

**HRC'S Positions on the Issues and Related Questions Prep Document**  
**BlackLivesMatter, Campaign Zero, Race, and Criminal Justice Conversation**  
**(10.9.15)**

**Context**

*The following questions are designed to help support the conversation with HRC about racial equity and criminal justice. They are informed by HRC's past policy positions and statements, which are linked to and dated where relevant. Remember, this does not include questions from the #AskHillary conversation on Twitter.*

**Framing Questions**

- What is your perspective on the role of the President in changing the current realities of race and criminal justice in America?
- How will you use your first 100 days in office to advance a racial justice agenda?

**Ending Police Violence**

**HRC has proposed to ban police agencies from using federal funds to buy [military equipment \(4.29.15\)](#)**

- Will you end the federal 1033 program transferring free equipment to police departments and do everything possible to get police departments to return the equipment they've received?
- Will you cut-off federal funding to departments that deploy military weapons against civilians?

**HRC has stated her support for funding 100,000 new "community police officers" for "hot spots of criminal activity" and more police in schools ([4.11.08](#)).**

- Do you think there should be more police officers present in black communities and in schools? Why or why not?

**HRC supports [mandatory body cameras](#) for police officers ([4.29.15](#))**

- How will you make sure that these body cams are not used as a tool of surveillance?

**Questions about police violence HRC has yet to take a public position on:**

- What is your stance on the standards for use of force? Will you advocate for stricter national standards for police use of deadly force?
- What are your thoughts on changing the standard of proof for DoJ investigations?
- What is your position on civil asset forfeiture? Will you act to end civil asset forfeiture?
- Will you act to require data collection and reporting for all police uses of force?
- Will you apply the at least as many resources to police white collar/Wall Street crime as crime in black communities?

**Ending Mass Incarceration**

**[HRC supports reforming mandatory minimum sentences for low-level nonviolent offenses](#)**

- Will you work to eliminate all mandatory minimum drug sentences or just reduce them?
- Will you eliminate mandatory minimum sentences (and "stacking" sentences) for people who [possess but do not use](#) a gun in commission of a crime?
- Do you support these reforms being applied retroactively?

**HRC "unenthusiastically supported" death penalty ([1.7.00](#))**

- Will you push for the end of the death penalty?

**Questions about mass incarceration HRC has yet to take a public position on:**

- Will you prevent federal enforcement of marijuana prohibition?
- How will you ensure that those who participated in the informal marijuana economy have

- pathways to participating in the legal marijuana economy?
- When do you think solitary confinement is necessary? Will you end solitary confinement (both for juveniles and adults)?
- What will you do to ensure people have access to mental health and educational services while incarcerated?
- Will you expunge or seal criminal records (for arrests and convictions, juveniles and adults)?
- Given that [most prisoners](#) are serving time for “violent offenses<sup>1</sup>”, do you support reducing sentences and/or diverting some of these individuals away from serving prison time?

### Gun Violence/Control

- How will you ensure that gun control efforts do not result in disproportionate police contact and incarceration of black people?
- How will you address the epidemic of violence against black trans people?

### Broader Racial Equity Issues

- What is your position on “zero tolerance” discipline in schools?
- Will you act to institutionalize racial equity by requiring the use of [racial impact assessments](#) for administrative rule-making and pushing for this tool to be used for all federal legislation?
- What measures will you take to address the [racial wealth gap](#)?

### Additional questions (as time permits)

#### *Additional Questions about Police Violence*

- Will you use federal funds to encourage **empowered civilian oversight** of police departments?
- Will you encourage **independent and external investigations and prosecutions** of police misconduct?
- Will you increase police training, including **racial bias training**, with community involvement?
- Will you speak out against the ways **police unions** have opposed accountability for police officers?

#### *Additional Questions about Mass Incarceration*

- What is your position on **private prisons**? Will you act to eliminate the use of private prisons?
- How do you respond to those who say you have a personal financial interest in the mass incarceration industry?

### Other Stated Positions (for background information)

#### *Stated HRC positions on Mass Incarceration*

- HRC supports **diversion programs** (i.e. drug court) for non-violent youth offenders. Have you seen evidence that these programs are effective?
- Supports ‘**Ban the Box**’ efforts to help ex-offenders get jobs
- Supported **eliminating the crack-cocaine sentencing disparity** ([2.12.08](#)). How will she advocate making this happen?
- Supports increasing [mental health and drug treatment](#) for incarcerated individuals as well as **re-entry** and **rehabilitation** programs once they are released from prison

#### *Stated HRC positions on Gun Control*

- Supports abolishing legislation that **protects gun makers and dealers from being sued** by shooting victims, to use executive powers as President to **expand background checks** at

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<sup>1</sup> “violent offenses” include murder, kidnapping, manslaughter, rape, sexual assault, and armed robbery

gun shows, **ban domestic abusers from purchasing guns** and **stop allowing people with felony records** to get a gun if their background check is not completed within three days.

*Stated HRC positions on Educational Equity*

- Supports **debt-free college**, use of Pell grants to **cover living expenses**.
- Supports **increasing support for children with disabilities**, increasing funding for **hiring high-quality teachers** and ensuring they receive **high-quality training** and mentorship.
- Supports **universal preschool**.

*Stated HRC positions on Women's Rights and LGBTQ equality*

- Supports **equal pay** for women.
- Supports legislation to **end employment discrimination** of LGBTQ individuals and allowing **transgender individuals to serve in the U.S. military**.

*Stated HRC positions on Voting Rights*

- Supports **universal, automatic voter registration** as well as **strengthening voting rights act** and ensuring **early voting periods**.