



Join the Campaign to #CLOSErikers and Build Communities

Rikers Island has been a cauldron of despair for decades. The brutality is endemic, and today violence is up even as the detainee population is down. Every day thousands of people are held in pre-trial detention simply because they cannot afford bail, leading to a litany of tragedies, such as the terrible death of Kalief Browder. Racial disparities are a hallmark of both Rikers Island and the broken criminal justice system it represents. Horrific media stories and damning government investigations have become commonplace. There is no dispute that the Rikers Island Correctional Facility jails are dangerous, isolated, and woefully inappropriate for human beings. With all that we know about the human suffering on Rikers, the biggest scandal is that Rikers continues to exist at all.

As our nation finally confronts the error of mass incarceration and the failures of the war on drugs, communities across the country — including New York City — are rethinking policies to ensure public safety and health. A growing number of New Yorkers have come to a simple conclusion: Rikers cannot be reformed; it must be closed. That is why two previous mayoral administrations have tried to close it. Those previous efforts stalled. Today, however, with growing momentum in New York City and around the country to fix our shameful, broken criminal justice system, the time is now for real solutions --it is time to finally #CLOSErikers.

Closing Rikers will not be easy, but we know that it is possible and necessary, and that New Yorkers are up to the task. During his inauguration, Mayor de Blasio declared, “Our city is no stranger to big struggles — and no stranger to overcoming them.” As New Yorkers we must tackle this big struggle and re-imagine what a modern criminal justice system should look like, where justice and fairness is attainable to all, and where we heal the harms caused by a broken system by supporting the communities most impacted by its years of abuse.

For More Information

Visit www.closerikers.org

Or contact: **Janos Marton** at janos@justleadershipusa.org or **Melody Lee** at melody@katalcenter.org

Organizations that Support the #CLOSErikers Campaign

(List in Formation)

| | | |
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| Alliance for a Greater New York | Community Voices Heard | Innocence Project |
| American Civil Liberties Union | Connecting the Dots | Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing |
| American Friends Service Committee - NY | Corporation for Supportive Housing | Jails Action Coalition |
| Anti-Racist Alliance | Correctional Association of New York | Jews for Racial and Economic Justice |
| Arab American Association of New York | Couture for a Cause | JustLeadershipUSA |
| Beyond Attica Campaign | Cre8tive YouTH*ink | Justice Strategies |
| BronxConnect | DriveChangeNYC | Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice |
| Bronx Defenders | Drug Policy Alliance | LatinoJustice PRLDEF |
| The Bronx Freedom Fund | Education from the Inside Out Coalition | Legal Action Center |
| Brooklyn Community Bail Fund | Enlace | Legal Aid Society |
| Brooklyn Defenders Services | Exodus Transitional Community, Inc. | The Ladies of Hope Ministries |
| Brooklyn Movement Center | Exponents | The Lohm |
| Brotherhood/Sister Sol | Faith In New York | Make the Road New York (MRNY) |
| CAAAY Organizing Asian Communities | Federal Defenders of New York | Malcolm X Grassroots Movement - New York Chapter |
| Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement | Fortune Society | Mekong NYC |
| Campaign to End the New Jim Crow - New York Chapter | Friends of Island Academy | Middle Collegiate Church |
| Campaign to Shut Down Rikers | Gangstas Making Astronomical Community Changes | Milk Not Jails |
| CASES | Gathering for Justice / Justice League NYC | Million Hoodies |
| Center for Community Alternatives | Greater NYC for Change | Movement of Rank and File Educators (MORE-UFT) |
| Center for Constitutional Rights | The Green Party - Brooklyn | National Action Network – NYC Chapter Second Chance Committee |
| Center for NuLeadership | Harlem Historical Society | National Association of Social Workers – NYC Chapter |
| Citizen Action | Harm Reduction Coalition | National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls |
| Citizens Against Recidivism | Housing Plus Solutions | |
| Co-Dependents Anonymous | I Am My Community | |
| College and Community Fellowship | Immigrant Defense Project | |
| Community Connections For Youth | Incarcerated Nation Corp. | |

National Judicial Conduct &
Disability Law Project

Youth Represent

National Lawyers Guild

Neighborhood Defender Service
of Harlem

New York Academy of Medicine

New York Civil Liberties Union

New York Communities for Change

NY Harm Reduction Educators

NYC Together

One Thousand Arms

Osborne Association

Picture the Homeless

Precedential Group

Refoundry

Release Aging People in Prison

ReThinkNYC

Retrospection Inc.

Students for Sensible Drug Policy

Teacher Unite

Theatre of the Oppressed NYC

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for
Human Rights

Urban Justice Center

VOCAL-NY

Washington Heights CORNER
Project

WBAI's "On The Count"

West Side Commons

Women and Justice Project

Women's Prison Association

Working Families Party

WORTH

Youth First Initiative