



I.

Promote Liberty, Equity, and Accountability

PLANK 1:

Protect communities with a new paradigm for public safety beyond policing.

Public safety is served when all people feel safe and are safe in their communities. But the nation’s current approach to public safety does the opposite: It endangers people and communities. The current system of policing and criminalization is one that has [disproportionately targeted Black and Brown communities](#), beginning with slave patrols and continuing with modern-day policing practices, including brutal suppression of social justice, labor, and protest movements. It has also disproportionately harmed [people with disabilities and other vulnerabilities; people with disabilities comprise 50 percent of those who are killed by law enforcement](#) — and more than 50 percent of Black people who have disabilities have been arrested by the time they turn 28. Tactics like “stop and frisk,” police killings of Black people with impunity, police presence in schools that predominantly serve students of color, and disproportionate enforcement of drug laws against people of color all perpetuate this crisis.

To ensure all people can feel safe and be safe, the nation must end this racist and classist system of criminalization and ensure any transformation is premised on actual safety and genuine accountability. Advancing a new paradigm for public safety requires rethinking the purpose and number of resources that communities give to punitive arrest and

surveillance-focused activities. It also requires ending the discriminatory policies and practices that enable systemic abuses against Black, Brown, Indigenous, low-income, and other communities. Because police departments receive so much funding and resources, less funding is available for the social supports and infrastructure that enable communities to be safe and thrive. Devoting more resources to providing these necessities — high-quality health services, well-resourced schools, good-paying jobs, affordable housing — is what keeps communities safe.

Real safety is located not in carceral institutions, but in rebalancing spending and meeting the needs of communities — especially Black, Brown, Native, and low-income communities — who have gone unmet for decades.

It is time for public safety to be premised on real safety and accountability.

State and Local Policy Priorities

Focus resources on investments in community safety

- Increase resources for front-end, public health-based, and non-carceral interventions that protect public safety and prevent incarceration for things like mental illness and other issues that are more appropriately managed as social needs, rather than carceral interventions. Shift public resources *away* from punitive, arrest-focused policing activities, wherever appropriate, and *toward* front-end, non-carceral, community-based safety investments that enable communities to be safe and to thrive. This shift requires a reallocation of funding away from carceral actors who are exclusively engaged in arrest/incarceration activities that are more appropriate for other forms of intervention and toward front-end, public health-based, non-carceral interventions that prevent problems, not create them.
- Expand investments that build social capital and proactively keep communities safe, as described in **Plank 14: Invest in violence prevention and non-carceral crisis response**. These investments may include, among many others, neighborhood mediation, peace-keeping programs, violence interruption programs, behavioral health treatment, and supportive housing.
- As described in **Plank 14: Invest in violence prevention and non-carceral crisis response**, create integrated, non-carceral, community-based services to prevent and respond to crises related to mental health, substance use, and other factors to reduce criminal-legal system contact for all people — especially in the most vulnerable communities. Ensure that these services are provided by people who are trained in crisis intervention techniques and trained to better understand specific communities, such as people who are deaf or hard of hearing and people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
- As described in **Plank 14: Invest in violence prevention and non-carceral crisis response**, create programs that divert people from the criminal-legal system and instead provide free, needs-based medical care, education, employment, housing, and/or other programs, none of which should be administered by the criminal-legal system.

- Pilot and expand new models of community-based safety that operate fully outside of the criminal-legal system and that invest in non-carceral services and alternative approaches to preventing, managing, and resolving crises.
- Support initiatives that provide training and transitional non-carceral job opportunities for those who are impacted by the policy changes discussed in this platform.

Eliminate racial bias and high-tech harm

- For restrictions regarding the use of technologies, please see ***Plank 9: End high-tech harm and the surveillance state.***
- End the police gathering of military intelligence, which has particularly impacted Muslim communities, including police participation in Suspicious Activity Reports, state-level fusion centers connecting local and federal agencies for information sharing, and Joint Terrorism Task Forces comprising members of local police departments, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Reduce police-community contact

- End police enforcement of traffic violations and other minor offenses to prevent police encounters from escalating into police violence, moving instead to [civil enforcement of all traffic violations](#).

