

5 July 2023



Welcome to The Drop LWOP Coalition's Bulletin.

The bulletin will provide updates on all things related to the Coalition – events, legislation, workshops, resources, and everything in between, and it will arrive in your inbox on a regular basis. We encourage you to spread it far and wide! If you have news, stories, or information that should be shared far and wide or if you have questions, please feel free to reach out and email droplwopoutreach@gmail.com.



Legislative Updates

The DROP LWOP Coalition's hard work is paying off! [SB 94](#) passed fully through the senate, moving into the state assembly. On June 20th, SB 94 underwent a set of [amendments](#). After this, on June 27th, proposed legislation SB 94 passed through the California Assembly Public Safety Committee!

Progress is being made, step by step. This milestone should be celebrated, including the hard work of every individual whose hard work has brought us here.

As we keep pushing forward, legislative visits and lobbying meetings are continuing in anticipation for a full Assembly floor vote in the upcoming months. This [Google Form](#) allows you to sign up and get in contact with a team that is scheduling (virtual) legislative meetings and visits! Constituents have a powerful role to play. The [SB 94 Fact Sheet](#) has been updated and is ready to be shared with our communities.

Media!

In collaboration with the Berkeley Film Foundation, The Drop LWOP Coalition hosted a screening of [Sansón and Me](#) on June 27th at the New Parkway Theatre in Oakland. Our very own Susan Bustamante spoke on the panel, alongside director Rodrigo Reyes, and Public Defender Brendon Woods.

Interested in hosting a screening of Sansón and Me in your neck of the woods? If so, reach out to Courtney Hanson (courtney@womenprisoners.org) and Leesa Nomura (elizabethnomura31@gmail.com) for next steps.

DROP LWOP at United Nations

In September of 2022, DROP LWOP Coalition, among a group of distinct law and justice advocacy organizations, submitted an impressive [complaint](#) to the United Nations. The goal of this complaint was to raise concerns about the United States' extreme sentencing policies and practices. This complaint included 44 statements that highlight the experiences and center the voices of both the individuals serving extreme sentences and their affected family members.

We are hoping this complaint will initiate a significant and impactful response, spreading awareness and educating communities. At the end of this year, our coalition is working to organize a delegation to go to the United Nation office in Geneva. This delegation would bring awareness to United States sentencing problems on an international stage, review international human rights standards, and collaborate with other organizations to bring mechanisms and approaches for rights based progress back to the United States.

Outreach

The outreach committee is working hard to provide individuals impacted by LWOP with the tools and confidence to speak publicly via a training hosted by the outreach committee. The training was presented in 2-parts, and allowed individuals to workshop their stories (find tips and tricks [here](#)), ask questions, and practice public speaking. Thank you to all who attended

Inreach

Our newest workgroup, the inreach committee, is hard at work! The committee has been working tirelessly to build connections on the inside. To support these efforts, the committee recently sent out their first official letter to folks serving LWOP in California that included a survey component. Since sending in the letter, the workgroup has received over 200 responses! Stay tuned for more updates on this workgroup's incredible efforts and fill out this [Google form](#) if you'd like to be plugged into these efforts!

GOOD NEWS!

Freedom stories underpin the successes of our communities, bringing loved ones home. This section is designed to share the great news that is happening all around,

In an [interview](#) with The Guardian Los Angeles, Thanh Tran and James King, longtime advocates and organizers, share insight into their perceived strengths and concerns of Governor Newsom's transformation "San Quentin Rehabilitation" plan. Thanh and James, who work with Oakland's Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, advocate for transformation and rehabilitation through community investment and prison closures.

Marisela is moving out of ICE! She is coming back to California after being released and is staying with another DROP LWOP organizer. We are grateful that she is moving into a new chapter and out of ICE and are immensely grateful that our community can take her in physically and continue to support her.

Next steps + Resources

What's next?

The Coalition is in the process of planning a strategy session in Los Angeles in October 2023 (Dates TBD!). Keep your eyes peeled for a (potential) survey from the Coalition asking for your input!

(A Few) Requests:

Know of any employers hiring folks who were formerly incarcerated? If so, please send any leads to the amazing team at [All of Us Or None](#) - Sacramento.

[SB 94](#) needs your support! Fill out this [google form](#) so that Geri Silva can connect with you if and when we meet (virtually) with your assembly member to advocate for the passage of SB94.

(A Few) Resources:

Check out Michele Scott's [article](#) on why SB94 is so needed and important!

The Sentencing Project compiled a heartbreaking and impactful report on LWOP sentencing for individuals who are 25 and younger. Read more [here](#).

Eager to teach others about LWOP sentencing? Look no further than this thorough [one-pager](#) that provides a helpful and succinct overview of the who, what, when, and why of LWOP.

In collaboration with UCLA's Center for the Study of Women, Joanne Scheer and Daniel Trautfield created the [The Special Circumstances Conviction Project](#), a collection and analysis of conviction data that helps to paint a portrait of the profound impact of California's special circumstance law.

Many legal and political processes are composed of complex systems and archaic processes that can feel inaccessible and confusing. Capitol Museum has a [helpful graphic](#) and outline of the "[Life Cycle of a Bill](#)," giving a breakdown into the legislative process.

**INTERESTED IN JOINING A
WORKGROUP?
LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED
[HERE](#)**



4400 Market St.
Oakland, CA 94608