2019 Highlights
Since our first Day of Empathy in 2017, #cut50 has continued to build and coordinate an ever expanding, Empathy Network, composed of partners in all 50 states and Washington D.C. These grassroots organizations, primarily led by people who have been directly impacted by the justice system, act as "Empathy Ambassadors" - to promote criminal justice reform at the local, state, and federal levels on the Day of Empathy and throughout the year.

Our Empathy Network partners are at the forefront of all of our campaigns, ensuring that those most impacted by the justice system have a seat at the table and lend their voice and expertise to help develop the policy solutions that will impact their lives, families and communities.
OUR METHODOLOGY

SELECTION

Through extensive personal relationships, research and our referral network, we identify and vet organizations and organizers that are dedicated to uplifting the leadership of people directly impacted by the justice system.

COORDINATION

We invest in our partners with funding, communications support, advocacy training, toolkits, and collateral. These resources help unite groups under a singular banner with shared messaging and goals.

MOBILIZATION

We activate our network on the Day of Empathy, encouraging partners to host meetings, events, and conversations between lawmakers and people who have been personally impacted by the justice system.

Day of Empathy
The Day of Empathy isn’t just a single Day of Action. It is a celebration of our year-round effort to build capacity among under-resourced but highly-leveraged groups that make up the Empathy Network.

Throughout the year, we provide communications support, advocacy training, introductions to lawmakers, policy development, connections to influencers, support from national partners, as well as content and messaging.

Leading up to the Day of Empathy, we host a series of webinars and conference calls to stay closely connected to our partners and support them.

In 2019, we will launch an official Empathy platform so the Empathy Network has a digital community to share their challenges, work, ideas, and solutions. We also plan to host an in person conference for the first time!
Nationwide, the Day of Empathy reached:

- 107+ Million impressions across social media platforms
- Thousands of participants at 45 events in 37 states
- 500+ face-to-face meetings with lawmakers
- Unanimous Passage of Georgia’s Dignity for Incarcerated Women Act (HB 345)
- Introduction of the Tennessee Dignity for Incarcerated Women Act (SB 75)
- Accelerated momentum for Dignity legislation in AR, NJ, FL, MO
- Support from two Democrat Presidential Candidates - Kamala Harris & Cory Booker
- Four Governors submitted videos and/or hosted meetings in support of Day of Empathy
- Celebrities/Influencers like Kim Kardashian West, Seth Green, Richard Branson, Bishop TD Jakes, Rev. Al Sharpton, David Arquette, Margaret Cho, Danny Trejo, Vivica A. Fox and others.
KEY LEGISLATORS ENGAGED

Senator Cory Booker, NJ
Governor Asa Hutchinson, AR
Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton, IL
Representative David Dreyer, GA
Senator Martin Quezada, AZ
Senator Matt Dolan, OH
Senator Kamala Harris, CA
Governor Asa Hutchinson, AR
Governor Karen Brown, OR
Governor Phil Bryant, MS

In order to reform our criminal justice system, we must first humanize and empathize with those who are impacted by it. #DayofEmpathy @HanJones08 @Greg50

Thank you Gov @PhilBryantMS for being a partner in this work, & using your platform & voice as a lawmaker to take a stand w/ us on behalf of EMPATHY for all impacted by the crim justice system – both crime survivors, AND those incarcerated/formerly incarcerated. #DayOfEmpathy
NOTABLE MEDIA MENTIONS

#cut50 bipartisan group visits Arkansas State Capitol to push for criminal justice reform

David Arquette, advocates urge criminal justice reform at Arkansas State Capitol

Many protestors advocated for reforms for incarcerated women, who they say have trouble accessing feminine hygiene products or are restrained during childbirth.
The Empowerment Alliance and Greater Birmingham Ministries hosted a week of criminal justice focused events, culminating in the Day of Empathy at the Alabama State Capitol Building on March 5th. On the Day of Empathy, participating groups held a press conference on the steps of the Alabama State House and the Mayor of Birmingham, Randall Woodfin, signed a proclamation officially recognizing March 5th as the Day of Empathy.

Leading up to the day, the groups traveled to Selma to discuss issues related to criminal justice reform including, voter restoration and reentry barriers. They held panel discussions, visited the Equal Justice Initiative Lynching museum, attended “Bloody Sunday” events, and marched across the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge.
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Haven House Juneau convened a large contingent of formerly incarcerated people at the Capitol to support Dignity for Incarcerated Women legislation and broader reforms in Alaska. They spoke with legislators and shared their experiences, to raise awareness and spurn action in the legislature on the issues of fair and adequate treatment and support for incarcerated women, as well as improved treatment for those who are caught up in the system as a result of substance abuse.
Reinventing Reentry along with Checkr, Gold Canyon Heart & Home, From Gangs to Jobs, AFSC, Televerde, Arouet Foundation and other partners brought together employers, formerly incarcerated individuals, lawmakers, and community leaders at the Arizona State Capitol to promote the Fair Chance Arizona Pledge, Empathy, Dignity for Incarcerated Women and Fair Chances. The event included a meet and greet over coffee and donut, followed by a press conference, tabling organizations, and meetings with available legislators following the press conference. Held meetings and a press conference focused on jobs and the collateral consequences of incarceration, where speakers included: Sue Ellen Allen, AZ Sen. Martin Quezada, AZ Rep. Athena Salman, Rahana Larendeau, Mukhtar Najee-Ullah, Joe Chipetta, Michelle Ciracco, and Natividad Mendoza.
Christina and David Arquette joined local partners Ruby Welch, founder of F.E.L.O.N. (Formerly Incarcerated Empowered Leaders Overcoming Negative Stigmas), the Central Arkansas Re-Entry (CARE) Coalition and #cut50 National Director, Jessica Jackson, along with many other supporting organizations. Organizers and more than 100 participants gathered for a rally and press conference on the Capitol steps to stand in solidarity in support of the Day of Empathy and listen to the testimonies of formerly incarcerated individuals, their families, advocates and survivors of abuse and addiction, who bravely shared their stories.

