

# NEW YORK STATE LEADERS: NO ROLLBACKS TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS!

We are civil rights, criminal justice reform, democracy, and philanthropic leaders and organizations that have long supported policies that advance a more safe and just New York. We are very troubled by recent proposals from Governor Kathy Hochul that would increase incarceration and racial disparities and undo years of work towards ending the criminalization of poverty and children.

As state lawmakers take on the challenges of keeping New Yorkers safe during this incredibly turbulent time, they must follow the evidence about what actually works to scale safety. Mental health, reentry, violence prevention, and housing - these are the investments that will make New York safe. We must be smart and reject the impulse to act for action's sake.

Mass incarceration was born of hasty political posturing and the fallacy that we can have justice or safety, but not both. Mass incarceration delivered generations of harm to the same Black, brown, poor, and immigrant communities hardest hit by crime without delivering them more safety.

That is why we are calling upon Governor Hochul, Lieutenant Governor Benjamin, and legislative leaders to protect bail, discovery, and Raise the Age reforms. We want New Yorkers to be safe. We have the evidence-based playbook to reduce crime, violence, and incarceration at the same time. Let's use it.

## *Signed,*

A Little Piece of Light

Agnes Gund and the Art for Justice Fund

Alliance for Safety and Justice

American Civil Liberties Union

Black Alliance for Just Immigration

Black Public Defender Association

Brennan Center for Justice

Brooklyn Defender Service

Campaign Zero

Center for American Progress

Center for Community Alternatives

Center for Community Change

Center for Popular Democracy

Citizen Action of New York

Civil Rights Corps

Community Change Action

Detention Watch Network

Dignity and Power Now

Drug Policy Alliance

Emily Tow, President, Tow Foundation

Envision Freedom Fund

Formerly Incarcerated, Convicted People & Families Movement

Free the People Western New York

FWD.us

Galaxy Gives

Haitian Bridge Alliance  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Indivisible  
Justice for Migrant Families WNY  
Justice Policy Institute  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
Just LeadershipUSA  
Legal Aid Society  
Long Island Social Justice Action Network  
Make The Road New York  
MomsRising  
MoveOn  
National Council of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
New Hour for Women & Children - Long Island  
New York Civil Liberties Union  
New York Communities for Change  
New York County Defender Services  
New York Immigration Coalition  
New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
New York Working Families Party  
New Yorkers United for Justice  
Parole Preparation Project  
Partners for Justice  
Partnership for the Public Good  
Public Defenders' Coalition for Immigrant Justice

REFORM Alliance  
Release Aging People in Prison  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
The #HALTsolitary Campaign  
The Bail Project  
The Gathering for Justice  
The Innocence Project  
The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
The Sentencing Project  
United Auto Workers Region 9A  
United We Dream  
UnLocal, Inc.  
Until Freedom  
Vera Institute of Justice  
VOCAL-NY  
Voters Organized to Educate  
WE GOT US NOW  
Working Families Party  
Worth Rises  
Zealous