



#UNJUSTICE: OVERCOMING TRUMP'S ROLLBACKS ON YOUTH JUSTICE

CLASP

Policy solutions that work for low-income people

Busboys and Poets
2021 14th St. NW
Washington, D.C.

November 27, 2018
12:00 pm – 2:30 pm EST

Lunch and Registration | 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Kisha Bird**, Director of Youth Policy, CLASP

Featured Poet

- **James Allen**, Free Minds Poet Ambassador, Free Minds Book Club

Panel: Overcoming Trump's Rollbacks

- **Jamira Burley**, Activist and Senior Fellow, Community Justice Reform Coalition
- **Marcy Mistrett**, Chief Executive Officer, Campaign for Youth Justice
- **Carlil Pittman**, Co-founder, Good Kids, Mad City
- **Jonathan Smith**, Executive Director, Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
- **Sameera Hafiz**, Senior Policy Strategist, Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)
- **MODERATOR: Kisha Bird**, Director of Youth Policy, CLASP

Featured Poet

- **Jordan Toney**, Free Minds Poet Ambassador, Free Minds Book Club

Closing Remarks & Call to Action

- **Duy Pham**, Research Assistant, CLASP

Speaker Biographies

JAMIRA BURLEY (@Jamiraburley)

For more than a decade, Jamira has worked at the intersection of policy, community, and social good to provide unique insights that will help actualize the change we all so desperately need.

Coming from a family where both of her parents and 12 of her 13 brothers have been incarcerated, Jamira's advocacy is very personal. As the first of 16 children to graduate from high school and pursue higher education, Jamira is a Temple University graduate. Having worked for over six years at the School District of Philadelphia as a youth development coordinator, Jamira was recruited by Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter to lead the City of Philadelphia Youth Commission. As Executive Director for the Youth Commission, she represented the interests of over 600,000 Philadelphia youths and worked to ensure youth voices were represented at every level of decision-making.

Most recently, Jamira worked as the National Deputy Millennial Vote Director at Hillary For America (HFA) where she developed national and state-based strategies to engage and inform millennials from a range of backgrounds and interests. Prior to HFA, Jamira managed the gun violence and criminal justice portfolios at Amnesty International USA—one of the first and largest human rights organizations in the world. Overseeing collaboration with partners and Amnesty's national and international membership base, Jamira developed and implemented human rights driven campaigns.

As a result of Jamira's unwavering commitment to social change, she has been appointed to state commissions by Governor Ed Rendell and Governor Tom Wolf—both of Pennsylvania—and city commissions by Mayor Michael Nutter of Philadelphia and Mayor Muriel Bowser of Washington, DC.

During her appointment to the United Nations Global Education First Initiative; Youth Advocacy Group, Jamira traveled to over 15 countries speaking with heads of states and working with youth-serving organizations to advocate for the rights of every child to have access to quality education.

SAMEERA HAFIZ

Sameera Hafiz is the ILRC's Senior Policy Strategist based in Washington, DC. Sameera, who began working at the ILRC in 2017, leads the organization's advocacy and engagement on federal immigration policy. Sameera brings nearly two decades of experience supporting campaigns and coalitions focused on racial justice, fighting harsh immigration enforcement policies, and ending violence against women. Prior to joining the ILRC, Sameera was the Advocacy Director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance where she led the organization's anti-trafficking and immigration policy work, as well as the legal team.

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Previously, Sameera served as the Director of Policy and Campaigns at Rights Working Group, a national coalition addressing racial profiling and other human rights violations affecting communities of color in the US. Sameera was also a Senior Staff Attorney with the Legal Momentum Immigrant Women Program, where she advocated with legislators and executive agencies for policies supporting the needs of immigrant survivors of gender-based violence.

Prior to that, Sameera represented individuals before Citizenship and Immigration Services, immigration judges and the Board of Immigration Appeals with the Legal Aid Society of New York. She began her legal career at Safe Horizon, representing survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence in family and immigration matters.

Sameera earned her law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center where she participated in the International Women's Human Rights Clinic. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania where she double-majored in English and sociology. Sameera is admitted to the bar in New York and Washington, DC and is fluent in Bengali.

CARLIL PITTMAN (@CarlilPittman)

Carlil Pittman is the co-founder of Good Kids, Mad City, which is a movement against gun violence started in Chicago, IL during the aftermath of the Parkland shooting. Good Kids, Mad City focus on three pillars: investment in youth employment, investment in schools, and investment in communities. As the co-founder, Carlil provides youth in Chicago with the tools they need to organize peacefully.

Prior to leading Good Kids, Mad City, Carlil was a youth organizer at VOYCE, a multiracial alliance convened by Communities United made up of youth from across the city of Chicago. The organization builds the leadership and power of young people from Chicago to create change around issues of education and racial justice. In this position, Carlil was responsible for developing the next generation of young leaders.

