



Texas Center for Justice & Equity

SOLUTIONS FOR SAFE, HEALTHY,
JUST COMMUNITIES

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 July 2, 2022

(AUSTIN, TX) – On Saturday, July 2, 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 Peer Policy Fellow and coordinator of the SLC**. “Those of us who have been personally impacted by the criminal legal system—through arrest, incarceration, probation, parole, or a loved one’s experience—know how isolating and silencing the Injustice system 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. The growing list of event partners and participating organizations include Austin Area Urban League, Goodwill Central Texas, Lioness: Justice Impacted Women’s Alliance, On Point Reentry Consortium, and Texas Center for Justice and Equity.

WHY: To share stories from formerly incarcerated Texans, provide resources for system-impacted people, and help new and experienced advocates access trainings and community through the SLC.

WHERE: Grassroots Leadership office, 7910 Cameron Road, Austin, TX 78754

WHEN: Saturday, July 2, 2022, 1:00-3:00pm CDT

TOPICS: Introduction to the Statewide Leadership Council, Solutions for Confronting Injustice in the System, Alternatives to Mass Incarceration, Youth Justice Landscape in Texas, Reentry (including voter registration and record clearing), and Women’s Justice Landscape and Community Involvement.

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

This event follows a series of community gatherings in Texas cities including Beaumont, Tyler, Livingston, Pharr, and Houston. Most recently, the group hosted a “From Prison to Power” event in Dallas; the video recording of that event is available [here](#). SLC leaders 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.