Governor Asa Hutchinson met with organizers, and more than a dozen lawmakers hosted meetings with advocates and formerly incarcerated women to discuss Dignity legislation and broader reforms in Arkansas. Later, an event at the Union A.M.E. Church helped collect hygiene items for women in prison.
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

The Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) led an event at the state capitol in Sacramento along with supporting partners: Initiate Justice, Young Women Free, Root and Rebound, The Underground Scholars, Project Rebound Sac State, and Legal Services for Prisoners with Children.

35 activists gathered at ARC’s office, broke up into groups and spent the day advocating for ACA 6 and AB 277, legislation that focus on individuals on parole and probation. Overall, the groups meet with 25 different offices and ended the day with an informative presentation at the state Capital that was attended by staff from various Senate and Assembly offices.
Ashleigh Carter, coordinated a powerful event at the Chucos Justice Center in Inglewood, CA and Mayor Garcetti’s office issued a proclamation, officially recognizing March 5th 2019 as the National Day of Empathy in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is one of the largest criminal justice systems, not just in California, or the United States, but in the world.

Artists, activists, and community members met in Inglewood to listen to engage in interactive stations, art exhibits and partake in discussions from a variety of directly impacted people throughout the evening. Attendees heard powerful testimony from Fulton Leroy Washington, Sutina Green, Asia Carter-Thomas, Jack Morris, and Dolores Canales about how the criminal justice system has impacted their lives and work. In addition to the variety of art that surrounded participants, there were three different interactive stations where participants had an opportunity to engage in the discussion about how we can create a more empathetic society.
NEW HAVEN, HARTFORD, & BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

Nancy Kingwood Ministries, Project Longevity, Hartford City Councilman TJ Clarke, and several supporting organizations hosted the Day of Empathy in three cities across Connecticut: New Haven, Hartford and Bridgeport. Participants in Hartford shared their stories, discussed reentry programming and other relevant criminal justice issues. Also, the Mayor issued a proclamation that March 5th be officially deemed the Day of Empathy in Hartford. New Haven organizers provided broad contextual framing on how the system can be criminogenic, dehumanizing, and erode broader societal considerations for empathy, opportunities for a path towards redemption, viable personal development, and prosperity. This was followed by a review of CT policy initiatives, current legislative proposals related to criminal justice, and a call to action for participants to engage with lawmakers. In Bridgeport, the reentry community and their families shared personal testimonies and stories; including their challenges, regarding a sustained lack of housing, trauma informed programs, and empathy from family, community members and churches.
DOVER, DELAWARE

The Delaware Center for Justice, Delaware United, ACLU-Delaware, and additional partners from the Coalition for SMART Justice, gathered for a press conference and coordinated an art exhibit at the Legislative Hall in Dover, focused on court fines and civic debt. The exhibit featured images created by members of the justice involved community, who are unable to pay their court fines and high school students from the Design Thinking Academy who have studied the spiral of civic debt as part of their school curriculum. They started with a drum circle outside the Senate floor to announce the opening of Unwarranted: The Human Costs of Fines. At the presser, and legislative meetings thereafter, participants told stories of their personal experiences and discussed pending legislation to require the courts to consider people's ability to pay prior to imposing court fines, prohibit the courts from suspending driving privileges and issuing warrants to arrest people for non-payment of fines.
Valencia Gunder and Make the Homeless Smile Miami, gathered more than 25 formerly incarcerated women to share stories of overcoming their incarceration, addiction, reentry experiences. They also discussed all of the amazing work being done in Florida to educate communities and legislators around their Dignity legislation as well as identifying legislation and budgeting opportunities that will assist with getting fair rights for formerly incarcerated people in Florida. The group committed themselves to seeking out ways to create to wrap around services for formerly incarcerated women and legal services for currently incarcerated women.
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Operation New Hope Founder/CEO, Kevin Gay, and supporting organization, My City Connected, held a powerful and educational event about voting rights changes in Florida. 200 Participants gathered at The University of North Florida to discuss Jacksonville becoming the City of Second Chances, recent changes to federal and state legislation like the First Step Act, Amendment 4 to restore voting rights and more. Family members who have lost loved ones to violent crime, formerly incarcerated people, children of incarcerated parents, individuals who have overcome addiction, and others joined together, across demographics and party lines to share their stories and foster empathy for those impacted by the CJ system.

