



REIMAGINE JUSTICE

Roundtable on the Future of Justice Policy

Examining Justice Reform and the Social Contract in the United States: Implications for Justice Policy and Practice

Hosted by the Justice Lab at Columbia University

Generously supported by the Ford Foundation and Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation

ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

Session One: Recording Available Online Thursday, August 6, 2020

WELCOME

Bruce Western | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Co-Director, Justice Lab; Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice, Columbia University

Katharine Huffman | Executive Director, Square One Project, Justice Lab, Columbia University; Founding Principal, The Raben Group, LLC

ROUNDTABLE FRAMEWORK

Jeremy Travis | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice, Arnold Ventures; President Emeritus, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

INTRODUCTIONS AND GROUP DISCUSSION: PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

The fourth Square One Roundtable on the Future of Justice Policy will examine the relationship between political rights, social rights, and justice reform. How do the Roundtable participants view the current social contract? Does the U.S. regime of social and political rights currently compromise or promote the community membership of people who have been involved in the criminal justice system? Can our system of political rights and social policy better contribute to a socially-integrative response to violence and other crime? Can adjacent institutions and policy domains that include the electoral system, healthcare, housing, education, and anti-poverty policy contribute to a social contract that serves, empowers, and strengthens the safety and well-being of all?

WRAP UP

SESSION END

Session Two: Recording Available Online Thursday, August 13, 2020

WELCOME & ROUNDTABLE FRAMEWORK

Jeremy Travis | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice, Arnold Ventures; President Emeritus, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

1) THE HISTORY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP

Paper Writer & Presenter - Elizabeth Hinton | Associate Professor of History; Professor of African and African American Studies, Harvard University

Group discussion - As members of the community, people in the United States should expect a range of political and social rights to help them navigate daily life, global crises, and everything in between. Yet the unalienable rights to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” have never been guaranteed for all and the criminal justice system has been an oft-used tool in ensuring that the social contract is not fulfilled for all, contributing to poverty and undermining opportunity. Historically, how has the criminal justice system been a mechanism for separating people from their rights in the U.S.? How has it undermined their membership in community? In what ways has it excused society from fulfilling its responsibilities to its members, and also prevented system-impacted individuals from stepping into their roles and responsibilities in the community?

2) THE SOCIAL CONTRACT: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Paper Writer & Presenter - David Garland | Arthur T. Vanderbilt Professor of Law; Professor of Sociology, New York University

Group discussion - Many wealthy countries had social policies and welfare states in place pre-COVID 19 that provide a stronger guarantee of a livable wage, employment protections, healthcare, and other quality of life securities than in the United States, and have enacted many more securities during the pandemic to support the welfare of their populations. Access to healthcare, housing, and educational opportunities accompany community membership. What are the effects of these social contracts on individual and community well-being and safety? Is race affecting access to the social welfare state in these places? How do other countries minimize the impact of criminal justice involvement to ensure that those who are impacted do not have limited citizenship?

WRAP-UP

SESSION END

Session Three: Recording Available Online Thursday, August 20, 2020

WELCOME & ROUNDTABLE FRAMEWORK

Jeremy Travis | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice, Arnold Ventures; President Emeritus, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

3) REIMAGINING SOCIAL INCLUSIVITY AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Housing as Justice Reform:

Paper Writer & Presenter - Ananya Roy | Professor of Urban Planning, Social Welfare, and Geography and The Meyer and Renee Luskin Chair in Inequality and Democracy, University of California - Los Angeles

Healthcare as Justice Reform:

Paper Writer & Presenter - Hedy Lee | Professor of Sociology; Director of Undergraduate Studies; Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, & Equity, Washington University in St. Louis

Group discussion - All too often, the punitive force of the criminal justice system leads to failures of the social contract in other systems. During the global pandemic, how have these segments - basic welfare such as food and housing, access to public education and healthcare, and freedom to work and associate with others - ensured that everyone has access to the social rights that they provide and separate themselves from the criminal justice system? How can they be utilized to create safe and thriving communities going forward? Can they be drivers of inclusivity when creating community safety, resiliency, and thriving? What would this look like?

