

# BEYOND THE BARS

## *UNTIL SHE'S FREE*

9TH ANNUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Plenaries and Breakout Sessions  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019**  
Columbia School of Social Work

BEYOND  
THE  
BARS

## **Welcome to Beyond the Bars 2019: Until She's Free**

This year's conference is focusing on both the incarceration and criminalization of women and girls, as well as their families and communities. Our focus is inclusive of transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people. The many struggles for justice, equity and safety led by women and girls directly impacted by the criminal legal system are at the heart of this conference, as we create a space to further strengthen and advance change.

### Conference Schedule

#### **THURSDAY NIGHT**

##### **Until She's Free: A Night of Culture**

7:00-9:30pm, MIST Harlem  
(Doors at 6:30, Event Starts at 7:00pm)

#### **FRIDAY NIGHT**

##### **Until She's Free: Building the Movement**

7:30-9:30pm, Lerner Hall, Columbia University  
(Doors at 6:45pm - Event Starts at 7:30pm)

#### **SATURDAY**

##### **Until She's Free: Plenaries and Breakout Sessions**

9:30-5pm, Columbia School of Social Work

##### **Youth Summit: #SayHerMagicMatters**

9:30-5pm, Columbia School of Social Work

##### **Film Screenings and Talkbacks**

5:30-8pm, Columbia School of Social Work

#### **SUNDAY**

##### **Building the Grassroots - Organizing Workshops**

10:00 - 5:00pm, Columbia School of Social Work

**UNTIL SHE'S FREE:**  
Plenaries and Breakout Sessions  
Saturday, March 9th

**MORNING PLENARIES**

9:30 am – 12:45 pm

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**INTERRUPTING THE WEB OF CRIMINALIZATION AND  
INCARCERATION OF WOMEN, GIRLS AND TRANS PEOPLE:  
The Power of Feminist Organizing**

**Room 311 / 312**

**Panelists:**

**Erin Cloud**, Co-Founder and Co-Director, Movement for Family Power

**Woods Ervin**, Researcher, Interrupting Criminalization, Barnard  
Center for Research on Women

**Justine Moore**, Director of Training, The National Council of  
Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls

**Kimberly Woodson**, Founder, Redeeming Kimberly

**Welcome:**

**Karma Lowe**, Assistant Dean, Diversity, Inclusion & Student Life,  
Columbia School of Social Work

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**A GROWING MOVEMENT WITH POSSIBILITIES AND  
CHALLENGES: Examining Strategies**

**Rm 311 / 312**

**Panelists:**

**Kassandra Frederique**, New York State Director, Drug Policy Alliance

**Deanna Hoskins**, President and CEO, JustLeadership USA

**Sheena Meade**, Director Of Strategic Partnerships, Florida Rights  
Restoration Coalition

**Louis Reed**, National Organizer, #Cut50

**Laura Whitehorn**, Release Aging People in Prison Campaign

**Moderator:**

**Nkechi Taifa**, Founder and Principal, The Taifa Group

## **AFTERNOON PLENARY**

1:45pm - 3:15pm

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### **SISTERS ACROSS BORDERS: Transnational Solidarity and Global Movement Building**

**Panelists:**

**Shireen Essawi**, Human Rights Lawyer (Palestine)

**Debbie Kilroy**, CEO, Sisters Inside (Australia)

**Teresa Njoroge**, Co-Founder and CEO, Clean Start (Kenya)

**Luz Piedad Casedo**, Deputy Director, Humanas Colombia (Colombia)

**Moderator:**

**Soffiyah Elijah**, Executive Director, Alliance of Families for Justice

## **AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

3:30 - 5:00pm

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### **DECARCERATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS: Strategies to Get Them Out**

**Rm 311/312**

**Panelists:**

**Johanna Calle**, Director, New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice

**Arissa Hall**, Director, the National Bail Out Collective

**Jose Saldana**, Organizer, Release Aging People in Prison Campaign

**Phal Sok**, Organizer, Youth Justice Coalition

**Rita Zimmer**, Executive Director, Housing + Solutions

**Moderator:**

**Andrea James**, Founder and Executive Director, the National Council For Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls

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### **#SAYHERMAGICMATTERS: An urgent call to end the criminalization of Black, Brown & Indigenous Girls and Non-binary youth**

**Rm C05**

**Afua Addo**, Women's Services Coordinator, the Center for Court Innovation's Hidden Victims Project

**Rumi Akong**, TransJustice Program Coordinator, Audre Lorde Project

**Wakumi Douglas**, Co-Founder, Executive Director, S.O.U.L. Sisters Leadership Collective

**Jessica Nowlan**, Executive Director, Young Women’s Freedom Center  
**Ashley Sawyer**, Director of Policy and Government Relations, Girls for Gender Equity

**Moderator:**

**Shawnda Chapman Brown**, Lead Program Specialist, Center for Youth Justice, Vera Institute for Justice

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**ORGANIZING TOWARD DECRIMINALIZATION AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF RACE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY**

**Rm C03**

**Panelists:**

**Janae Bonsu**, National Co-Director, Black Youth Project 100

**Roselyn Berry**, Black Immigrant Women and Girls Specialist, Black Alliance for Just Immigration

**Woods Ervin**, Researcher, Interrupting Criminalization, Barnard Center for Research on Women

**Janetta Johnson**, Executive Director, TGI Justice Project

**Kate Mogulescu**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Law, Brooklyn Law School

**Jessica Raven**, Executive Director, Audre Lorde Project

**Marilynn Winn**, Executive Director, Women on the Rise

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**113 MILLION: Organizing the Power of Families Impacted by Mass Incarceration**

**Rm 301**

**Panelists:**

**Barbara Allen**, Founder, Prison Families Anonymous

**Soffiyah Elijah**, Executive Director, Alliance of Families for Justice

**Joss Greene**, Loved one of Incarcerated Person

**Frantz Michel**, Executive Director, Guns Down Inc.

**Chastity Michel**, Outreach Coordinator, Guns Down Inc. and Program Associate, Hope House

**Remington Richardson**, Family Advocate and Second Year Dental Student

**Moderator:**

**Sheila Rule**, Founder, Think Outside the Cell

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## **UNDOING PATRIARCHY: Healing, Accountability and Transformation for Men**

### **Rm 302**

**Whitney Richards-Calathes**, Co-Founder and Organizational Director, Sweet River

**RJ Maccani**, Senior Intervention Manager

**Taina Vargas**, Co-Founder / Executive Director, Initiate Justice

**Moderator:**

**Marlon Peterson**, @\_marlonpeterson, TED Resident and Host of the Decarcerated Podcast

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## **FAITH BASED JUSTICE REFORM FOR WOMEN**

### **Rm C02**

**Selena Fulford**, Social Worker, New York City Department of Homeless Services / Muslim Chaplain Assistant, Taconic Correctional Facility for Women

**Jennifer Lackard**, Founder and Publisher, Race for Re-Entry / Station of Hope Prison Ministry, Grace Baptist Church

**Greer Ellis**, Program Coordinator, Center for Justice at Columbia University / Facilitator, Exodus Restorative Ministry, Abyssinian Baptist Church

**Moderator:**

**Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin**, Chief of Housing Community Activities for the Family Services Department, New York City Housing Authority / Evangelist, United Missionary Baptist Church

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## **A NEW PATH TO JUSTICE: A Philanthropic Conversation on the Intersection of Gender Equity and Criminal Justice Reform**

### **Rm C03**

**Pamela Schifman**, Executive Director, NoVo Foundation

**Aleah Bacquie-Vaughn**, Director, Circle for Justice Innovations

**Christina Voight**, Program Associate, Open Society Foundations

**Moderator:**

**Ana Olivera**, President & CEO, New York Women's Foundation

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## **WOMEN AND VIOLENCE: Safety, Healing and Accountability**

### **Rm 404**

**Cori Chertoff**, Sentencing Mitigation Specialist and Parole Advocate  
**Sharon Richardson**, Founder and Executive Director, Reentry Rocks  
**Sharon White**, Clinical Director, Women's Prison Association  
**Blanche Wright**, Group Facilitator and Advocate

**Moderator:**

**Maria Torre**, Director, the Public Science Project, Doctoral Faculty, Critical Social Psychology & Urban Education, the Graduate Center of the City University of New York