Speakers Included: Kevin Gay, Bill Dyer - Facilitator/Bridges to Life, Laura Lothman Lambert - Director - Juvenile Division/State Atty's Office, 4th Circuit, Dr. Michael Hallett - Professor/Criminology Department/UNF, and Author/Speaker/Educator/Activist - Khalil Osiris. A special video from Dr. Makaziwe Mandela (Daughter of Nelson Mandela) was shown at the conclusion of the event including a message for everyone participating in Day of Empathy.
Linc International and local organizers held round table discussions with city and community leaders, to discuss ways to support youth and get the community involved with the Florida DJJ’s Roadmap to System Excellence to implement a strategy of prevention and support around the school to prison pipeline... Their primary goal was to form a collaborative cross-sectional body of citizens, committed to implementing and providing resources for youth. Discussions also involved integrating the ACLU of Florida’s Keep Kids Learning Institute into the school system and the community. Speakers included: Pastor Sanford Hayes, Raymond Nelson, Isaac Coleman, Shawneese Baysmore and Timothy Bolduc, and several legislators, including: City Of Crestview Mayor David Cadle, City Councilman Shannon Hayes and City Councilman J.B. Whitten. Other participants included, past and current presidents of the local NAACP, members of the school board, chamber of commerce, policy department, veterans, high school students, and church congregations.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA


Legislators heard from directly impacted women speaking about their experiences with the state prison system and returning home after incarceration. As the day came to a close, the Georgia House unanimously voted to pass the Georgia Dignity Bill- HB 345!
Celia Colon along with Giving Others Dreams (G.O.D.), Kids Off The Block, Fierceover40, Fierceunder40, Party for Purpose, Ex-Con for Community and Social change, Friends for Life Resources, and BTEC, met with lawmakers to share their stories of incarceration, reentry and advocacy. Following their meetings, organizers and participants traveled to the James R. Thompson Center to host a rally to bring awareness to the many issues with the criminal justice system in Illinois and bring attention to the National Day of Empathy! As new people arrived, all recited the empathy pledge in groups. Finally, organizers facilitated a vision board workshop around the issue of Mental Health in the justice system, for the men in Division 9, the maximum security unit inside the Cook County Jail, where little to no programming is available.
Connections to Success organizers, held a convening with participants who have been impacted by incarceration and several lawmakers (at the local and state level) to discuss policy issues related to criminal justice reform in Kansas, particularly expanding expungement activities and talk in more detail about the barriers a criminal record creates. For 21 years, Connections to Success (CtS) has provided comprehensive services to adults transitioning from incarceration back into the community, including soft skills training, life coaching, mentoring and employment supports. Attendees shared their stories and experiences about their lives, and how they and their families have been affected by the criminal justice system in Kansas and the changes they believe are most urgent. Wyandotte County DA Mark Dupree shared that he was committed to beginning and expungement process in his county.
Ebony O’Rae, Cities United, and supporting partners, University of Louisville Youth Violence Prevention Research Center, ACLU of Kentucky, Anne Braden Institute, No More Red Dots, Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods, Lexington Fayetteer Urban County Government - Commission of Social Services, Lexington Leadership Foundation, Louisville Urban League, and New Legacy, coordinated a community event focused on the impacted population, where attendees shared their experiences with the criminal justice system and commitment to the movement to reform the system. Following this event, participants traveled to the State capitol in Frankfort to meet with state legislators. In these meetings, representatives learned directly from those who have been incarcerated or had an incarcerated loved one, about their personal stories and the importance of intentional focus on legislation that impacts formerly incarcerated individuals, as well as their children and families. In addition, organizers in Louisville and Lexington actively engaged on social media platforms to talk about the Day of Empathy and CJ reform in Kentucky.
Operation Restoration’s Day of Empathy, focused on voter education, empowerment and registration - following the passage of voting rights legislation (Act 363), which went into effect March 1st. Operation Restoration chose a poverty stricken community in New Orleans to celebrate the Day of Empathy because as members of that community, they knew there are no policy makers, lawmakers or those in positions to help, that community would come out and educate and inform the public and people who would be directly impacted by this new law, and why voting is vitally important.

Organizers focused on ensuring that women and men with felony convictions understand their voter registration rights, discussed the importance of humanization and how using their voting rights makes them a true citizen of the state of Louisiana. Organizers also worked to register as many people as possible to vote, in the community and at the City Hall.
Maine Inside Out (MIO), was founded with the intention of bringing creative workshops into correctional facilities and sharing original work with the community as a force for social change. The organization is comprised largely of justice-involved youth and seeks to empower young people to create social change through storytelling in the medium of performance art. Maine Inside Out’s members performed an original production "Unspoken Truth" at the Maine State House, for an audience of 60 lawmakers, community partners, lobbyists, community & family members, and more followed by dialogue with legislative representatives and the criminal justice committee. The performance was followed by a 60 minute dialogue between MIO youth leaders and lawmakers about the impacts of incarceration and the criminal justice system on individuals and whole communities, distribution of MIO organizational information and white paper and a private conversation with the newly appointed DOC commissioner in Maine.

AUGUSTA, MAINE
The Maryland Justice Project and supporting organizations Life After Release, Out for Justice, Sistahs Growing Together, Reproductive Justice Inside, Marion House and Strong City Baltimore, hosted a lobby day in Annapolis. Participants discussed Pre-release Services for Woman SB821 & SB419 (both addressing the need for a pre-release center for women) and Ban the Box legislation, HB 0994 which had a hearing on March 5th. Maryland Justice Project was successful in passing this law on the city level in Baltimore, and now aims to make it a statewide law.

