



RELEASING NEW YORKERS FROM PRISON IS THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE LIVES IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

While the world works to adjust and enact drastic measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the public, a massive humanitarian crisis is unfolding inside New York state prisons. In order to effectively prevent the spread of COVID-19 behind bars, the Parole Board, Governor Cuomo, and the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) must release people from the confines and horrific conditions of these facilities. If this action isn't taken, incarcerated New Yorkers will face a catastrophic loss of life. The following is a summary of demands on behalf of currently incarcerated people, compiled by community leaders and criminal justice advocates across the state. These demands, if met, ensure the release and safety of people in prisons, particularly those most vulnerable to illness.

DEMANDS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF PEOPLE IN NEW YORK STATE PRISONS

- **Grant** immediate executive clemency to vulnerable people.
- **Grant** parole release to parole-eligible people, including: vulnerable people and people who have been granted parole but haven't yet been released.
- **Ensure** all future parole board interviews continue in a timely and consistent manner.
- **Release** people serving determinate sentences who are one year or less from their scheduled conditional release date or maximum expiration date and grant all time allowances.

REENTRY

- **Expedite** field investigations of residences and residential treatment programs to ensure swift release of incarcerated people.
- **Develop** a comprehensive housing and healthcare plan for all returning people.
- **Partner** with existing reentry and community-based organizations who are ready to support people released during the pandemic
- **Instruct** the city and state housing authorities to lift the current ban on formerly incarcerated people living in public housing.

SUPERVISION

- **Lift** all travel restrictions for people on parole so they may travel to their preferred location for self-isolation.
- **Remove** electronic monitoring systems from the bodies/homes of people on supervision.
- **Suspend** all programming requirements for people on supervision.
- **Suspend** all remaining technical violations immediately and indefinitely.
- **Terminate** all parole and probation supervision for people who have successfully completed one year of supervision.
- **Train** parole and probation staff in current healthcare practices and statewide orders.

DEMANDS FOR IMPROVED CONDITIONS INSIDE NEW YORK STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Testing and Prevention

Testing must be readily available to all incarcerated people and staff, and DOCCS must immediately implement measures to prevent the spread of the virus within state correctional facilities.

Treatment and Care

DOCCS must immediately develop a medical quarantine and treatment plan to prevent a catastrophic loss of life in our state prisons.

Communication and Visits

Free and unlimited access to phone calls, emails and letters will ensure incarcerated people can stay in touch with family members and loved ones during the pandemic. Unlimited access to legal counsel and the courts is a fundamental right and must not be compromised.

Confinement and Movement

Freedom of movement and access to the outdoors is essential to the dignity, physical health and mental well-being of all people, especially those incarcerated. DOCCS must institute facility-wide policies that curb the spread of COVID-19, while ensuring that measures do not deprive anyone of their basic liberties.

Access to Services

Regular and uninterrupted access to supportive services ensures that incarcerated people can meet their basic needs and survive a pandemic.

Prison Labor

Incarcerated workers must be protected and justly compensated if they chose to provide invaluable labor to the state.

Further Criminalization

State and local officials must not abuse public health orders to further criminalize our communities as they attempt to survive this pandemic.

Monitoring and Transparency

Guarantee transparency and access to information regarding the conditions in prison and preparations made to address the danger of coronavirus and its spread.