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AJFO | MEMBER NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2022



AJFO Conference Survey

The Conference Planning Committee completed their review of applications and is preparing the formal announcement about the 2023 AJFO Conference. In the meantime, we would like to know your thoughts about the format.

Please [complete this 1-minute survey!](#)

The 2023 Conference will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma – nestled between the lush Ozark hills and miles of wild prairie, this former oil boom town now anchors a bustling metropolis of 1 million residents who enjoy one of the Top 10 live music scenes in the country and one of the nation's most up-and-coming arts districts. From Woody Guthrie's and Bob Dylan's museums to the realities of the horrific race massacre on Black Wall Street in May 1921 and the nation's number one city park, The Gathering Place, all offer a glimpse of Tulsa's history and background. Along historic Route 66, Tulsa is centrally located for easy access from all parts of the county with an uncrowded and easy-to-navigate airport.

Comprised of two large metropolitan cities and 75 counties, Oklahoma sadly led the nation in female incarcerations for 30 years (1991 to 2019). Much has been learned and changed during this time thanks to criminal reform advocates who have worked closely with correctional institutions, treatment providers, policy makers, funders, criminal legal practitioners, and academicians, all eager to share lessons learned. Tulsa's diverse cultural resources combined with the insight and experience of warm and welcoming community stakeholders will provide a rewarding and informative experience for AJFO's 2023 national convening.

Trauma can't define you, but it can help lead you. I always feel this constant weeping on the inside of me. And that's the weeping of people who are still hurting... It's just that reminder to push harder, go longer, fight, don't stop, push for change.
- Congresswoman Cori Bush



Featured Resource



The Women's Justice Institute
Chicago, IL

The Reclamation Project

"The WJI Reclamation Project is a sisterhood of women leaders whose lives have been impacted by the criminal legal system. We come together to **reclaim justice for women, our children and families** through mutual support and transformative advocacy.

False narratives do more than fuel the mass incarceration of women. They hide the real problems that create it. They shape policies and systems, compounding the damage. And they cost real money—in Illinois, \$1.4 billion in the last decade alone.

In April 2021, the nation's first entirely women-led Task Force published a bold strategy to end the mass incarceration of women and confront the false narratives that fuel it."

[View the Redefining the Narrative report](#) or [watch the video!](#)



"Elevated by the leadership of directly impacted women, the Task Force engaged over 500 women – including family members, advocates, social service providers, judges, prosecutors, corrections officials, policymakers, academics, health professionals and more – on solutions.

The impacted leaders behind this historic effort came together to form The Reclamation Project, a powerful collective working together to shift their work with the Task Force on redefining the narrative to reclaiming it."

Featured Member Event



Covington Curriculum Conference
Minneapolis, MN
June 7 - 9, 2023

Deepen your understanding of gender-responsive and trauma-informed care and build your skill set at this national conference.

This is a networking opportunity for you and your colleagues as well as learning an additional intervention. [More information on the website as it becomes available.](#)

Community Member Site

Upcoming Regional Events with *potential* access for members. More details to come as soon as they become available!



Southern – From Georgia: Planning a webinar on the reversal of Roe v. Wade and how this impacts women, girls, and birthing people in the system and those who work in it. Tools and resources for advocacy and mobilization will be provided, such as resource guides on reproductive health and legislative action to how to support.



Western – From Jackson County, Oregon: Planning ongoing for a Summer Camp of trainings including trauma informed case management, understanding empathy and resilience grief, working with domestic violence in a gender responsive way, trauma informed arrests, and more.

RestoreHER's Inaugural Research Conference **rescheduled to Feb 2 – 4, 2023:**

Academics, students, advocates, and directly impacted communities gather to raise awareness about the importance of transparent and accessible data for incarcerated women.

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you interested in serving as a regional chairperson? Regional chairpeople would be responsible for:

- moderating the discussions in the online regional group,
- helping to post thought-provoking questions and conversations topics for the group,
- providing a brief update for this quarterly newsletter that share recent highlights in your region, and/or
- sharing regional events and helping to schedule webinars.

Please contact our [Navigator](#) for more information!

Headlines

["I feel like I could breathe": Denver's New Halfway House for Women Opens as City Continues to Struggle with Waitlists](#)

[Homeless Women Veterans: Growing Needs Outpacing Services](#)

[This Is Our House: Reclamation Center in Pilsen Connects Women Leaving Prison to Services, Emotional Support](#)

[OAG Testimony on B24-0865, the "Commission on Re-Entry Services for Women Amendment Act of 2022"](#)

[Massachusetts Organizers Call for No New Women's Prisons and an End to their Construction](#)

[Mural, Butterflies Help Women in Prison Deal With Trauma](#)



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