Following this, ambassadors visited the Women's Caucus, whose 72 bipartisan members play a pivotal role in the passage of CJ legislation. This was very important in continuing to make bipartisan inroads and gain support for both pieces of legislation. Finally, participants met with key legislators, particularly the Economics subcommittee members whose support is essential for the Ban the Box bill.
Victoria Fortes and I Dare To Dream, and supporting partners, Community Resources For Justice, Citizens For Juvenile Justice, Roca Inc, Sisters Unchained and other partners hosted a community event to create awareness around criminal justice issues that affect men, women, and young people in Massachusetts. Through an open panel discussion, participants highlighted initiatives that advocates and policy creators are currently pushing to strengthen MA communities. The group discussed the need for greater empathy towards those who are directly impacted by the laws within our justice system. A panel of speakers from participating organizations as well as State Representative Liz Miranda bravely shared their personal experiences and stories to bring balanced context to the conversation - followed by a Q&A between audience and panelists.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency (MCCD), Nation Outside, Safe and Just Michigan, University of Michigan Carceral State Project, Justice Through Storytelling and Detroit Justice Center, hosted a day-long event at the Capitol. Michigan's Day of Empathy included breakfast, three powerful panel discussions on Clean Slate Legislation, Raise the Age Legislation, and Dignity for Incarcerated Women and presentations by justice-impacted citizens and advocates, which informed and inspired group meetings with legislators in support of Dignity legislation in Michigan. The Panels informed and inspired attendees to participate in group meetings with legislators, where people spoke passionately about why these issues matter to them.
One Family One Community, led by Queen Kimmons, met with two council members at the city hall in Minneapolis, Jeremiah Ellison and Phillipe Cunningham. Participants spoke to their representatives about what the Day of Empathy is about and why Empathy for the formerly incarcerated community members in their districts is so important. Individuals also engaged in dialogue about the importance of providing adequate support for the men and women who are incarcerated or returning and want to have a seat at the table when decisions are being made about how the justice system should be reformed. There is a serious lack of constituent engagement and education - particularly in regards to the fact that once you are “off paper” in MN, you can vote again automatically. Participants challenged their lawmakers and those in the house and senate to be more involved in this process and CJ reform in general. Both legislators and constituents are in need of education and better engagement if they want a more balanced and fair government. Confronting voter suppression and encouraging improved access to legislators from the city level up about voting rights were important takeaways from the day’s events.
Organizer Britton Smith and the Mississippi SPLC held a rally and press conference with individuals of all ages who have been affected by incarceration in the state. Speakers at the rally shared their experiences with the justice system and there was a visual display in front of the lectern with 76 pinwheels in memory of the 76 individuals who died in Mississippi prisons last year.

50 individuals participated several sat in on a joint meeting with staff from the Lt. Governor's office, 4 State Representatives and 2 State Senators to talk about the Day of Empathy and the state of criminal justice reform in Mississippi. The group was joined by Miss Mississippi who spoke to media about her own father’s incarceration.
Mimi Harrison and supporting organizations Sisters With a Purpose, Anointed Girls of Grace, The Help KC and We the People gathered with legislators to tell their personal stories and trials of incarceration and reentry, and discuss the Dignity Legislation in Missouri. #cut50’s Director of Dignity for Incarcerated Women, Topeka K. Sam, joined the group and shared her experience working nationwide to pass Dignity Legislation.
Nicole Martin of the Greater Manchester Federation of Republican Women and supporting organizations, New Life Recovery and Written on Your Heart led an inclusive event in New Hampshire.

Participants gathered in the heart of Manchester near the Federal and State court houses to hold a rally. An overarching theme of the speakers was the effects of our country’s drug policy. The event opened with a live musical performance from one of the speakers, Leonard Bell. Then, the keynote speaker, Ritchie Farrell, award winning author, director, and motivational speaker who was a heroin addict and overcame many odds on the streets of Lowell gave his address. Other speakers included the child of a drug dealer who was in and out of prison, two former inmates who have risen to pave a destiny helping others, as well as a survivor of crime who cares about restorative justice. Several legislators and community partners were also in attendance.
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Women Who Never Give Up founder Gale Muhammad, and supporting partners the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, hosted 6 separate events throughout the state of New Jersey: Atlantic City, Burlington, Camden, Newark, Patterson and Princeton, to uplift the voices of individuals who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system and educate community leaders and local politicians about how they can help, particularly by passing the Dignity for Incarcerated Primary Caretaker Parents Act. Women attended an event with Senator Cory Booker who gave a special shout-out on Twitter for the National #DayOfEmpathy and WWNGU. The NJ General Assembly issued a citation and special joint legislative resolution on recognition, honor and praise of The National Day of Empathy and WWNGU.
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Organizers Shanequa Charles of Ms. Abbie’s Kids, Never Be Caged hosted an event with supporting organizations, I Am My Community, Guns Down Life Up, Black Spades, Creative Soul Solutions, The NYC Mayor’s Office, Mammas Hip Hop Kitchen, Neighborhood Benches, Artist Up, Refoundry, National Action Network, Silent Cry, 100 Suits, Got Checked Records, Citizens Action, Women’s March, Square Root Entertainment, Peacemakers, Sistah Magic Collective and more entitled, “FREEDOM’S GATEWAY TO NEVER BE CAGED.” The goal was to examine the intersection of substance abuse and mass incarceration, how it has impacted the Black/Brown communities, communities experiencing poverty and marginalization and how to heal harmed communities. Discussion also took place regarding responsible prosecutor practices that would drastically reduce mass incarceration, allow for young people to experience interventions that actually work, and, would restore dignity to those dedicated to successful reentry. Participants educated the community on New York bail legislation, speedy trial and discovery, fed the community, fellowshipped, provided resources to humans in need and in trouble, and restored faith to mothers who classified themselves as hopeless in fighting for their children, their husbands, their families who are incarcerated.
STANDING ROCK, NORTH DAKOTA

