



PUNCTURE THE SILENCE -STOP MASS INCARCERATION

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Purpose = Raise awareness in Northeast Ohio of the facts of the New Jim Crow

Foment and spread a social movement to stop mass incarceration, racially-biased policies, practices of criminal justice system
Plan actions, events, linking with other efforts of resistance to the New Jim Crow for October and beyond

Dear Faith Leader,

Puncture the Silence-Stop Mass Incarceration is a grass roots group of people united in raising awareness and lifting community voices toward ending mass incarceration and police brutality, both locally and nationally through our affiliation with the Stop Mass Incarceration Network. We would like you to become familiar with 2 upcoming events:

1. **Saturday, April 11** from noon to 4pm at Cleveland State University--**A People's Tribunal on Police Brutality**
2. **Tuesday, April 14--a Day of "No Business as Usual"** here in Cleveland and across the country, while people of color are unfairly targeted and attacked.

You may be interested to know this effort has been endorsed locally by: Black on Black Crime, Inc.; #OrganizeCLE; Stop the Violence Akron Group; Dr. Ed McKinney, CSU Prof. Emeritus; Mississippi Charles Bevel, Musician; Adrian Cammon, Alpha Phi Alpha, CSU; Dr. Michael Williams, Black Studies Dept., CSU; Dwayne Castleberry, Savage Castle Productions; Jonetha Jackson, Black Students Elite, CSU; Don Bryant, **Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network**, **Al-Awda Cleveland**, **Palestine Right to Return Coalition**; **Frederick Gladden, the Uncle of Tamir Rice.**

We hope you will join with us in solidarity.

Specifically we are asking you to:

1. Include information about these 2 events in your weekly announcements.
2. Consider a special offering to assist our young people who may need to post bail.
3. Deliver a sermon to your congregation between now and April 12 on "Black and Brown Lives Matter".
4. Encourage your members who have been victims of police violence to offer testimony on April 11—they may email us: puncturethesilenceCLE@gmail.com. We will drop off announcements to you soon.
5. Consider joining us, wearing your clerical collar either at 3 pm on the Mall, off the NE corner of Public Square, on April 14, or on a march, at your discretion, between your church and another.

Attached is a letter from the Reverend Jerome McCorry, Leader of the National Faith Team for the Stop Mass Incarceration Network. We include a link to a video of Alice Walker reading a poem she wrote for this movement, entitled, "Gather": <https://vimeo.com/115588887>

Please look for an email from us to follow with additional resources.

Standing for Justice for Tamir Rice, Tanisha Anderson, and so many more fallen,

Carol Steiner Otis Bevel

#ShutDownA14