



REIMAGINE JUSTICE

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JUSTICE LEADER VIVIAN NIXON JOINS SQUARE ONE PROJECT AS WRITER IN RESIDENCE

New York, NY - The Square One Project, a Columbia University Justice Lab initiative focused on promoting and nurturing new ideas in social and racial justice policy, announced that Vivian Nixon will be joining the organization as Writer in Residence. In this role, Rev. Nixon will provide leadership to the [Racial Justice and Abolition Democracy \(RJAD\) Project](#), a joint project of Square One and the Initiative for a Just Society; and will guide the development of the Square One Project's work on racial reckoning.

Vivian comes to the Square One Project after 20 years as the Executive Director of College & Community Fellowship (CCF), a nonprofit dedicated to helping women with criminal convictions earn college degrees. As a formerly incarcerated woman and CCF program graduate, Rev. Nixon has been a leader in the movement to ensure that justice-involved women and their families have a better future.

"Vivian has been a driver of Square One's work from the start, participating in both the Executive Session and the Roundtable, consistently providing indispensable and thoughtful ideas and commentary," said **Executive Director, Katharine Huffman**. "Her influence has pushed our staff and network of experts to think critically and differently about the role and meaning of justice in our nation, and about how and why we must reckon with the role of race and racism - past and present - as we grapple with the future of justice and equity."

"Square One has shaped how I see myself contributing ideas about the future of justice and the possibility of racial reckoning in America," said **Rev. Vivian Nixon**. "This opportunity demonstrates the mission of College & Community Fellowship by opening doors that welcome voices through many disciplines. I am delighted to work beside the talented and committed team at Square One."

Rev. Nixon was an inaugural Columbia University Community Scholar and earned an MFA at Columbia in 2020. She is a recipient of the John Jay Medal for Justice, the Ascend Fellowship at the Aspen Institute, and the Soros Justice Fellowship.

“Vivian Nixon brings a critical and powerful perspective to the Square One Project’s work and will be an incredible asset to the emerging Racial Justice and Abolition Democracy project and our work on racial reckoning,” said **Bruce Western, Co-Director of the Columbia University Justice Lab and co-lead of the Racial Justice and Abolition Democracy Project**. “Square One will benefit enormously from her influence. I’m thrilled that she will be joining us as our Writer in Residence. I look forward to learning more from her as we move into this new phase of work.”

Vivian joined us for our virtual Roundtable convening “Examining Justice Reform and the Social Contract in the United States: Implications for Justice Policy and Practice.” Her full bio: <https://squareonejustice.org/expert/vivian-nixon/>

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About the Square One Project

The Square One Project at the Columbia Justice Lab aims to reimagine justice and create a pathway for reckoning in our country. Square One incubates new thinking on responses to racism, poverty and violence; promotes equitable safety and community thriving; and advances narrative and cultural change. Learn more about the Square One Project at squareonejustice.org

About the Justice Lab

The Justice Lab at Columbia University seeks to foundationally reconceive justice policy through actionable research, community-centered policy development, and the sustained engagement of diverse constituencies. We envision a community-centered future for justice in which healing and resiliency, rather than punishment and surveillance, are used to solve social problems often rooted in racial and economic inequity. Follow us on Twitter [@CUJusticeLab](https://twitter.com/CUJusticeLab)