Sheridan Seaboy-McNeil & Tiffany Baker and the Standing Rock Tribal Community gathered at Sitting Bull College on the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal land to participate in a talking circle and various discussions about how the justice system impacts their community. In the Lakota/Dakota culture, talking circles provide a safe and welcome place for discussion on what can be sometimes sensitive subjects. Each participant shared a story of how the criminal justice system and/or incarceration has affected their or a loved one’s life, from frustration with the lack of support once released from prison to the serious issue of non-existent transition services and housing.
Rob Richardson and supporting partners, the Ohio Justice and Policy Center, and Nehemiah Manufacturing (an employer who focuses its hiring efforts on returning citizens), hosted a live event on Facebook and Instagram and on his podcast Disruption Now. The National Day of Empathy featured a panel, including formerly incarcerated individuals, State Senator Cecil Thomas, and Councilmember Tamaya Dennard to discuss mass incarceration in Ohio, to tell their stories and share ideas for CJ reform in their state. Nehemiah Manufacturing shared that the returning citizens hired by the company, have 10X less the turnover rate, and sought to show other employers that it is worthwhile to invest in returning citizens, for both the individual and the business.
Shelton McElroy organized groups from Cleveland and Cincinnati to travel to Columbus, Ohio to listen to the Governor’s State of the State, and made their presence known by wearing shirts and holding banners. After The State of The State, the Cleveland delegates met one-on-one with house representatives and senators. The Cincinnati delegates, also met with one house representative and two senators. At each of these meetings, the speakers discussed their lived experiences and how the system impacted them. Afterwards, the Cincinnati team went back to Cincinnati to be in the audience for a Day of Empathy podcast and discussion.
Community partnerships between Block Builderz, Racism Stinks, Sacred Musik, Met Cares, and the Terrance Crutcher Foundation formed strategic partnerships for Tulsa’s first Day of Empathy. Organizers hosted an event focused on the Resilient Cities Initiative and its ties to the criminal justice community. Multiple generations with different family dynamics spoke of how mass incarceration has impacted their lives. Speakers included formerly incarcerated individuals and their families, D'Marria Monday spoke about being separated from her child, and sent to a prison more than 1000 miles away when he was only 6 months old to serve a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison. Maryland Guidry, a domestic violence survivor and advocate who was left to raise 3 children alone when after 20 years, she finally walked away. Her son witnessed violence growing up and chose a lifestyle of crime following her abuser’s incarceration, landing him in prison. Other speakers included a child whose mother was incarcerated for fighting back and killing her abuser, leaving 9 year old Luca to be raised by her grandparents who have since passed away, leaving her with no family. Finally, Richard Baxter spoke about the 121 year prison sentence he received for his 2nd drug charge, determined to fight this unjust sentence, his determination and perseverance would not let him a life behind bars, he continued to fight for his freedom, until he won! Now, he helps others fight for their freedom.
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Ardella’s House and supporting partners Philadelphia Commission for Women, The Respect Alliance, FAMM and others, hosted meetings and a rally at City Hall, centered around Life without Parole and how sentencing affects the local community. More than 150 people gathered to shared their life experiences and listen to the stories of others impacted by the criminal justice system, watch short film called “Dying Out Loud” - the story of 4 women serving LWOP sentences at SCI Muncy. Speaker Paulette Carrington shared a powerful story of her incarceration at the age of 14, and the 44 years she spend in prison. Home less than a year, Paulette is so humble that she has such a great support system like Ardella’s House and others. Juvenile Lifers and other LWOP family members also testified to the devastating impact of this sentence on their families and communities. Several legislators, including Senator Anthony Williams, State Rep. Jordan Harris, State Rep. Joanna McClinton, Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, and Councilman Curtis Jones attended along with Chief Public Defender Keia Bradford-Grey and District Attorney Larry Krasner.
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

The American King Foundation and supporting partners, Alveda King Ministries, Coalition of Leaders United, The Alive Center, Right Direction Church, Pretty Meals on Meals and EMAGAHA, INC., brought together elected officials, community leaders, and impacted individuals for brunch and panel discussions to share perspectives from Americans impacted by the current criminal justice system.

