



EXPO (EX-Prisoners Organizing)

A coalition of organizations led by EXPO (EX-Prisoners Organizing) recently launched a campaign that calls on state officials to close Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF) and reinvest resources to build safer, stronger, and healthier communities. Other coalition members include Milwaukee IWW, WISDOM, MICAH, JustLeadershipUSA, UBLAC (Uplifting Black Liberation and Communities) Milwaukee, NAACP Milwaukee Branch, Rid Racism Milwaukee, Black and Pink: Milwaukee, 9to5 Wisconsin, Voces de la Frontera, Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin UUs, and Public Enterprise Committee – Milwaukee.



A Health Impact Assessment that examined the consequences of excessive revocations in Wisconsin, successful revocation policy reforms in other states, and the #CLOSErikers Campaign in New York City inspired leaders in Wisconsin to launch the #CLOSEmsdf Campaign.

The HIA is available at <http://sentback.org/>

A summary of revocation policy reforms in other states is available at https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/6.12.17_Reducing-Recidivism_States-Deliver-Results.pdf.

For information about the #CLOSErikers Campaign, visit <http://www.closerikers.org/>.

For information about EXPO and the #CLOSEmsdf Campaign, visit <http://www.rocwisconsin.org/>.

WHY CLOSE THE MILWAUKEE SECURE DETENTION FACILITY?

Conditions at MSDF are out of step with Wisconsin values. Not only have conditions at the prison been deplorable for years, but the very notion of locking up people struggling with parole and mental health issues is at odds with common sense approaches to justice. MSDF was built in 2001 as a temporary detention facility for people on parole, probation, and extended supervision who allegedly committed violations of their rules of supervision. In the last 16 years, thousands of individuals, convicted of no new crime, have been re-incarcerated at MSDF—over sixty percent of them black men. This practice of “crimeless revocations” exacerbates racial inequities in Milwaukee, and the inhumane conditions at MSDF violate basic human rights and defy our notions of justice and freedom. The #CLOSEmsdf Campaign aims not only to close this facility, but reimagine how we invest in people caught in the penal system. MSDF is beyond reform and must be shuttered in order to build the stronger communities that Milwaukee deserves.

PROBLEMS FACING PEOPLE INCARCERATED AT MSDF

- Human rights violations, including: Poor ventilation, extreme heat, no outdoor recreation, 22 hours of lockdown per day, and no in-person visits.
- Excessive mistreatment and use of force against mentally ill people.
- Racial bias: African Americans were 12 times more likely to be sent to prison for crimeless revocation than whites in 2013.
- No due process: Revocation process gives significant discretion to DOC agents rather than criminal courts, which makes it harder for people facing incarceration to fight that outcome.

SOLUTIONS

- Ending the practice of incarcerating people for minor rules violations of their supervision.
- Allow people facing revocation to remain in the community until their hearings.
- Shifting the “Alternatives to Revocation” beds to the community.
- Solve overcrowding issues in Wisconsin jails and prisons through policy changes such as bail reform and increased use of Treatment Alternatives and Diversion programs.
- Reinvest the excessive corrections spending toward workforce development training for formerly incarcerated people and greater access to mental health professionals and clinics within the community.

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