Restrict police practices and activities

- Prohibit police officers from the following practices and activities that have a disparate impact on marginalized communities:
 - Suggesting, encouraging, or requesting EMS to administer chemical restraints;
 - The use of physical restraints that are life-threatening or those that restrict breathing or restrict flow of blood or oxygen to the brain;
 - Using modes of transport that risk asphyxiation;
 - Requesting any warrant that permits no-knock or quick-knock entries;
 - Conducting SWAT raids;
 - Conducting body cavity searches, visual cavity searches, or strip searches;
 - Performing more frequent or more intrusive searches of transgender, gender nonconforming, or non-binary people;
 - Conducting searches that are performed to assign gender based on anatomy or to harass, humiliate, or sexually degrade or assault someone;
 - Executing consent searches and pretextual searches;
 - Executing canine drug sniffs in order to establish probable cause or utilizing canines against members of the public;

- Requesting gang injunctions;
- Creating and enforcing watchlists, including but not limited to: counter-terrorism, counter-intelligence, and transnational crime-related watchlists; and
- Engaging Child Protective Services without noticing imminent, direct, physical harm to children’s well-being.
- Prohibit state and local law enforcement from using the following tools that have a disparate impact on marginalized communities, including protesters and communities working to advance social change:
 - Tear gas, rubber bullets, pepper bullets, pepper spray, flash bangs, long range acoustic devices (LRADs), Stingrays, lasers, and any other “less than lethal” forms of crowd control;
 - Military-grade weaponry, vehicles, and stun grenades;
 - Sedatives, such as ketamine; and
 - TASERs.
- Prohibit the use of [gang](#) injunctions — restraining orders that, before any crime has been committed or incident has occurred, are imposed to prevent predominantly Black and Latino men from undertaking the most basic life activities, including visiting neighbors, driving to church, or even standing in their own front yards.
- End civil asset forfeiture.
- Abolish and expunge all records within federal gang, terrorist, and extremist databases, including those databases that contain personal identifying information with which a person may be designated as a suspected gang member, associate, affiliate, suspected terrorist, or extremist.

[Ensure transparency through data collection and reporting](#)

- Require the collection, analysis, and reporting of state and local police data as a way to inform policies and address practices that have a disparate impact on historically disadvantaged communities.
- Create state-based sanctions or other mechanisms to ensure compliance with the federal law that requires state reporting on fatalities that occur in police custody, jail, or prison.
- Ensure that all contracts between police unions and state and/or local governments, including school districts, are publicly available online and accessible.
- Ensure that all contacts between police departments and private entities, including schools, businesses, and other corporations, are publicly available online and accessible.
- Conduct [financial and operational audits](#) of police departments.
- Adopt a decertification system for police officers.

Uphold human rights

- Radically change police and prosecutor protocols for working with victims, survivors, and people who have experienced trauma, including a requirement to provide timely, robust, and trauma-informed services.
- Enact state laws that permit officers to use force only if it is necessary under the circumstances and proportional to the threat, and only after all other reasonable alternatives — including de-escalation tactics — have been exhausted. De-escalation tactics include taking action or communicating verbally or nonverbally during potential force encounters in an attempt to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of the threat so that more time, options, and resources can be used to resolve the situation *without* the use of force or with a reduction in the level of necessary force. For these purposes, “necessary” should include:
 - If there is a need for the application of force, the minimum amount of force that could effectively accomplish the legitimate law enforcement objective; and
 - Should force be necessary, that it should only be used until it accomplishes a legitimate law enforcement objective. Officers must immediately modulate force as the threat diminishes and cease the use of force if:
 - The person on whom force is being used is under control or no longer poses a threat of physical injury or harm; or
 - The officer determines that force will no longer accomplish, or is no longer necessary to accomplish, a legitimate law enforcement objective.