As a formerly incarcerated, now liberated, book publisher, author and reality television personality, Stanton King feels compelled to “give back to others from the grace and mercy she has experienced.” The Day of Empathy, the first of several scheduled gatherings, all of which will include community events, rallies at city halls, state capitals and other principal religious and governmental seats across the country, included a multitude of testimonies regarding incarceration in our nation.
Chase Iron Eyes, Yonasda Lonewolf, Robert Horse Stands Waiting, Lakota People’s Law Project, and One Rapid City hosted two events where formerly incarcerated individuals, their families, community members, and local tribal government leaders, met to discuss the unique issues of incarceration in reservation communities, which fall under federal jurisdiction. The groups held a talking circles where everyone shared their personal testimonies and the struggles they have faced as a result of mass incarceration. Local state government officials were also in attendance.
FedFam4Life, Nashville Peacemakers and supporting organizations, Project Return, Mothers Over Murder, Dad's Against Destruction, FedPain, and Magdalene Program, hosted a rally and press conference at the state Capitol. Speakers and participants met with several state legislators and Senator Katrina Robinson stood with advocates at the press conference to introduce SB75: The Dignity Act, which would provide feminine hygiene products and healthcare items to incarcerated women.
Attachment Leadership, Dr. Trillion Small and supporting organizations with special guest #cut50 National Organizer Louis L. Reed, organized an event focused on the need for restorative juvenile justice practices and laws, and the School-to Prison-Pipeline. The day featured a dialogue about the current state of the juvenile justice system in Dallas, economic disparities for at-risk youth and their families, and the impacts that trauma and poverty have on a child's ability to learn and to function at optimal performance. Nearly 100 people attended, including some state and local legislators.
ReTrain America EDS, and supporting partners, Houston Urban League, Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M University, United Way 211, and BakerRipley, hosted events focused on re-entry of veterans and formerly incarcerated individuals. Research has found an association between homelessness, veterans, and incarceration rates. Participants engaged in dialogues about the needs of the veteran and homeless populations, effective re-entry programming, vocational training, affordable housing, and other issues that are faced by the formerly incarcerated in Texas.
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

The Utah Prison Advocacy Network (UPAN) organizer Brittnee Webb, along with supporting partner Utah Against Police Brutality, organized a heartfelt event of storytelling and empathy-building at the State Capitol. Participants spent the evening listening to 11 speakers share their stories, viewing a video slideshow of past Days of Empathy, learning about prison reform successes in Utah, and those that are under consideration this session. The Utah Sentencing Commission Director attended as did a formerly incarcerated representative. Future meetings have already been scheduled with state legislators to discuss criminal justice reform this session, as well as the potential for a Utah #Dignity Act.

Lastly, Upan was honored to hear that Governor Gary Richard Herbert officially declared March 5th, the Day of Empathy in Utah.
Karen Morrison and supporting partners Arm & Arm for Justice, Virginia ACLU, Virginia NAACP, Interfaith Action for Human Rights, the Divine 9 Orgs in Virginia, Bridging the Gap in Virginia, and Information Help for the Disadvantaged and Disenfranchised convened at the state Capitol. The day started with a breakfast at the Carol Adams Foundation, which assists women who are victims of Domestic violence. 50+ participants heard testimony from: Jo Ann McCoy, who used her time to create a business plan, and upon release started the only African American owned waste management company in VA; Officer Carol Adams, whose father killed her mother, inspiring her to become a police officer and start the Carol Adams Foundation to help women escape and heal from domestic violence; and lastly, Kimberly Jenkins-Snodgrass - the mother of a son who spent 4 years in solitary and has now joined legislators to author HB1642, to regulate and eventually end the use of solitary confinement in VA. Following testimony, Organizers rallied at the Bell Tower on Capitol Square, where we. To culminate the Day, Karen hosted a lunch for 30 guests to share information about how they used their worst moments to start organizations that benefit their communities. used your situation to form organizations to help their communities with special guest speaker, Ashna Khanna from the VA ACLU.
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

Tarra Simmons and Civil Survival joined supporting organizations Community Justice Project, Reentry Council, Numbers to Names, and Freedom Project, gathered survivors and justice-involved individuals together, for a rally for Empathy in the Capitol Rotunda.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Hundreds of people were in attendance as Tony Lewis, The Hope Foundation, The National Reentry Network and The National Association for the Advancement of Returning Citizens, held a rally at the D.C. Department of Employment Services, to raise awareness for the training/employment needs of the formerly incarcerated, including the need for a change in hiring policies; expansion of criminal record expungement and record sealing; and to assist children of those incarcerated. At 4pm, participants and the entire DC City council in attendance, observed a moment of silence in solidarity with those currently incarcerated across the country and undergoing the "4 o'clock Count" - this moment of silence was joined by people all over the country through a social media campaign called #standandbecounted. Finally, Empathy Ambassador Tony Lewis, met with DCPS Officials to discuss support systems for children with incarcerated parents.
The People’s Consortium for Human and Civil Rights, led by Rev. Stephen A. Green and Rev. Cassius L. Rudolph, gathered over 100 participants and attendees at local church events across 5 states CA, IL, NJ, NY, and SC. They were able to connect with parishioners who were introduced to the work of #cut50, The Empathy Network, and what role the local church can play concerning loved one who are returning citizens. Participants met with lawmakers and 30 community organizations were present to provide job training, resume building, interviewing skills and preparation and other resources for returning citizens. One church hosted an expungement clinic with over 100 attendees in conjunction with the South Jersey Expungement services. In addition, clergy met with U.S. Senator Cory Booker’s staff to discuss the Next Step Act and how to engage other faith leaders with our communities. A faith leaders conference call was held on the National Day of Empathy to discuss the next actions what ways the church must step up and speak out.
DAY OF EMPATHY ON TWITTER

