



# National Black Women's Justice Institute

## 2021 Annual Report

**We envision a society where healing—not punishment—is upheld as justice.**

From the Executive Director

As we reflect on 2021, we made important strides toward our mission to research, elevate, and educate the public about innovative community-led solutions to end the criminalization of Black women and girls. I'm proud to share some of our accomplishments here.

Our commitment continues to build on our foundation: Since 2014, NBWJI has worked to end the criminalization of Black women and girls. We do this by conducting rigorous research that elevates the voices of Black women and girls who have been impacted by the criminal legal system and brings their lived experiences to the forefront. We turn that research into action by partnering with allies to inform community services and policy solutions that center the needs of directly impacted Black women and girls.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we know this work is not possible without you, and we are grateful for your support. Looking forward, we are committed to continuing research and to expanding our technical assistance and training capacity to support organizations and jurisdictions across the country. **There is so much more work we must do.** Only with you can we end the systemic punishment of Black women and girls and build a society that respects, values, and honors our humanity, takes accountability for the harm it has inflicted, and recognizes that real justice is healing.

In solidarity,  
Dr. Sydney McKinney



# Core Commitments & Achievements 2021

## Dismantle pathways to criminalization and confinement for Black women and girls.



### RESEARCH

We launched **a study** examining the experiences and interactions that Black women and gender-expansive people have with police to present an intersectional look at police violence in Black communities.

Because Black women account for  $\frac{1}{3}$  of women serving life sentence and virtual life sentences, with our partners The Sentencing Project and Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, **we released “In the Extreme: Women Serving Life Without Parole and Death Sentences in the United States.”** Together, we co-lead the Alice Network to call attention to gender-bias and discrimination in extreme sentencing.

## Increase and enhance opportunities with and for formerly incarcerated women and girls.



### RESEARCH

We launched **a study of the impact of COVID-19 on Black girls & gender-expansive youth** who are in foster care or impacted by the juvenile legal system. Based on our findings, we will develop policy recommendations that will help enhance the capacity of organizations to support and care for system-impacted Black girls and gender-expansive youth of color, especially during public health crises.

To promote health equity and access, we launched **a qualitative research study** exploring how formerly incarcerated Black women navigate and access healthcare and wellness services when they return home from confinement.

## Promote healing-centered justice.



### POLICY

With our partner The Children’s Partnership, **we launched the Hope, Healing and Health Collective (H3 Collective)**. This is a youth-led collaborative project that is developing a policy agenda to expand the availability and accessibility of culturally affirming and gender-responsive mental health services to Black girls and other youth of color who are experiencing historic, crisis-levels of mental health needs and suicide risk.

### TRAINING & ASSISTANCE

**We created Boys as Allies, an educational curriculum** designed for Black boys and young men, ages 11 to 18, to help them identify and understand gender-based violence and its impact on Black girls in an effort to eliminate sexual violence and create a culture where Black girls are physically, psychologically, and emotionally safe.



# By the Numbers

## 2021

# 9

events

# 500+

attendees

# 6

organizations receiving  
NBWJI technical assistance

# 31

paid leadership opportunities created  
for directly-impacted youth & adults

## Looking Ahead 2022 and Beyond

Looking ahead, we are continuing to focus on our vision to dismantle the racist and patriarchal U.S. criminal-legal system and build, in its place, pathways to opportunity and healing. Building on our past accomplishments and impact, we are launching these strategic initiatives in 2022:

### Build a national database of police violence against Black women, girls, and gender-expansive people.

- Based on our study examining the experiences and interactions that Black women and gender-expansive people have with police, we're **building a publicly-available database of police violence against Black women and gender-expansive people in the US**. This database will enhance our understanding of the effects and health consequences of police encounters and violence. It will also expand our definition of police violence and allow us to advance policy and practice reforms that center Black women, girls, and gender-expansive people.

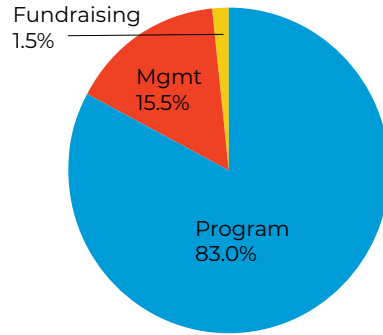
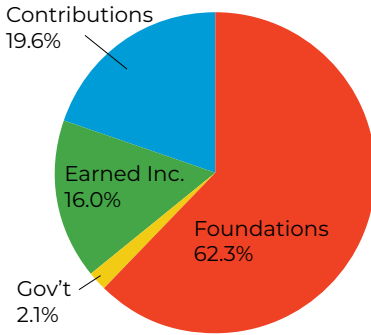
### Campaign for gender-responsive diversion & reentry services for Black women & girls.

- We are launching a campaign to advance policies that increase investments in and access to gender-responsive, culturally-affirming, and trauma-informed reentry services for Black women and girls. Expansion of gender-responsive diversion and reentry services will lead to reduced recidivism and improve employment, health, and education outcomes, as well as housing security and family reunification for Black women. This campaign will also increase visibility and investment in programs led by directly impacted Black women.

### Prevent gender-based violence in K-12 schools.

- Gender-based violence is a leading risk factor for juvenile legal system involvement among girls. This is a nationwide problem, and because schools are sites where girls—especially Black girls—experience sexual harassment and violence, we intend to partner with schools across the country to prevent gender-based violence and keep Black girls and other girls and gender-expansive youth of color safe. We are currently working with a large urban K-12 school district to assess and implement equitable, trauma-informed, and culturally-affirming policies and are looking to expand. This work will reduce Black girls' experiences of school discipline and contact with school police and the juvenile legal system. And this will fundamentally transform the culture of public schools into healing spaces, especially for Black girls.

# Revenue and Expenses



**Total Operating Revenue**    **Total Operating Expenses**  
**\$921,124**                      **\$532,800**

## NBWJI MISSION & VISION

We research, elevate, and educate the public about innovative, community-led solutions to address the criminalization of Black women and girls.

We aim to dismantle the racist and patriarchal U.S. criminal-legal system and build, in its place, pathways to opportunity and healing.

We envision a society that respects, values, and honors the humanity of Black women and girls, takes accountability for the harm it has inflicted, and recognizes that real justice is healing.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We ground our work in **evidence and data**.
- We believe that an **intersectional framework** is critical for eliminating racial and gender bias in our criminal legal system.
- We center and uplift the **voices and experiences of Black women and girls** who have been affected by the criminal legal system.
- We believe that creating **opportunities for healing** is the true meaning of justice.

# Supporters

## FOUNDATIONS

- Borealis Philanthropy
- The California Endowment
- California Wellness Foundation
- Communities for Just Schools Fund
- Emergent Fund
- Focus for Health
- Ford Foundation
- Girls Rights Project
- Grantmakers for Girls of Color
- Magellen Cares Foundation
- Ms. Foundation
- Novo Foundation
- Schott Foundation
- Zegar Family Fund

## CORPORATIONS

- American Institutes of Research
- GoFundMe
- Links Incorporated
- McDonald's
- NFL
- Sony Music

## GOVERNMENT

- Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women

**To learn more about the National Black Women's Justice Institute, contact:**

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Or visit [www.NBWJI.org](http://www.NBWJI.org)