



For The People Partners with the Young Women's Freedom Center and the Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition to Bring Women and Mothers Home from Prison

This Mother's Day, the Organizations Release Data-Driven Recommendations and Powerful Video Telling Stories of Mothers Impacted by Incarceration

Oakland, May 8, 2022—This Mother's Day, [For The People](#) is partnering with [Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition](#) and [Young Women's Freedom Center](#), announcing their firm commitment to free incarcerated women, reunite families, and build safer communities. To catalyze the initiative, the organizations have worked together to tell the stories of three mothers deeply affected by incarceration. The [moving video](#) follows the journey of a formerly incarcerated young mother who is now a leader in her field, an older mother whose son has returned home from prison, and a wife who advocated for her husband's freedom for years in order to reunite him with their children.

In addition to the powerful accounts rendered in the video, the organizations have released [data-driven recommendations](#) laying bare the vital need for focus on women and gender-expansive people in the criminal justice system. Too often, women and gender-expansive people are overlooked in the efforts for reform. To increase awareness of the existing landscape, the data-driven recommendations identify women as the fastest growing prison population in the country, address the direct family impact around women and incarceration, and identify survivors as a crucial group in need of support.

Together, [Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition](#), [Young Women's Freedom Center](#), and [For The People](#) honor a shared vision to reunite families and restore communities harmed by mass incarceration. Young Women's Freedom Center does this through its decades-long effort to empower and inspire women and gender-expansive people who have been involved with the justice system and/or the street economy to create positive change in their lives and communities. For The People honors this vision by working with prosecutors to look back at unjust sentences and bring people home from prison who no longer need to be there.

To drive increased understanding of the immeasurable hardships faced by system-impacted women and gender-expansive people, the organizations are centering the stories of three mothers and their varied experiences with incarceration:

- **Amika:** Amika was a midwife and young mother at the time of her incarceration. She speaks to the near-impossible challenges of childcare while incarcerated, her mentorship of young women through fire-fighting while locked up, and what new motherhood looks like for her now that she is out.
- **Lynne:** Lynn's son was incarcerated for almost 20 years. She shares what it meant for him to be released and to now live with her – including their shared interest in caring for birds. Her son Dean still goes back to feed the same birds he cared for on the prison yard to this day.
- **Benee:** Benee is a community leader and mother whose husband Joe was incarcerated, leading her to be the primary caretaker for their children for seven years. Now, they are happily reunited after Joe's resentencing and, together, they support other families struggling to bring their loved one home.

To watch the full video highlighting these women's incredible journeys, [click here](#). To read the data-driven recommendations, [click here](#).

For more information about For The People, go to forthepppl.org. To learn more about the Sisters Freedom Coalition, go to sisterwarriorsfree.org. And, for more information about the Young Women's Freedom Center, go to youngwomenfree.org.

About For The People

Based in Oakland, CA, [For The People](http://forthepppl.org) is a national nonprofit that activates the power of prosecutors to remedy unjust, excessive sentences. For The People works with prosecutors, defense attorneys, system-impacted people, and community organizations with the goal of reuniting families and restoring communities that have been impacted by mass incarceration. In 2018, the organization wrote and worked to pass the nation's first-ever Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing Law, AB 2942, in California. Now, For The People works across the country to increase adoption of Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing, providing policy and technical support nationwide. To learn more, visit forthepppl.org, or follow For The People on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).

About Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition

The [Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition](http://sisterwarriorsfree.org) is led by system-impacted, formerly and currently incarcerated survivors, mamas, aunties, sisters, brothers, and siblings. Our work centers shifting power through organizing, advocacy, and policy, and uplifts the leadership of those who have experienced and continue to experience the devastating and intergenerational effects of incarceration, poverty, and gender-based violence. We are committed to ending the violence of the criminal legal system, as well as undoing the harms of foster care, welfare, and other institutions that participate in criminalizing and controlling us. Our mission is to build a transformative movement that secures justice, opportunity, and self-determination for all.

About Young Women's Freedom Center

For nearly 30 years, [Young Women's Freedom Center](http://youngwomenfree.org) has provided support, mentorship, training, employment, and advocacy to young women and trans youth of all genders in California who have grown up in poverty, experienced the juvenile legal and foster care systems, have had to survive living and working on the streets, and who have experienced significant violence in their lives. Our mission is to build the power and leadership of directly impacted young people and inspire them to create positive change in their lives and communities. For more information, visit youngwomenfree.org.