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## **New Report Shares Lessons Learned and Policy Priorities for the Future of Women’s Justice in Texas**

**AUSTIN, TX** — Yesterday, the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) released a new [report](#) sharing the future policy priorities of the Texas Women’s Justice Coalition. 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 new 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.

“Over the last two years, we’ve met with hundreds of women whose lives have been touched by the justice system,” said **Lindsey Linder, TCJC’s Senior Policy Attorney and the report’s author**. “This report is a celebration of their stories and a culmination of the hard work we have undertaken together since 2018. We were thrilled by the successes of the 2019 legislative session—including meaningful reforms to improve educational and vocational resources and conditions of confinement for women—and now we’re looking towards the future of this movement. ‘The Future of Dignity’ contains direct feedback from system-impacted women and their families, and it illustrates how TCJC and our allies will continue to fight for women’s justice in the future.”

The Texas Women’s Justice Coalition, a group of formerly incarcerated and otherwise system-impacted women, gathered in the Hill Country in November 2019 for an unprecedented Texas Dignity Retreat. Nearly 60 formerly incarcerated women, advocates, and service providers sat down to analyze the successes of the previous legislative session and identify future priorities. Their priorities, as laid out in this week’s report, include:

- Trauma-informed, gender-responsive conditions of confinement
- Crime prevention and justice system diversion
- Sentencing reform, especially for nonviolent drug offenses
- Reentry resources and support
- Support for children and family unity
- Youth justice reforms

The report is available online [here](#). It is accompanied by a [video](#) summarizing the history of the Justice for Women campaign, which includes footage from November’s retreat.

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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](http://www.TexasCJC.org).*