

NATIONAL BLACK WOMEN'S JUSTICE INSTITUTE

2023 Impact

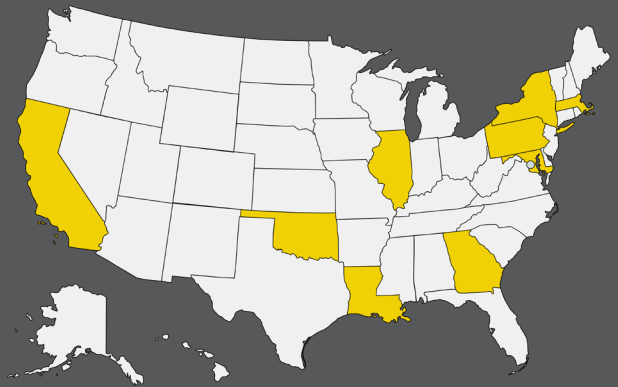
We **research, elevate, and educate** the public about innovative, community-led solutions to address the criminalization of Black women & girls.

SISTERS IN SOLIDARITY NETWORK

We recruited 9 reentry organizations & programs across the U.S. led by formerly incarcerated Black women, highlighted below.

The Sisters in Solidarity Network **supports the leadership of formerly incarcerated Black women across the country** who are championing the movement for culturally-affirming, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed reentry services for women and girls.

We conducted a landscape analysis and surveyed 43 reentry service providers and advocates at 29 organizations in 14 states to understand Black women's reentry needs and how to best support the leaders championing this work. They all expressed interest in having a space to facilitate relationship-building with others in the field and space to share knowledge, skills, and resources on issues that impact the work. The Sisters in Solidarity Network answers this call.



CREATING AFFIRMING RESPONSIVE & EQUITABLE SCHOOLS (CARES) INITIATIVE

6 YOUTH ADVISORS AGES 12-19

The CARES Initiative will serve as a national training, assistance, and resource hub for schools and educators to adopt trauma-informed, culturally affirming, and gender-sensitive approaches that support safety, belonging, and opportunities for Black girls and gender-expansive youth.

2 YOUTH LISTENING SESSIONS

Our youth advisors, along with an additional 10 Black girls, shared their experiences and recommendations for **how schools can improve their policies & practices to best support the mental health of Black girls & gender-expansive youth**. Their insight & recommendations informed the creation of a tool to help schools improve & sustain a comprehensive school-based mental health system.

NEW RESEARCH & POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



COVID-19 Crisis Intervention for Black Girls Impacted by the Foster Care & Juvenile Legal Systems



Supporting Black Women's Reentry from Incarceration: Recommendations for Reentry Policy & Practice in California



Pathways to Wellness: Health Needs of Black Women After Incarceration

What's Ahead in 2024



CREATING AFFIRMING RESPONSIVE & EQUITABLE SCHOOLS (CARES) INITIATIVE

Black girls have been experiencing significant and distressing increases in poor mental health over the past several years. Yet, school-based mental health care often does not have an intersectional lens to understand how race & gender interact and uniquely shape Black girls' experiences & needs. This year we are piloting our new tool in three schools in New York City. This assessment tool will help schools cultivate intersectional, trauma-informed practices & spaces in schools to care for the mental health and emotional wellbeing of Black girls and gender-expansive youth. This will help schools foster an environment that is safe & creates a sense of belonging and help prevent school pushout of Black girls and gender-expansive students.



SISTERS IN SOLIDARITY NETWORK

This year, we will welcome nine members of the first cohort of the Sisters in Solidarity Network. The inaugural members will focus on innovating in the reentry field, which has traditionally overlooked and marginalized the experiences of formerly incarcerated Black women. The first cohort of organizations will receive targeted technical assistance and project-specific grant support from NBWJI to work on a particular project, program, or area of focus. In addition, we are creating a collaborative learning space, which will include peer-led workshops and advocacy & strategy sessions, to strengthen the capacity of the network leaders to develop solutions to address the needs of formerly incarcerated Black women.



DISMANTLING PATHWAYS TO CRIMINALIZATION RESOURCE & DATA HUB

The Resource & Data Hub will be the premier home for comprehensive research, analysis, & data that examine the factors that lead to the criminalization, arrest, and incarceration of Black women & girls. We're launching the Hub with a series of factsheets & data briefs focused on school pushout to spotlight the practices that disproportionately push Black girls out of school and highlight the need for changes in policy & practice to protect Black girls and their futures from the impacts of pushout and criminalization. By building this extensive library of data & analysis, we aim to empower policymakers, practitioners, & advocates to put into place evidence-informed solutions that enhance the safety and wellbeing of Black women & 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.

