

December 12, 2019

Katal Weekly Update

Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice



In this issue:

Grassroots Movements Are Needed to End Mass Incarceration, page 2

In Hartford: Join Us For Our Last Healthy & Just CT Statewide Coalition Meeting of 2019, page 3

In Albany: Capital Region Community Conversation on #LessIsMoreNY, page 4

Grassroots Movements Are Needed to End Mass Incarceration

By Lorenzo Jones and gabriel sayegh



Juneteenth for Justice, 2019 | Groups including Katal, JustLeadershipUSA, Start SMART NY, and more gather in the War room at the Capitol in Albany for a rally and speakout demanding immediate action from lawmakers.

The 2020 presidential race is spurring more debate about the role and influence of billionaires in our country and political system. As the criminal justice reform movement grows, an increasing number of billionaires are getting involved as donors, including here in New York, home to many in the billionaire class.

This week, dozens of state legislators are gathering at the ritzy Ritz Carlton in Westchester for a conference on criminal justice reform in New York. More than 50 state legislators are scheduled to attend, including Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins. The agenda includes visiting a state prison to meet with people detained there, discussing recent policy changes championed by grassroots groups, and creating an agenda for criminal justice reform in New York State.

In an opinion editorial by Katal's co-executive directors, **Lorenzo Jones** and **gabriel sayegh**, we address why this is an issue and why its imperative that grassroots movements lead efforts to transform our country's -- New York's specifically -- deeply broken and racist criminal justice system, in order to ultimately end mass incarceration. *"When it comes to securing justice, money is good, but the people are always better."*

We hope this article is helpful to those seeking to understand the dynamics currently playing out across the field as criminal justice becomes the new "sexy", and we welcome your feedback.

Read our full opinion editorial [at this link](#).

In Hartford: Join Us For Our Last Healthy & Just CT Statewide Coalition Meeting of 2019



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 | 11:00-12:30 PM
65 HUNGERFORD ST HARTFORD, CT 06106

We invite groups to join us **Thursday, December 19, from 11am-12:30pm** at our Hartford office for our last Healthy & Just CT Statewide Coalition meeting of the year.

The goals of this coalition are to:

- Strengthen the field of criminal justice reform by facilitating intersectional collaborations;
- Identify and discuss resources for collective action on criminal justice reform;
- Coordinate work that increases the role and leadership of people directly impacted.

Details and RSVP to our Healthy & Just CT Coalition Meeting [at this link.](#)

*To learn more about our work in Connecticut contact our Community Organizer, **Kenyatta Thompson** at kthompson@katalcenter.org or 860.937.6094. We hope that we'll see you there!*

In Albany: Capital Region Community Conversation on #LessIsMoreNY



Capital Region community! Join us next **Tuesday, December 17, at the Sister Maureen Joyce Center from 6-7:30pm** for an evening of meaningful discussion with community members as we explore the impacts of parole/community supervision, technical violations and their impacts on our communities. This important issue touches on the intersection of the core of marginalization, mass criminalization and the stigma associated with poverty and racial inequity, and your voice is essential to our goal of passing the Less Is More: Community Supervision Revocation Reform Act, keeping our communities intact and ensuring health, equity and justice for all.

Childcare will be available on site and refreshments will be served.

Details and RSVP to the #LessIsMoreNY [Community Conversation](#).

*To join in our fight to get transformative parole reform passed in 2020 --or to coordinate a #LessIsMoreNY community conversation within your area contact **Cedric Fulton** at cfulton@katalcenter.org or at 518.965.6771 to learn more about our bill and how you can get involved.*

Katal works to strengthen the people, policies, institutions, and movements that advance health, equity, and justice for everyone.

Visit our website at www.katalcenter.org to learn more about our work and how you can get involved. Be sure to follow us across social media @katalcenter and stay in touch!

Contact us at info@katalcenter.org or at **646.875.8822**