Here are some ideas to help you and your network join the effort toward ending mass incarceration in Arizona. Some items are more immediate, some are longer term; some you can do by yourself, some will take a village. Either way, the more we educate and mobilize ourselves, the closer we can get to restorative justice and, ultimately, prevention. Just remember: change doesn’t happen overnight, you don’t have to do everything or do it by yourself, take breaks when you need to - then come back to it.

**ELECTION ALERT**
- Information about the MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE & CANDIDATES [here](#) & [here](#).
  - Primaries/Nominations on August 4th
  - Election on November 3rd

**ACTION ITEMS:**
Most of these organizations share quick, specific action items such as petitions, emails, & calls to make. Sign up to receive updates, and/or follow them on Facebook or Instagram:
- **ARIZONA FAITH NETWORK** (AZ) – sign up for our newsletters that share events, action items, & info
- **SMART JUSTICE CAMPAIGN** (AZ) (from ACLU OF AZ below) – sign up to get information & stay in the loop on their goal of reducing jail & prison populations by 50%, and combatting racial disparities
- **ACLU OF ARIZONA** (AZ) – sign up to help them defend individual rights & liberties
- For national efforts, check out – **COLOR OF CHANGE, LAST PRISONER PROJECT**, and **THE ACTION PAC**

If you wish to make donations:
- **ARIZONA FAITH NETWORK** (AZ) – support our work toward greater peace in Arizona’s community
- **AZ JUSTICE PROJECT** (AZ) – helps to exonerate those who have been wrongfully convicted

**EDUCATION & REFERENCE INFORMATION:**
- **AFN MISSION FOCUS 2019-20** – statement of purpose & data-based overview of AZ’s justice system
- **SMART JUSTICE CAMPAIGN** (from ACLU of AZ below) – introduction & a look at the basic facts
- **SERIAL, Season 3 – PODCAST** (Recommended by a Phoenix Public Defense Attorney) – a peak into the inner-workings of an American courthouse, including issues of arrest & incarceration
- **ACLU: NATIONAL PRISON PROJECT GOALS** and **PRISONERS RIGHTS** – a brief overview of our nation’s mass incarceration problem, & key topics such as Mental Health, Solitary Confinement, & Women
- **NATIVE AMERICAN PRISON POPULATION** – alarming national data; AZ has 2nd highest number
- **CHILDREN’S ACTION ALLIANCE OF ARIZONA** – their reports on Juvenile Justice in AZ
- **SEXUAL ABUSE TO PRISON PIPELINE** – summary of the full national report linked to in the article
- **SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE** – Arizona statistics
- **SOME BROAD STROKES ISSUES INSIDE A PRISON**:
  - Mental illness and addiction are serious problems
    - The staff resources, Correctional Officers, Counselors are minimal & truly backlogged
    - Only about 2% of the those incarcerated benefit from the DOC mandated classes, meaning only about 2% actually have access to programming
    - Erroneous disciplinary tickets
  - The criteria for DOC programs relating to short versus long sentences need be revised
    - FACT - When those serving longer sentences participate in programming, they become brain trust for others and are likely to encourage their peers
    - FACT - Those who have long sentences but have Clemency as an option, are often denied due to their lack of programming participation
    - FACT - Those serving long sentences are often deprived of the opportunity to grow, heal, & change

*Information provided by womxn currently incarcerated in Arizona State Prison Complex - Perryville*
As we seek increased release of incarcerated persons, we must also consider that their success is often dependent on adequate resources and support on the outside. If we look at the existing infrastructures of our faith communities, we realize our spaces are a place where we may achieve positive effect by providing for those re-entering public society, as well as for their loved ones. Currently, in the state of Arizona, we have 1 in 3 people within our faith communities who have been impacted by the Criminal Justice System. Those impacted have stated that the following would be beneficial to a successful return home:

- **A Mentorship Program**
  - “Adoption” - Once folx enter prison, they have a mentor on the outside all the way through their prison term to when they re-enter public society
    - Research on appropriate and safe housing
    - Teach how transportation systems work, or
      - EX: offer to drive formerly incarcerated to DES offices and other spaces
    - Access to technology upon return
      - EX: Teaching technology; resume building; social media tools & ethics; time management
    - A good homecooked meal
      - EX: Spending time with them, their loved ones, friends; teaching how to cook a healthy meal; teaching how to use kitchen devices
    - Boundary training (for both those participating in a mentor program)
  - Pen-pal writing

- “Leveraging influence” into informed action – faith communities and their members can help keep others informed on the issues that can keep folx out of prison:
  - EX: Start a Research team to stay up-to-date on legislation locally, nationally, internationally
  - EX: Advocate for criminal justice reform to your local legislative representatives

- **Create a Support Phone Tree for when folx re-enter public society**
- **Start a Book Club that focuses on issues surrounding incarceration**
- **Start a Craft or Book Donation Club for those currently incarcerated**
- **Offer space for people impacted to come meet and plan their future/next steps**
- **Provide education space and opportunities**
  - EX: Offer business or entrepreneurial classes; teach nutrition and cooking; teach parenting classes

- **Provide legal support**

- **MOST IMPORTANTLY, CENTER THE VOICES OF THOSE IMPACTED BY THE SYSTEM.**
  - EX: Listening first
  - EX: Offering to host a speaking engagement
  - EX: Only offering suggestions when necessary or when asked to do so. Those who have never been incarcerated could not possibly know what it is like or what exactly is needed.