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## MPAC

Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition (MPAC) is committed to ethical, positive, and humane changes in Maine's prison system.

We have staff who are a daily presence for youth currently held at Long Creek and those recently released, giving them hope, practical strategies, and support for a positive path to their future.

We testify in the legislature on legal reform, serve on local boards of visitors, provide arts programming in prisons, and are creating reentry opportunities for women and men.



Linda Small - MPAC coordinator and Executive Director of Reentry Sisters.

<https://reentrysisters.org/>

When a parent goes to prison, it rips families apart. The rate of women's incarceration is growing faster than any other group. How does that affect our communities?

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## FREE Speaker's Bureau

. We offer a number of presentations.

1. Prison 101 - who gets incarcerated in Maine and the US, for what reasons, how does it affect our communities, and what can we do to reverse the trends.
2. Solitary Confinement - The United Nations has labelled Solitary Confinement a form of torture. Who uses it? What are the consequences? What can we do?
3. Parole - Maine did away with parole in 1976. What are the consequences of not having parole? What are the benefits of reinstating parole?
4. What Has Education Got To Do With It? - Why should educators be concerned with incarceration? Which students are affected? What can we do about it?
5. Prison art program - Creating art can provide a sense of accomplishment, awe, wonder, and pride. it also offers an opportunity to process incarceration and the actions that brought the person to prison.

## Contact Us

### Schedule a Program

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## Is Incarceration the Answer?

The US is number one in the world for incarcerating our own people. We have 5% of the world's population but 20-25% of the world's incarcerated population.

Incarcerating so many people has a negative impact on health, our economy, on families, and communities. It also affects public safety, but maybe not in the way you expect.



Jan Collins and Olivia Hochstadt curators of Freedom and Captivity exhibit of prison resident art.

**Andre Hicks** first experienced incarceration as a kid. Now he devotes everyday to helping system impacted youth.

**Isolation-** Below: Andre protests the use of segregation in prisons, identified by health professionals as harmful to mental and emotional health.



## Communities

Almost everyone who enters prison leaves behind a family. They are a beloved son or daughter, sister or brother, mother or father. Even though they may be held only a few days or weeks, without an income, they will likely lose their job, housing, and car. Without these basics, successful reentry into the community will be difficult.

Almost everyone who goes to jail or prison will be released. It is in our best interest to ensure that they receive rehabilitation while they are incarcerated.

**Brandon Brown**  
The first person in Maine to complete his master's degree while incarcerated, Brandon is now campaign manager for Maine Youth Justice.



**Antonio Jackson**  
Mr Jackson is owner and founder of 3T Builders and Renovators. He trains and employs system impacted individuals. He also serves as a coordinator for MPAC.

## Transformation

Education, programming, job skills, and medical care are all protective factors that keep people from incarceration. They are also necessary components of rehabilitation. If we want to decrease the number of people whose lives are affected by incarceration, we need to invest in the essential components of community. These same programs increase the chances that a person will be successful when they are released.

What do these programs have in common? They provide **hope**.

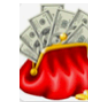
The American Public Health Association states that incarceration in the United States is a public health crisis and that we must take immediate steps to reduce the number of people we incarcerate and instead invest in communities.



Health Care



Education



Economic Stability



Neighborhood & Environment



Social & Community Context

**Community Investments  
Make Us Safer**