

Vera Institute of Justice

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/reimagining-prison>

Policy Issue Resources

An immersive reimagining experience

Transforming young adult incarceration

Unlocking potential, transforming lives

From isolation to dignity and wellness

From slavery to mass incarceration to dignity

A new ethos embracing human dignity

Listening to the voices of corrections leaders, formerly incarcerated people, scholars, thought leaders from across the political spectrum, and members of the public, we have settled on a singular foundational value: human dignity. On which a new prison system, and new ethos of confinement, should be based.

An immersive reimagining experience

Vera proposes that human dignity be the foundational, organizing principle of the nation's corrections system. A prison system grounded in human dignity directly responds to the faults created by centuries of racial oppression. Our webumentary takes you through a digital journey from slavery to mass incarceration to dignity and hope.

An immersive reimagining experience

Vera proposes that human dignity be the foundational, organizing principle of the nation's corrections system. A prison system grounded in human dignity directly responds to the faults created by centuries of racial oppression. Our webumentary takes you through a digital journey from slavery to mass incarceration to dignity and hope.

Transforming young adult incarceration

The design and nature of mass incarceration in America and the culture that sustains it are among the most profound, most unyielding, and least addressed problems for justice today. Vera is working with prisons and jails to transform the culture, climate, rhythms and routines that define the prison system starting with young adults.

Transforming young adult incarceration

The design and nature of mass incarceration in America and the culture that sustains it are among the most profound, most unyielding, and least addressed problems for justice today. Vera is working with prisons and jails to transform the culture, climate, rhythms and routines that define the prison system starting with young adults.

Unlocking potential, transforming lives

Education is key to improving many long-term outcomes for incarcerated people, their families, and their communities including reducing recidivism and increasing employability and earnings after release. To improve the lives of incarcerated people and decrease the collateral consequences of incarceration, Vera is working in several states to provide postsecondary education opportunities for incarcerated people.

Unlocking potential, transforming lives

Education is key to improving many long-term outcomes for incarcerated people, their families, and their communities including reducing recidivism and increasing employability and earnings after release. To improve the lives of incarcerated people and decrease the collateral consequences of incarceration, Vera is working in several states to provide postsecondary education opportunities for incarcerated people.

From isolation to dignity and wellness

The use of restrictive housing where people are held in a cell for 22-24 hours per day with little or no programming or human interaction is harmful to incarcerated people and correctional staff, and is counterproductive to the safety and security of prisons and jails, as well as the communities to which most incarcerated people will return. By reducing and reforming the use of restrictive housing, Vera aims to improve human dignity behind bars and promote effective rehabilitation efforts for incarcerated people.

From isolation to dignity and wellness

The use of restrictive housing where people are held in a cell for 22-24 hours per day with little or no programming or human interaction is harmful to incarcerated people and correctional staff, and is counterproductive to the safety and security of prisons and jails, as well as the communities to which most incarcerated people will return. By reducing and reforming the use of restrictive housing, Vera aims to improve human dignity behind bars and promote effective rehabilitation efforts for incarcerated people.

From slavery to mass incarceration to dignity

A Different Choice traces the legacy of slavery and racial oppression up to the mass incarceration era, calling for a new ethos that values freedom, human dignity, and man's capacity to change.

From slavery to mass incarceration to dignity

A Different Choice traces the legacy of slavery and racial oppression up to the mass incarceration era, calling for a new ethos that values freedom, human dignity, and man's capacity to change.

A new ethos embracing human dignity

Unlike anything we have ever produced at Vera, this report is about the possibility of radical change. It is rooted in our obligation to acknowledge and atone for our brutal history of dehumanization and racial oppression and to understand how it has shaped our justice system today. Where we have denied humanity, we must embrace human dignity.

A new ethos embracing human dignity

Unlike anything we have ever produced at Vera, this report is about the possibility of radical change. It is rooted in our obligation to acknowledge and atone for our brutal history of dehumanization and racial oppression and to understand how it has shaped our justice system today. Where we have denied humanity, we must embrace human dignity.