Healing and Equity, a community conversation focused on reimagining public safety

WHO: The Texas Women's Justice Coalition, Truth Be Told, Tomorrow's Promise Foundation, St. Edwards University Social Work Program

WHEN: Friday, March 1, 2024, 6:00-9:00pm CT

WHERE: St. Edwards University, 3001 South Congress Avenue Austin, TX 78704 Carter Auditorium within the John Brooks Williams Science Center, South



WHY: Attendees are invited to:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the challenges facing our public safety system.
- Learn about restorative justice practices that can promote healing and accountability.
- Discover ways to get involved in creating a more just and equitable community.
- Connect with others who share your passion for making a difference.

AGENDA: The event will include a panel discussion with community leaders, impacted Texans, crime survivors, faith leaders, and more; facilitated dialogue in a restorative circle; policy recommendations for change; and an overview of opportunities to get involved with hosts and other local organizations

ADDITIONAL NOTE: In order to park on campus, attendees must register with the university's parking system via: https://vpermit.com/stedwards/ClaimableEvents/Claim

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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.