WRAP-UP

SESSION END

Session Four: Recording Available Online Thursday, August 27, 2020

WELCOME & ROUNDTABLE FRAMEWORK

Katharine Huffman | Executive Director, Square One Project, Justice Lab, Columbia University; Founding Principal, The Raben Group, LLC

4) INCREASING ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND ELIMINATING POVERTY

Paper Writer & Presenter - Bruce Western | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Co-Director, Justice Lab; Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice, Columbia University

Group discussion - Contemporary criminal justice policy often represents a punitive response to the harsh conditions of American poverty, and a significant obstacle to social mobility in poor communities. Criminal justice involvement also undermines economic opportunity, disrupts families, and damages health, reproducing poverty over the life course and across generations. The project of justice reform imagines a different kind of public safety that relies not on police and prisons, but a rich community life that has eliminated poverty and its myriad accompanying social problems and should extend well beyond the boundaries of the criminal justice system. What are the social policy supports needed to achieve a fairer and safer society that helps ensure routine and predictability in everyday life, such as the coronavirus-era proposed economic stimulus bills providing a universal basic income? If we are to reimagine justice in America, what is the role of anti-poverty policy and expanding social mobility?

5) ADVANCING ACCESS TO EDUCATION; KNOWLEDGE AS A TOOL OF RESISTANCE

Paper Writer & Presenter - Vivian Nixon | Executive Director, College and Community Fellowship

Group discussion - Full membership in a community should include access to an education that enables us to make informed decisions to achieve well-being and fully participate in civic life. However, access to education has long been denied or restricted by design from non-white scholars, particularly those who are incarcerated, who are deemed increasingly dangerous and discontented the more they learn about their own oppression. Champions of educational access

assert that knowledge reduces susceptibility to the policies and practices of the state that fuel white supremacy, including its mechanisms of mass criminalization and punishment In what ways is education a tool to address unjust systems? How do we ensure that students at all levels of learning can fully benefit from our educational system and be more watchful and active in improving their own lives, increasing prospects for their families, and making significant contributions to society?

WRAP-UP

SESSION END

Session Five: WATCH LIVE Wednesday, September 16, 2020

VIDEO INTRO

WELCOME

Katharine Huffman | Executive Director, Square One Project, Justice Lab, Columbia University; Founding Principal, The Raben Group, LLC

Sukyi McMahon | Manager, Square One Project, Justice Lab, Columbia University

Jeremy Travis | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice, Arnold Ventures; President Emeritus, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

6) ASPIRATIONS FOR THE NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT

Paper Writer & Co-Presenter - Danielle Allen | James Bryant Conant University Professor; Director of Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University

Co-Presenter - Bruce Western | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Co-Director, Justice Lab; Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice, Columbia University

Group discussion - Throughout the fourth Square One Roundtable on the Future of Justice Policy, we have examined the relationship between political rights, social rights, and justice reform in the age of COVID-19. How can we contribute to a new kind of policy conversation that sees justice as intimately tied to reducing poverty and increasing mobility? What can we learn from countries whose social policies and welfare states provide a stronger guarantee of a livable wage, employment protections, healthcare, and other quality of life securities than in the United States? How can adjacent sectors better contribute to social integration and wellbeing, and extract themselves from the impact of the criminal justice system to ensure all people have full access to housing, education, and healthcare? How does the U.S. regime of political rights currently compromise or promote community membership? Building on a series of Roundtable explorations of these questions, this culminating convening will examine aspirations for those adjacent institutions and policy domains, including the electoral system, healthcare, housing, education, and anti-poverty policy; and will reimagine a social contract that serves, empowers, and strengthens the safety and well-being of all.

CLOSING APPRECIATION

ROUNDTABLE END