MARCY MISTRETT (@mmistrett)

Marcy Mistrett has been the CEO at the Campaign for Youth Justice since 2014. The Campaign for Youth Justice advocates to end youth being charged, sentenced, and incarcerated as adults. In the decade since the organization opened, more than 35 states have changed their laws making it more difficult to treat children as adults by launching campaigns that are anchored in the experiences of the youth and families most impacted by these harmful policies.

Trained in social work, Marcy began her career working in community-based legal aid with court-involved youth. She worked as part of the legal team capturing psycho-social histories and contributing to mitigation reports for youth, particularly youth tried as adults. After seven years in direct service, Marcy worked at the Institute for Community Peace, a national funding collaborative focused on developing community-based responses to violence prevention. As the

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Director of Training and Evaluation, Marcy trained grantees on effective coalition building, promising practices in violence prevention, resident engagement, structural racism, and sustainability strategies. Marcy also oversaw \$2 million in evaluation grants to measure the collective impact of the community-driven initiatives.

Marcy left the Institute for Community Peace to open the D.C. office of The Posse Foundation, a national college success and leadership program that identified and trained young, urban leaders from diverse backgrounds, leveraged full-tuition college scholarships at top-tier colleges and universities, and supported them through college graduation and into careers, with a 90 percent graduation rate.

Prior to coming to CFYJ, Marcy was the Executive Director of a cooperative, play-based preschool in Washington DC and partner at Onward Consulting, a non-profit consulting practice in the District. She has her BA from American University and her AM in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago.

JONATHAN M. SMITH (@JonSmithWLC)

Jonathan M. Smith was appointed Executive Director of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs on July 1, 2016.

Immediately prior to joining the Committee, Mr. Smith was the Associate Dean of Experiential and Clinical Programs at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law.

Mr. Smith was the Chief of the Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice from 2010 to 2015. The Section was responsible for pattern or practice investigations of civil rights violations by law enforcement, correctional, juvenile justice, and mental health and developmental disability agencies. Under his leadership, the Section conducted the civil investigation of the Ferguson, Missouri Police Department following the death of Michael Brown.

Prior to his government services, Mr. Smith was the Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, the Public Justice Center in Baltimore, Maryland, and the D.C. Prisoners' Legal Services Project. In each of these positions, in addition to providing program leadership, he has handled individual, class action, and impact litigation, engaged in legislative advocacy and in institutional reform efforts. He started his career as an associate to Virginia civil rights lawyer Victor Glasberg.

KISHA BIRD (@KishaKBird)

Kisha Bird is CLASP's Director of Youth Policy. Ms. Bird works to expand access to education, employment, and support services for low-income and opportunity youth. She is an expert in federal youth policy and helps ensure national legislation has maximum impact for youth of color.

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Before joining CLASP, Ms. Bird was Director of the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network, working to make quality education and afterschool programs accessible to young people. Prior to that, she was a program officer at the Philadelphia Foundation, where she helped develop and manage the Fund for Children, Youth Advisory Board, and discretionary grants process. She also has direct service experience, working in various community settings with children, youth, and families. Ms. Bird holds a Master of Social Service and Master of Law and Social Policy from Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. Additionally, she earned a Bachelor's in Sociology from Spelman College.

DUY PHAM (@DPhamK)

Duy Pham is a research assistant with CLASP's Center for Postsecondary and Economic Success. He provides research support and analysis on postsecondary and workforce policy. Prior to joining CLASP, Duy was a public interest fellow at the Bell Policy Center in Denver, Colorado. He holds a bachelor's in international political economy from Colorado College and is currently pursuing his master's degree in public policy at the McCourt School at Georgetown University.

JORDAN TONEY (@FreeMindsDC)

Jordan Toney became one of Free Minds' youngest poet ambassadors in early 2018 after his incarceration as an adult at only 17 years old. Committed to defying the effects of mass incarceration, Jordan prevailed at the D.C. jail through participating in Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop.

Upon his release, he graduated from Caesar Chavez Public Charter School and began participating in the Free Minds Reentry program, as well as working in the organization's office to provide program support and promote non-violence and healing through sharing his story.

Jordan is an avid reader and former employer of the Howard University Hospital and D.C. Public Library. In the spring of 2019, Jordan will attend Harrisburg University to study business management.

JAMES ALLEN (@FreeMindsDC)

James Allen Jr. joined Free Minds in 2017 after serving 5 years in prison. He participated in the Reentry Book Club and Job Readiness Apprenticeship and trained as a Poet Ambassador. In 2018, he began working full time in the Free Minds office as the Congressman John Lewis Fellow, where he leads the violence prevention project called "On the Same Page" for underserved youth. He also serves as the Reentry & Outreach assistant providing program support, and using poetry and storytelling to raise awareness about the root causes of youth incarceration. Outside of Free Minds, he is a rapper and songwriter.