End impunity for civil rights violations

- Enact state laws establishing clear protocols for any jurisdiction that investigates and prosecutes officer-involved crimes and shootings.
- Prohibit the allowance of “cooling-off” periods, defined as a period of time, not provided to civilians, following an officer-involved shooting during which individuals investigating the shooting are prohibited from communicating with any officer involved in the shooting.
- Eliminate state statutes, including Freedom of Information laws and Right to Know laws, that allow allegations, complaints, and adjudications involving police officers to remain confidential.
- Eliminate state statutes that protect police officers from misconduct allegations and disciplinary proceedings, including nondisclosure and destruction of disciplinary records, such as any state Law Enforcement Officer Bill of Rights.
- Repeal any secrecy laws that prevent the publication of officer misconduct records.

- End the use of paid administrative leave when police officers and staff from any carceral institutions, including police forces, are being investigated for violating people’s civil rights or committing a crime; ensure that any leave taken is unpaid. Allow recoupment of unpaid leave when an individual is cleared of wrongdoing.
- Oppose legislation that would expand hate crimes law to include law enforcement officials, increase penalties to “protect law enforcement,” and expand third party arrest authority to federal probation officers.

End the criminalization of immigration

- End all 287(g) agreements and all other forms of collaboration/cooperation between state and local police and immigration authorities. See **Plank 10: Support fair sentencing policy and the end of the criminalization of immigrants** for more details.



Federal Policy Priorities

Rebalance federal funding and end the perpetuation of state-level harms

- Federal funding plays a critical role in [instigating harmful police policies and practices](#) like excessive force, racially disparate policing strategies, profiling, lack of data collection, reporting on police community interactions, and militarization. Eliminate federal funding flows that are perpetuating these harms and leverage existing federal funding to ensure that states and local governments institute policy changes and enact laws to end these abusive and discriminatory policing practices.
- End all federal programs that provide military equipment to state and local police departments, such as the 1033 and 1122 programs. Redirect federal financial resources — such as grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to buy military equipment — away from surveillance/criminalization activities and toward non-carceral, community-based, community-led services.
- Rebalance federal spending priorities, as discussed further in ***Plank 13: Invest in people and communities first***, so that the federal government prioritizes non-carceral, prevention-oriented programs and services rather than investment in carceral actors. Such rebalancing should immediately incentivize state and local governments to seek funding for non-punitive areas currently authorized under Byrne-JAG, such as indigent defense and reentry programs.
- Leverage federal funding streams to hold law enforcement accountable and redirect resources away from criminalization and policing towards investments in social supports and community-led programs.
- Dismantle and reverse all harmful policies in the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (the “1994 Crime Bill”) and pass a modern 21st century public safety bill. (See ***Plank 13: Invest in people and communities first***.)
- Introduce comprehensive, non-criminalizing legislation that regulates firearm commerce (*i.e.*, placing rules on gun manufacturers and limiting the production and sale of firearms); holds corporate entities and financial institutions (*i.e.*, banks and businesses that profit from gun violence) accountable for gun violence; and supports community-based, prevention-focused “[violence interruption](#)” initiatives that operate outside of the policing and criminal-legal systems.
- Encourage states to adopt programs that deflect people from the criminal-legal system, replacing arrests with the provision of medical care, education, employment, housing, and other needed programs.

Restrict police practices and activities

- Prohibit pretextual searches and pass legislation to end federal civil forfeiture as well as the equitable sharing program that incentivizes federal-state/local policing for financial gain through property seizures and forfeitures that were created as a result of unconstitutional policing practices.
- Prohibit federal law enforcement from using the following tools that have a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities, including protesters and communities working to advance social change:
 - Tear gas, rubber bullets, pepper bullets, pepper spray, flash bangs, long range acoustic devices (LRADs), Stingrays, lasers, and any other “less than lethal” forms of crowd control;
 - Military-grade weaponry, vehicles, and stun grenades;
 - Sedatives, such as ketamine; and
 - TASERs.
- Prohibit police officers from the following practices and activities that have a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities:
 - Suggesting, encouraging, or requesting EMS to administer chemical restraints;
 - The use of physical restraints that are life-threatening or those that restrict breathing or restrict flow of blood or oxygen to the brain;
 - Using modes of transport that risk asphyxiation;
 - Requesting any warrant that permits no-knock or quick-knock entries;
 - Conducting SWAT raids;
 - Conducting body cavity searches, visual cavity searches, or strip searches;
 - Performing more frequent or more intrusive searches of transgender, gender nonconforming, or non-binary people;



