



**Texas Center for
Justice & Equity**
SOLUTIONS FOR SAFE, HEALTHY,
JUST COMMUNITIES

PRESS ADVISORY:
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Texas Center for Justice and Equity & Texas Women's Justice Coalition to Mark International Women's Day Coalition to Host Women's Justice Panel as Texas Center for Justice and Equity Releases Issue Brief on Stigmas Faced by System-Impacted Women

(AUSTIN, TX) – Today, the Texas Center for Justice and Equity (TCJE) and the Texas Women's Justice Coalition, which was co-founded by TCJE, will mark International Women's Day by highlighting the unique challenges faced by women in the criminal legal system. TCJE also released an issue brief on stigmas faced by system-impacted women, in line with this year's theme of Breaking the Bias.

"Women's experience of incarceration is likely to differ from men's," said Cynthia Simons, TCJE Women's Fellow and coordinator of the Texas Women's Justice Coalition. "They are more likely to be the primary caretakers of their children and may have specific health needs related to menstruation, pregnancy, and more. Other hardships may include poverty, domestic violence, past trauma, and structural racism. When we support and uplift women, we are making a step towards generational healing that will touch entire communities."

The issue brief, *Women and Incarceration: Breaking the Bias*, is available on the TCJE website [here](#).

Details of today's [panel](#) are below:

WHO: Formerly incarcerated women, justice advocates, and researchers

WHAT: Panel discussion highlighting the unique challenges of women in the criminal legal system

WHEN: March 8, 2022, 7:00 - 8:30pm CT

WHERE: Virtual event; free registration available [here](#)

WHY: To celebrate International Women's Day and share research and firsthand knowledge on the state of women's justice in Texas

The organizations will also host a survivors circle, which provides a space for impacted women to connect and share their experiences. This event will take place virtually at 11:00am but will be closed to press.

This represents TCJE's and the Coalition's fifth consecutive year of celebration and awareness of International Women's Day. In previous years:

- As the Texas Women's Justice Coalition launched in 2018, TCJE released a 2-part report series on women's justice in Texas: [A Growing Population](#) and [An Unsupported Population](#).

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- In 2019, TCJE and partners hosted [Women's \[IN\]Justice Day](#), which brought together system-impacted women, system practitioners, service providers, lawmakers, and more at the Texas Capitol. During that year's legislative session, a suite of women's justice reforms was passed into law.
- After a Coalition retreat and visioning session, TCJE released [The Future of Dignity](#), which shared the Coalition's history and priorities for policy reform, in 2020.
- During the 2021 legislative session, TCJE hosted a [virtual](#) women's justice lobby day and a survivors circle.

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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.

The Texas Women's Justice Coalition is a group of formerly incarcerated women, advocates, and service providers working to create change for incarcerated and returning women through advocacy at the Texas Capitol and across the state.