

30 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!

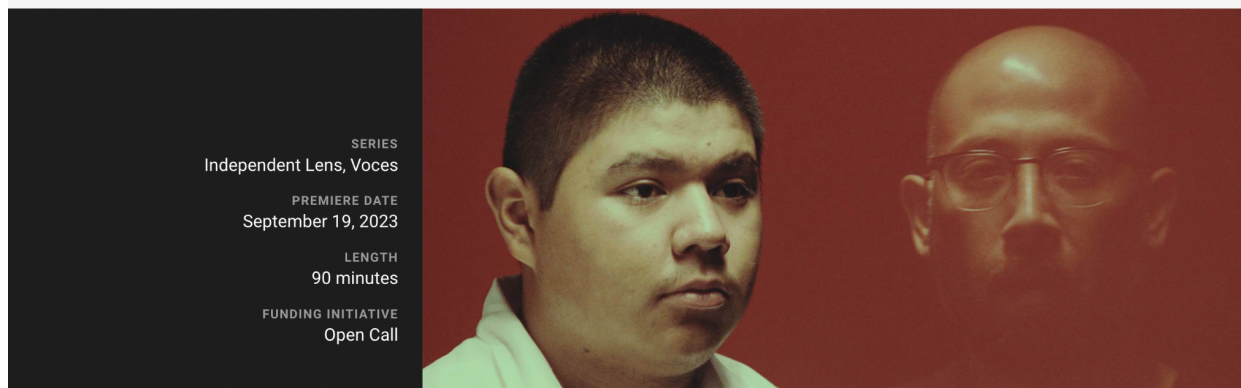
If you have news, stories, or information that should be shared far and wide or if you have questions, please feel free to reach out and email [droplwopoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:droplwopoutreach@gmail.com).

Looking to send the Drop LWOP Bulletin to a friend? Feel free to send them to our [website](#), where the Bulletins will be uploaded regularly!

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# Sansón and Me

From Pelican Bay State Prison, Sansón's life is defined by borders—between Mexico and the U.S., fact and fiction, personal choice and systemic force.



## Media!

The [Sansón and Me](#) showing was a huge success - a packed room at the New Parkway Theatre in Oakland. In case you missed it, the film will be available on [PBS](#) on September 19th, which means folks on the inside will have access to the film too. The Coalition is hoping to organize future showings of the film as well. Please reach out (especially if you're in the Los Angeles area) to Courtney Hanson ([courtney@womenprisoners.org](mailto:courtney@womenprisoners.org)) and Leesa Nomura ([elizabethnomura31@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethnomura31@gmail.com)) if you're interested in leading this effort!

In addition, the media team is soon launching social media content for LWOP Freedom Stories - short and impactful stories about individuals who formerly served LWOP transitioning into the free world. Stay tuned for these powerful stories!

## Legislative Updates

Good news! SB94 made its way through the Senate floor and the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Thanks to all who made this incredible feat possible. The bill is now on suspense in Assembly Appropriations and we are hoping for a vote on the Assembly floor within the first 2 weeks of September. In the meantime, read the bill's fact sheet [here](#) and track SB 94's progress [here](#).

Looking to help support this important work? Fill out this [Google Form](#) so that we can get in contact with you when meeting with a legislator (virtually) in your district. And check out our SB94 [social media toolkit](#).

## Outreach

Outreach's current efforts are focused on identifying organizations in districts where we are hoping to gain support for SB94. Fill out this [Google form](#) if you'd like to be plugged into these efforts!

## Inreach

The Inreach committee is hard at work and it's paying off! The committee has received lots of responses from the inside in response to [their newsletter](#), which is very exciting. Inreach looks forward to receiving more responses!

## 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, celebrating our loved ones and their endeavors.

Laura Hernande is a fierce advocate for immigrant and refugee communities and dedicated leader for our LWOPS and people inside of CA prisons. Laura works for the [Orange Country Rapid Response Network](#) as a OCRRN coordinator. She works tirelessly to uplift the community and every individual she can. Now is our time to support her.

She is a Long Term Permanent Resident (LPR) who has been unable to renew her green card because of a conviction. She served 15 years on a 27-life sentence. June 29th marks the third year of her conditional freedom from CA state prison. Laura needs as many community members as possible to sign her petition to the governor to pardon her to ensure the renewal of her green card. This will protect Laura, releasing her from living in fear of deportation. Please sign her [pardon campaign petition](#) and spread the word. Follow the instagram account [@keepplaurahome](#) for updates!

After over 60 years of imprisonment, Russel Magee is finally coming home. This [website](#) shares the details of his story and his dedication to fighting a extreme and racial system. [Donate here](#) to support his transition home.

# Next steps + Resources

## What's next?

### [Valley Justice Collective 2023 Night Out for Safety and Liberation \(NOSL\)](#)

August 1st 2023, 3-8pm | Section 1 of Woolley park.

The Valley Justice Collective is hosting their [Valley Justice Collective 2023 Night Out for Safety and Liberation \(NOSL\)](#) This is a community event, free for all and all are welcome!

### [Decarceral Visions Conference](#)

September 22-23, 2023 | UCLA Law School.

Register as soon as possible; [www.decarceralvisions.org](http://www.decarceralvisions.org).

