



YOUNG WOMEN OF COLOR AND UNJUSTICE⁺¹

Structural barriers are **systemic challenges** embedded in our culture, economy, and institutions that **cause inequality**. Produced by systems of power, they require **large-scale investment** and **policy solutions** to achieve meaningful change. CLASP conducted focus groups* with young women of color to learn what structural barriers they encounter in daily life. This fact sheet includes insights from **gender non-conforming** and **Latina** young people about experiences with injustice. Uprooting injustice and other structural barriers demands **turning over the ground** to reveal these root causes, **partnering with young women of color** to identify solutions, and **seeding change** in equitable ground.

COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES



Collateral consequences are the barriers that prevent previously incarcerated individuals from reintegrating into society. The collateral consequences of being previously incarcerated impact a person's community, families, and wellbeing.²



Between 60 and 75 percent of people who are formerly incarcerated face persistent unemployment up to a year after their release.³



Formerly incarcerated individuals are only able to find work in low-wage jobs, which hinders them from being able to adequately provide for their families.⁴

"... My boyfriend I'm currently living with him and he has a problem with his record and all that ...you know I wanted him to fix it so I told him I would work too you know."

- Central Valley





CRIMMIGRATION

“And it’s actually harder on immigrants so that would help you know they could get jobs without having to need that. My mom she has trouble looking for jobs when she needs one because she doesn’t have papers or like she has a felony ... It wasn’t her fault, but you know yeah it’s there, so she can’t get jobs because of that.”

- Central Valley

Crimmigration is the intersection between the criminal justice system and the immigration system.⁵

10%

One in 10 people in the U.S. is in federal prison today due to an immigration offense.⁶

30%

Between 2016 and 2017, immigration and customs enforcement arrests increased by 30%.⁷

The Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE) office tracks and publishes crimes committed by immigrants, assuming all immigrants are public-safety threats. However, the majority of crimes committed by immigrants are nonviolent and traffic violations.⁸

OVERPOLICING AND STATE SANCTIONED VIOLENCE

“I have a lot of things to get me killed... black, trans, running a red light.”

- Washington, DC



Nearly half (46%) of transgender individuals are uncomfortable with seeking police assistance.⁹



LGBTQ+ and transgender individuals experience heightened rates of family and intimate partner violence and sexual assault and are frequently revictimized when they seek help.¹⁰

20%

In 2015, one in five (20%) individuals who identifies as transgender—and was incarcerated in jail, prison, or juvenile detention in the past year—was sexually assaulted by facility staff during that time.¹¹

⁵h 2017, CLASP conducted five focus groups with African American, Hmong American, Native, and Latina girls and young women as well as gender non-conforming youth as part of a research project with Frontline Solutions focused on structural barriers and identity. Different groups of young women highlighted different structural barriers and each group that we spoke to is not represented on every fact sheet. + “Unjustice” is a new term coined at CLASP that describes the power and authority unjustly wielded against communities of color by law enforcement throughout time.

¹ Kisha Bird, Duy Pham, and Justin Edwards, Unjustice: Overcoming Trump’s Rollbacks on Youth Justice, 2018. https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/publications/2018/10/2018.10.10_unjustice.pdf

² CLASP, Request for Comments: Collateral Consequences, 2017. <https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/publications/2017/08/cross-team-collateral-consequences-statement.pdf>

³ Ibid.

⁵ Justice Roundtable, Crimmigration, 2018. <https://justiceroundtable.org/issue/crimmigration/>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Kisha Bird, Duy Pham, and Justin Edwards, Unjustice: Overcoming Trump’s Rollbacks on Youth Justice, 2018. https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/publications/2018/10/2018.10.10_unjustice.pdf

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ National Center for Transgender Equity, Reforming Police and Ending Anti-Transgender Violence, <https://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/NCTE%20Federal%20Blueprint%20Chapter%206%20Police%20and%20Ending%20Violence.pdf>

¹⁰ Human Rights Campaign, Sexual Assault and the LGBTQ Community, <https://www.hrc.org/resources/sexual-assault-and-the-lgbt-community>

¹¹ Ibid.