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## **BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS BORDERS: Criminalization and Incarceration Around the World**

### **Rm 405**

**Andrea Casamento**, Founder, ACiFaD (Argentina)  
**Jane Kuria**, CEO, Faraja Foundation (Kenya)  
**Neta-Rie Mabo**, Sisters Inside (Australia)  
**Meryleen Mena**, Cultural Anthropology Researcher, University of Colorado Boulder (Brazil)  
**Julia Myron**, Founder, Myron Fund (Nigeria)  
**Kim Pate**, Senator, Senate of Canada (Canada)

**Moderator:**

**Coletta Youngers**, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)

## **SPECIAL ARTS PROGRAMMING (IN THE ART EXHIBIT) RM 304**

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### **THE POWER OF VULNERABILITY: Creative Writing for Self and System Change**

**1:45 - 3:15pm**

This workshop will serve to familiarize participants with the tool of facilitated writing groups as a method to foster creative self expression, build community across divides, shift personal narratives and generate powerful advocacy from the directly-impacted. Participants will engage in a multi-stage writing exercise culminating in a love letter to self – a prompt the facilitators have employed in multiple women’s jails, prisons and reentry programs. Sample writing will include the work of currently incarcerated women and girls, cultivated from the same exercise. This method of generative writing emphasizes personal development, a guided vulnerability that allows various entry points to meet individual needs, offer choice and agency in the creative process and encourage self reflection. After engaging the exercise themselves, the group will share and discuss the methodology in a guided conversation that explores how the multi-step model can be adapted to other prompts and topics, and why expressive programs are valuable in creating both self-empowerment and real-world policy impact.

**Facilitators** from PEN America’s Prison and Justice Writing Program team: **Caits Meissner** (Director) and **Robert Pollock** (Coordinator),

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### **TEXTILE ARTS AND RESISTANCE - Arpilleras**

**3:30 - 5:00pm**

El Museo del Barrio is honored to share “Arpilleras”- Artworks from the permanent collection. These wall hangings are made from scraps of fabric and depict life under the oppressive Augusto Pinochet dictatorship during the 70’s and 80’s in Chile. Sewn by anonymous Chilean women, the “Arpilleras” became a popular art form in the 70’s. Known as “Arpilleras”, the women created these artworks as a way of expressing their personal experiences and viewpoints, denouncing a political regime dominated by violence, fear and economic hardship. Inspired by the bravery and the creative brilliance of women in Chile. Participants will have an opportunity to create a mini Arpillera that aims to honor and support the struggle for justice of women and girls. They may create an abstract or figurative composition sewing or gluing fabric and fibers onto a backing.

**Facilitator:**

From Museo del Barrio, **Laura Betancur** is an expressive arts therapy practitioner, arts educator and activist.



# **SATURDAY EVENING FILM SCREENINGS**

Films will begin at 5:30pm

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## ***3000 NIGHTS***

**Rm C03**

**Screening and Talkback with**

**Hana Chamoun**, Actor and Advisor to the Director

**Randa Wahbe**, Addameer Prison Support and Human Rights Association Based in Ramallah

**Selena Fulford**, Social Worker, New York City Department of Homeless Services / Muslim Chaplain Assistant, Taconic Correctional Facility for Women

Moderated by **Nancy Mansour**, Founder, Existence is Resistance

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## ***AFTER RIKERS: Justice by Design + HER STORIES***

**Rm 311 / 312**

**Screenings and Talkback with**

**Zudaydah Rivera-Luciano**, Member, JustLeadership USA (JLUSA)

**Naquasia Pollard**, Founder and Executive Director, Purelegacee

**Kandra Clark**, Associate Vice President, Exodus Transitional Community

**Kathy Morse**, Co-Founder, CloseRosies Campaign

**Moderator and MC: Dr. Alethea Taylor**, A CJ Initiative Consultant, New York Women's Foundation

## Conference Foundation Sponsors

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## Special Thanks

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
Barnard Center for Research on Women  
Coletta Youngers  
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S.O.U.L. Sisters Leadership Collective  
The Doe Fund  
The Edward S. Moore Foundation  
The National Council of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women  
and Girls  
The Social Intervention Group  
To all of our Community and Academic Partners who are too numerous  
to name!