This conference is dedicated to exactly what we all love; ending mass incarceration and immigration detention. More specifically this conference is designed to address the details of closing and ending the construction of all types of detention centers. This conference will gather organizers, people, and organizations from all levels of the movement who want to support and construct a transition to decarceral community building and investment.

**For more information and registration please check out their [website](#).** For more information, or if you are interested in providing financial support to this conference, please contact: [decarceralvisionsconference@gmail.com](mailto:decarceralvisionsconference@gmail.com). Limited travel support will be available, with priority to community-based organizations, formerly detained or incarcerated people, and practitioners otherwise unable to attend.

(Español abajo)

### [Conferencia de Visiones Decarcerales](#)

El 22 y el 23 de septiembre de 2023 | UCLA Law School

Regístrese lo mas antes posible; [www.decarceralvisions.org](http://www.decarceralvisions.org)

Esta [conferencia](#) es para personas y organizaciones comprometidas a la lucha para acabar con el encarcelamiento masivo y la detención de inmigrantes. Específicamente, esta conferencia está diseñada para discutir preguntas importantes que surgen en campañas para cerrar o parar la construcción de cárceles, prisiones y centros de detención de inmigración. Temas incluyen transiciones justas para personas encarceladas, trabajadores y comunidades directamente afectadas y lecciones e intersecciones sobre transiciones justas del movimiento de justicia ambiental y consideración del papel de los funcionarios

públicos. Habrá apoyo de viaje disponibles, con prioridad para organizaciones comunitarias, personas anteriormente encarceladas y practicantes que de otro modo no podrían asistir (más información por venir). La conferencia también se transmitirá por Internet para permitir la participación remota. Para obtener más información o si está interesado en brindar apoyo financiero a esta conferencia, dirigirse al [sitio web](#) o comuníquese [decarceralvisionsconference@gmail.com](mailto:decarceralvisionsconference@gmail.com).

### **Strategy Session**

The strategy session is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of November 4th and 5th in Southern California. The specific location is TBD.

Interested in helping plan this upcoming event? Reach out to Daniel ([dtrautfield@gmail.com](mailto:dtrautfield@gmail.com)) and Joanne ([felonymurderproject@yahoo.com](mailto:felonymurderproject@yahoo.com)).

### **RJA Guide Training Session**

Tuesday, August 1st, at 12 p.m.

Click the link to register: <http://bit.ly/rjatraining>.

The California Racial Justice Act (2020) prohibits the state from seeking a conviction or imposing a sentence based on the defendant's race, ethnicity, or national origin and provides individuals the opportunity to challenge racist conduct against them in their criminal legal proceedings. The [RJA 4 ALL guide](#) is helpful as a starting point for understanding fighting discrimination as it is covered by this act. Sign up for our training session to learn more.

### **(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:**

#### **Some things to check out!**

► [Issue #67](#) of CCWP's The Fire Inside - moving, inspiring, and deeply powerful!

▶ This [informative article](#) that speaks about SB94 and the meaningful impact it will have on individuals who have served at least 20 years of their sentences and whose crimes occurred before June 5, 1990.

▶ The New York Times newly released [article](#) is about Leslie Van Houten who has been released from prison on parole after having a death sentence reduced to LWOP.

▶ The [Human Rights Watch](#) officially launched [report on LWOP reintegration](#) called “I Just Want to Give Back”: The Reintegration of People Sentenced to Life Without Parole. From personal transformation to community investment, this report highlights the incredible endeavors that individuals in California have accomplished.

▶ [Hidden Hazards: The Impacts of Climate Change on Incarcerated People California state prisons](#). Master of Public Policy UCLA graduate students have finished a report on behalf of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. Aishah Abdala, Abhilasha Bhola, Guadalupe Gutierrez, Eric Henderson & Maura O’Neill created this report to shed light on the dangerous effects of Climate Change on incarcerated populations and provided policy solutions that uplift and protect California.

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

▶ The Guardian published an [article](#) highlighting the Nichol sister's experience having their story used to justify extreme sentencing.

▶ 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.

### **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.

### **Support Hotlines:**

The Transition Clinic Network Reentry Healthcare Hotline is 1-510-606-6400.

▶ People can call it collect from inside California prisons as well as from jails that use GTL phone services. The hotline is staffed by trained community health workers with histories

of incarceration who can provide information about local clinics, how to get enrolled in Medi-Cal, and how to navigate the healthcare system.

To utilize the Mental Health First Oakland call or text 510-999-9641

► Mental Health First Oakland responds to mental health crises including, but not limited to psychiatric emergencies, substance use support, and domestic violence situations that require victim extraction. Call or text 510-999-9641 on Fridays and Saturdays 8:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. Save this number in your phone for easy access.

### **(A Few) Opportunities:**

Ella Baker Center is hiring for a Finance Director, Managing Director, and a Director of People Talent and Culture and Organizer! [Apply today.](#)

Our partners at [CURB are also hiring.](#)

California Lawyers for the Arts is taking applications for their [Designing Creative Futures Internship.](#)

The University of San Francisco is hiring a full-time [Assistant Professor and Supervising Attorney.](#)

California Coalition for Women Prisoners is hiring a [policy/campaign organizer.](#)

**INTERESTED IN JOINING A  
WORKGROUP?  
LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED  
HERE**



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