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On International Women’s Day, Texas Women’s Justice Coalition Continues Fight for Better Outcomes for Women Impacted by the Justice System

AUSTIN, TX — For the fourth consecutive year, the Texas Women’s Justice Coalition is taking action on International Women’s Day to keep women out of the justice system and improve outcomes for those who have been impacted by arrest and incarceration.

The Texas Women’s Justice Coalition is comprised of more than 70 formerly incarcerated women, advocates, and service providers seeking to stem the tide of women’s incarceration, improve their conditions of confinement, and help women successfully return to their families and communities.

Today, they will replicate their successful 2019 legislative advocacy with a virtual lobby day focused on women’s justice legislation, connecting with lawmakers to share personal stories of system impact. This will be followed by a social media takeover, where they will share why they are fighting for these issues using the International Women’s Day hashtags: #IWD2021 and #ChooseToChallenge. Finally, they will gather in the evening for a community-building event focused on survivorship and storytelling.

Last year, the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC), a founding member of the Texas Women’s Justice Coalition, released a [report](#) sharing the coalition’s policy priorities. The report, called “The Future of Dignity: Insights from the Texas Women’s Dignity Retreat,” is the result of a wide-ranging policy discussion led by many of the women who pushed for eight women’s justice bills to become law during the 2019 Texas legislative session.

This effort is a continuation of TCJC’s *Justice for Women* campaign, which kicked off in early 2018 with a [two-part report series](#) and the launch of the Texas Women’s Justice Coalition. The reports revealed the shocking increase of women in Texas prisons and the unique challenges that system-involved women face. Through a survey of incarcerated women, TCJC found that 81% of women in Texas’ state corrections system are mothers, that Black women are disproportionately impacted by incarceration in Texas, and that 64% of women in Texas prisons are incarcerated for a nonviolent offense, primarily drug-related.

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In their 2021 agenda, the Texas Women's Justice Coalition lists the following priorities:

- Crime prevention and justice system diversion
- Support for children and family unity
- Sentencing reform, especially for nonviolent drug offenses
- Independent oversight of the state prison system
- Trauma-informed, gender-responsive conditions of confinement
- Youth justice reforms, including "Second Look" parole reform
- "Good time" and "diligent participation" credits
- Reentry resources and support

The [agenda](#) is available online here, along with the larger "Future of Dignity" [report](#) summarizing the history of the *Justice for Women* campaign.

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The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) advances solutions and builds coalitions to end mass incarceration and build safer Texas communities. To learn more about TCJC, visit www.TexasCJC.org.