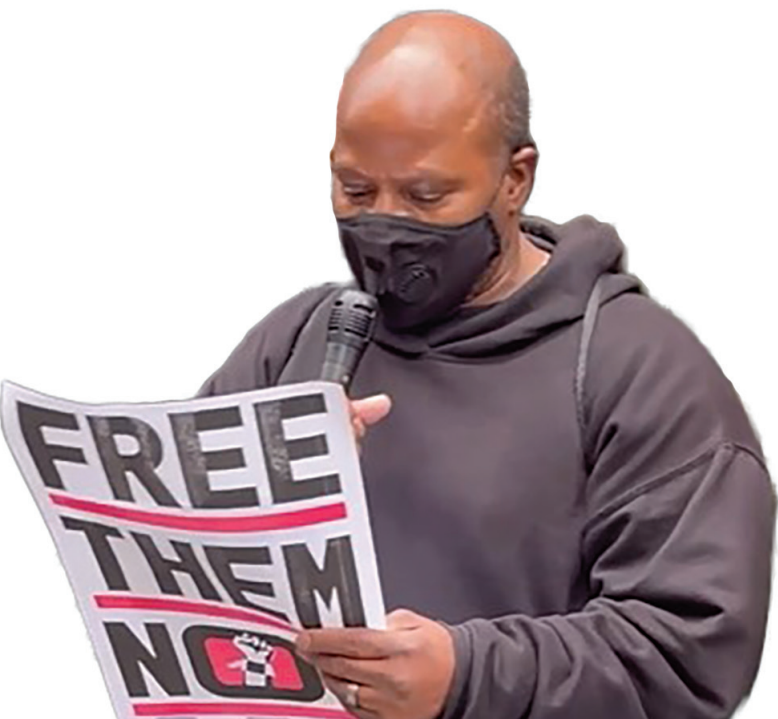


#LessIsMoreNY

MEMBER PROFILE: LUKE



New York reincarcerates more people for noncriminal technical violations of parole—like being late for curfew or testing positive for alcohol use—than every other state in the country. Approximately 35,000 people are on parole in New York and they are all daily subject to re-incarceration for technical violations. Today, more than 5,000 people are currently incarcerated in New York State prisons and local jails for technical violations of parole. The vast majority of those re-incarcerated for technical violations of parole are Black and Latino. The #LessIsMoreNY coalition is working to fix this problem by passing the #LessIsMoreNY Act (S.1144 – Benjamin/A.5576 – Forrest).

Thousands of New Yorkers have been harmed by the problems in parole. Now they are sharing their stories.

Luke, a 55-year-old Harlem native, is a Member of the Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice. Luke was released from incarceration after 25 years, and has been on parole since 2015. Since coming home, Luke has experienced firsthand the ineffective and punitive parole system.

After being accused of making verbal threats against someone, Luke was ambushed by ten parole officers, immediately incarcerated at Rikers Island, and was given a one year incarceration sentence without a preliminary hearing. His one year sentence turned into a three year sentence because the division of parole failed to assist him in obtaining legal housing for his release, and kept him in prison for an additional two years, until he was able to secure housing in a shelter. Luke was deprived of due process because of his conviction, and as a result did three years on an allegation in which there was no investigation.

Luke's parole officer did not care about all the accomplishments he had made after incarceration. Even

though Luke was working hard to pick up the shattered pieces of his life and put them together. Due to the unfounded allegation and lack of due process, Luke lost his job working for a food service agency at NYU. Even more, his reincarceration due to a parole violation took a significant toll on his family, especially his mother who was happy to have her son back after so long. Luke's mother knew that he was doing his best to move forward and incarceration was yet another setback for Luke and his family.

Luke is working on the #LessIsMoreNY Campaign because he fears that he can once again be reincarcerated for a minor infraction of his parole. Recently, he was admitted to a hospital due to health reasons and once he was dismissed, the first thing that was on his mind was that he did not register for his parole board in those days he spent hospitalized. This made him so fearful of going back to prison and underscores why Luke is pushing hard as a Member of Katal to pass #LessIsMoreNY.

More details about the #LessIsMoreNY Act

Developed by people on parole, people currently incarcerated, family members, and community and legal groups, the #LessIsMoreNY Act (S.1144 – Benjamin / A.5576 - Forrest) works by:

- Restricting the use of incarceration for technical violations of parole
- Bolstering due process
- Providing speedy hearings when someone is charged with an alleged violation of parole.
- Providing earned time credits to most people on parole so they get off parole faster

#LessIsMoreNY will bring sensible reform to parole practices, advancing justice, supporting people in reentry and strengthening public safety. That's why it's supported more than 270 community, legal, and faith group, law enforcement leaders, city councils, the NY State Association of Counties, and more. For a full list of supporters, please see the #LessIsMoreNY Support Letter.

For more information, please contact
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