Al B. Sure! @OfficialAlBSure · 2d
#ALBeez & friends around the 🇺🇸
Today, I'm proud to announce our partnership w/ @Cut_50 for this #DayofEmpathy, 3/5/19 along w/ folks just like you that have been impacted by our #CriminalJusticeSystem. Join us 2day at the NevadaStateCapitol & Register DayofEmpathy.org

Michael Blake @MrMikeBlake · 2d
Today, on #DayOfEmpathy, we stand in solidarity with @cut_50 & criminal justice reform advocates across the country to build empathy for the millions affected by mass incarceration. Crime hurts, but justice should heal. Join the movement: DayOfEmpathy.org #cut50

Richard Branson @richardbran... · 3d
A great story on #NationalEmpathyDay that shows how employing empathy toward formerly incarcerated individuals can improve the bottom line. @cut_50 is doing brilliant work in this space

Benjamin Crump, Esq. @Attorn... · 3d
#PSA “In order to reform our criminal justice system, we must first humanize and empathize with those who are impacted by it.” I stand with #cut50 and dayofempathy

Margaret Cho @margaretcho · 2d
I stand w/ #Cut50 & national organizers on this National #DayofEmpathy. In order to reform our criminal justice system, we must first humanize and empathize with those who are impacted by it. This includes crime survivors and those who have committed crimes. @cut50 @VanJones68

Vivica A. Fox @MsVivicaFox · 2d
Join me @cut_50 @VanJones68 for #DayofEmpathy, along with thousands of advocates & folks around the country impacted by our criminal justice system. Follow along and join the movement at dayofempathy.org. 😌😌

Seth Green @SethGreen · 3d
Join me, @VanJones68 @LouisReed tomorrow, March 5th for the national #DayOfEmpathy raising awareness for criminal justice reform.

Kamala Harris @SenKamalaHar... · 2d
Our criminal justice system is broken. From a money bail system that disproportionately harms the poor & people of color, to the reality that Black & brown Americans are incarcerated at higher rates. We must recognize these injustices & fight for a fairer system. #DayofEmpathy

A message from @KimKardashian urging everyone in #California (and across the nation) to register for the #DayOfEmpathy on March 5th

Also shouting out @PutEmOnBlastAC & others. Thanks for your support Kim K!

Learn more about the event in your area here dayofempathy.org/events
DAY OF EMPATHY ON FACEBOOK

Van Jones shared a live video.
Published by Juliette Eden Miller- - Mar 5 at 8:24 AM

cut50 co-founder Jessica Jackson is LIVE NOW in Little Rock, Arkansas with David Arquette and Christina Arquette for today's national #DayOfEmpathy.

Jessica Jackson is with Erin Haney.
March 5 at 2:45 PM

2019's Day of Empathy Arkansas was incredible! Huge shout out to Ruby Kerrcy Carter-Weich and Lata Anthony for all their hard work organizing and to Christina and David Arquette for making the trek from LA to be here! #DayOfEmpathy-Ku50

Tony Lewis is with James Plunkett and 9 others.
March 6 at 8:55 AM

The #DayOfEmpathy was so special, thanks to everyone who supported and participated in-person and virtually. Undying Love And Respect.
Thank you cut50, Van Jones, Louis Canali Reed, and Jessica Sloan for asking me to be the DC Ambassador. It was great to collaborate with you, thanks for making me feel welcome and a part of your team. This was a great experience. Continue the fight, I am always here to stand with you.
#StandardBeCounted #Slugg #DCorNothing #DayofEmpathy #DayofEmpathyDC

Utah Prisoner Advocate Network shared a photo.
March 5 at 10:46 PM

"It is a blessing to be amongst survivors" - Pastor Shawn Clay... I agree cut50 Van Jones @heinispiresme Topoka K, Sam #DayofEmpathy #cut50 #empathy

Operation New Hope
March 5 at 6:00 PM

Thanks to everyone who rallied with #cut50 for #DayofEmpathy at UNF in Jacksonville, Florida

Topeka K Sam shared a photo.
March 5 at 9:21 PM

Together, we can create empathy on a massive scale for millions of Americans behind bars and their loved ones by bringing impacted people and their families together with elected officials. #DayOfEmpathy
DOWNLOADABLES

Crime hurts. Justice should heal.

AMERICANS HAVE SOME FORM OF A CRIMINAL RECORD
#DAYOFEMPATHY #STILLNOTFREE

PROBATION IS A TRAP.
- JAY-Z
justfam.com

THOUSANDS OF WOMEN IN PRISON GIVE BIRTH IN SHACKLES

80% OF INCARCERATED WOMEN ARE MOTHERS
#DAYOFEMPATHY #DIGNITY

86% OF WOMEN IN PRISON ARE SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

CHILDREN WHO GROW UP WITH PARENTS IN PRISON HAVE SHORTENED LIFE EXPECTANCIES AND ARE 6-7 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE "INFECTED" BY INCARCERATION.

More than our worst mistake.
# EMPATHY NETWORK PARTNERS

**Alabama** - Greater Birmingham Ministries, Empowerment Alliance, Alabama Poor People’s Campaign, Kairos, Repairers of the Breach, Community Care Development Network (CCDN), Offender Alumni, Association (OAA), Mothers Against All Violence In Selma (MAAVIS), Second Chance - The Podcast, Project Restart Reentry.

