



**SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 26-27, 2009**

**The Movement for Fundamental Change: Formerly Incarcerated People
Fight for Human Rights**

Tuesday, January 27, 2009, 9:00 – 10:30am

Facilitator and Session Organizer :

Anuja Mendiratta, M.E.S. Program Advisor (Race Gender Human Rights Fund), The Women's Foundation of California

Speakers:

Susan Burton, Executive Director, A New Way of Life Reentry Project; Hamdiya Cooks, Project Organizer, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children/All of Us or None; Marlene Sanchez, Executive Director, The Center for Young Women's Development

Session Organizer:

Merril Sovner, Program Officer (Office of the President), Open Society Institute; Sophia Conroy, Program Officer (U.S. Programs). Open Society Institute

Sponsor:

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The US currently imprisons a startling 2.3 million people (approximately .75% of the total population). California is leading the country's incarceration trend with a "tough on crime" stance and one of the largest prison systems in the US – the state currently locks up more than 170,500 individuals in 33 adult (four for women) and eight juvenile (one for girls) facilities across the state. People of color comprise seventy-three percent of the state's overall prison population. Sentencing disparities, disproportionate minority confinement, violence, and human rights abuses are rife within the criminal justice system. And the thousands of people exiting prison each year face enormous challenges and discrimination in rebuilding their lives and securing their basic human needs (housing, employment, health care) once outside. Join us for a conversation with formerly incarcerated leaders who are building a powerful grassroots movements of former prisoners and cultivating the leadership necessary to transform conditions both within prisons and outside in order to assure the basic human rights and dignity of all those affected by incarceration and the prison industrial complex in the United States.