- Conducting searches that are performed to assign gender based on anatomy or to harass, humiliate, or sexually degrade or assault someone;
- Executing consent searches and pretextual searches;
- Executing canine drug sniffs in order to establish probable cause or utilizing canines against members of the public;
- Requesting gang injunctions;
- Creating and enforcing watchlists, including but not limited to: counter-terrorism, counter-intelligence, and transnational crime-related watchlists; and
- Engaging Child Protective Services without noticing imminent, direct, physical harm to children's well-being.
- End civil asset forfeiture.

End the criminalization of immigration

- End local police and law enforcement officers' [civil immigration enforcement cooperation](#) under 287(g) agreements.
- Also see **Plank 10: Support fair sentencing policy and the end of the criminalization of immigrants.**

Ensure transparency through data collection and reporting

- Ensure that when federal funding programs are requesting data on police department performance, they are requesting and using evaluation metrics that do not rely on arrest rates. Instead, new metrics should reflect treatment or service referrals, community ratings, and other non-carceral data points. Similarly, ensure that when funding programs are requesting data on prosecutor offices, they do not base performance on arrest or conviction rates.
- Finalize regulations for the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013.
- Mandate data collection and reporting of all enforcement-focused police-community interactions, including data about shootings by police, use-of-force incidents, stops, searches, and arrests, and mandate officer training on de-escalation, crisis intervention, adolescent development, and proper interactions with people with mental and physical disabilities. Ensure that all data collection is disaggregated by race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, housing status, and other demographic characteristics and made publicly available.
- Adopt a decertification system for police officers.

End impunity for civil rights violations

- Provide a lower *mens rea* standard (i.e., recklessness) to ensure accountability for civil rights violations that result from police misconduct through the amendment of [Section 242 of Title 18](#).
- Prohibit profiling based on actual or perceived personal characteristics — including race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), age, disability, proficiency with the English language, immigration status, and housing status — by rigorously implementing comprehensive anti-profiling policies, creating interventions, and enacting legislation such as the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act.
- End federal prosecution and arrests for minor, nonviolent misdemeanors and other “broken windows” policing practices.
- Oppose legislation that would expand hate crimes law to include police, increase penalties to “protect police,” and expand third party arrest authority to federal probation officers.
- Ensure that law enforcement officers can be held accountable for their conduct, including by ending qualified immunity.
- Guarantee a private right of action for recovering damages for all unconstitutional violations by all federal officials by amending Section 1979 of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 4 1983) to insert “of the United States” or before “of any State.”

Restrict police practices and activities

- Enact a federal “use of force” by police law that permits officers to use force only if it is necessary under the circumstances and proportional to the threat, and only after all other reasonable alternatives — including de-escalation tactics — have been exhausted. De-escalation tactics include taking action or communicating verbally or nonverbally during potential force encounters in an attempt to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of the threat so that more time, options, and resources can be used to resolve the situation *without* the use of force or with a reduction in the level of necessary force. For these purposes, “necessary” should include:
 - If there is a need for the application of force, the minimum amount of force that could effectively accomplish the legitimate law enforcement objective; and
 - Should force be necessary, that it should only be used until it accomplishes a legitimate law enforcement objective. Officers must immediately modulate force as the threat diminishes and cease the use of force if:
 - The person on whom force is being used is under control or no longer poses a threat of physical injury or harm; or
 - The officer determines that force will no longer accomplish, or is no longer necessary to accomplish, a legitimate law enforcement objective.