**Alaska** - Haven House Juneau, Fallen up Ministries


**Arkansas** - F.E.L.O.N. (Formerly Incarcerated Empowered Leaders Overcoming Negative Stigmas, Central Arkansas Re-Entry Coalition (CARE), Arkansas Youth Coalition For Social Change, Better Community Developers, CanDo Clemency, City of Fire Community Development Inc., Compassion Works for All, DecARcerate, Future For Felons, Good Grid, Hope Begins With Me, I Too Have A Dream, Phoenix Recovery Center For Women, Poor People’s Campaign, Union A.M.E. Church, City of Little Rock Racial & Cultural Diversity Commission, Arkansas Urban League, Arkansas Time After Time, Arkansas ACLU, Arkansas Community Organization, Difference Makers of Hot Springs

**California** - Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC), New Earth, Chucos, Can Do Clemency, Initiate Justice, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, Project Rebound, Underground Scholars Initiative, Root and Rebound, Young Women’s Freedom Center, ACLU, Californians for Safety & Justice, USC School of Law, Western Center on Law and Poverty, Ella Baker Center, LA Chamber of Commerce, National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, SFSU, National Youth Law Center, Human Rights Watch

**Connecticut** - Project Longevity, EMERGE, The Phoenix Association, Quinnipiac University, Nancy Kingwood Ministries, Emerging Voices, GBAPP, Former Governor Dan Malloy and staff, The New Freedom Fighters: Women Against Mass Incarceration, and supporting partners: Smart Justice - ACLU, and UCONN Students Against Mass Incarceration

**Delaware** - Delaware Center for Justice, Delaware United, ACLU Delaware, Coalition for SMART Justice


**Georgia** - RestoreHER, URGE, IMAN, ACLU, Sister Love, Spelman College, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, YWCA, LoveN Grace, Woman With A Plan, Southern Black Girls & Women Consortium, Mary Kay, Making the Transition, and Feminist Women’s Center, We Are It, New Life Second Chance Outreach, Reverse the Cycle of Incarceration, Save My Edges, Feminist Women’s Health Center, SPARK Reproductive Justice Now, The National Incarceration Association (NIA), Making the Transition, Georgia Juvenile Justice, Atlanta Police Department, Fulton Community Youth Commission, BEST Academy High School, Morehouse College, Atlanta University Center
**EMPATHY NETWORK PARTNERS**

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<th>State</th>
<th>Partners</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Hawaii Justice Coalition, Americans For Democratic Action,</td>
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<td>Amnesty International Hawaii, Community Alliance on Prisons, Drug Policy</td>
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<td>Forum of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Friends of Restorative Justice, Ka Lei Maile</td>
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<td>- Idaho ACLU</td>
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<td>Illinois</td>
<td>G.O.D Giving Other's Dreams, Kids Off The Block, Fierceover40, Fierceunder40, Party for Purpose, Ex-Con for Community and Social Change, Friends for Life Resources, BTEC, Women's Justice Institute, Sister Survivor Network, Howard Area Community Center, CSAC West and the Westside Health Authority</td>
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<td>The Bail Project, Cities United, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth,</td>
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<td>Louisville Urban League, Metro Louisville Office for Safe and Healthy</td>
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<td>Neighborhoods, Metro United Way, New Legacy, University of Louisville</td>
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<td>Missouri</td>
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<td>People, Let's Start Missouri</td>
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<td>New Jersey</td>
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<td>Jim Crow - Greater Trenton Chapter, Peace Amongst Youth, Inc.,</td>
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<td>Justice, Not Without Black Women and Power Inside, Strong City Baltimore</td>
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North Dakota - YoNasDa Lonewolf
Ohio - Shelton McElroy, Rob Richardson, Ohio Justice and Policy Center
Oklahoma - ACLU, Action Tulsa, Democratic Socialist of America, Eaton Media, Met Cares Foundation, Oklahomans for CJ Reform
Oregon - Dave’s Killer Bread Foundation, Governor Kate Brown
Rhode Island - Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE)
South Carolina - American King Foundation, Alveda King Ministries, Coalition of Leaders United, The Alive Center, Right Direction Church, Pretty Meals on Meals, EMAGAHA, INC., Hearts for Inmates
South Dakota - YoNasDa Lonewolf, Lakota Law
Tennessee - #FedFam4Life, Free Hearts and The Nashville Peacemakers, Project Return, Mothers Over Murder, Dad’s Against Destruction, FedPain, and Magdalene Program
Texas - Attachment Leadership, ReTrain America EDS, Momentous Institute, Youth and Family Innovations, Dallas ISD, Cafe Momentum, Keeping Families Connected, Houston Urban League, Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M University, United Way 211, BakerRipley, SMU Dedman School of Law’s Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center, Girls Embracing Mothers (GEM), Faith in Texas - LIVE FREE DFW, First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Women Organizing Women Democrats - Dallas, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
Utah - The Utah Prison Advocacy Network (UPAN), Utah Against Police Brutality.
Vermont - Vermonters for Criminal Justice
Washington - Civil Survival, Community Justice Project, Reentry Council, Numbers to Names, Freedom Project
Wisconsin - ROC Wisconsin - Wisdom + Expo, Just Leadership USA and The #CloseMSDF Coalition