

Vera Institute of Justice

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://www.vera.org/research/rob-smith-horatio-alger-lives-in-brooklyn-but-check-his-papers>

Policy Issue Resources

In this podcast, part of the 2010-2011 [Neil A. Weiner Research Speaker Series](#), Rob Smith discusses a 15-year ethnographic research project following more than 100 children of Mexican immigrants to the United States. Although he found that almost 40 percent of these individuals attended college and had other positive outcomes, undocumented children lose legal protections as they move into early adulthood and their opportunities become severely limited, prompting what Smith calls profound and serious moral and ethical questions. Smith is a professor of sociology at Baruch College and CUNY Graduate Center.

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On September 26, thousands of people held in Alabama state prisons went on strike. The Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) has been under federal investigation since 2016, and conditions inside the state prisons are among the deadliest in the nation. Strikers say the horrific conditions include overcrowding, neglect, abuse, and a drug epidemic ...

As we approach the first midterm election since the January 6 Capitol Hill riot, the integrity of our elections is under more scrutiny than ever. Fearmongering around the myth of voter fraud is a deliberate tactic at the local, state, and federal level, and mass incarceration is central to that strategy. This summer, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis ...

To truly tackle the devastating impact of the criminal legal system, we need politicians who have lived experience.

When I vote, I feel free. This past spring, passersby could read these words on a billboard at 1201 Half Street Southeast in Washington, DC. The billboard was a result of a national campaign by artist-led consortium For Freedoms, in which artists, activists, and prison reform organizations responded to the question: What does justice mean to you ...

Transformative change, sent to your inbox.

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