

**THE NEW YORK WOMEN'S FOUNDATION CREATES
COLLABORATIVE FUND
TO SUPPORT JUSTICE REFORM FOR WOMEN AND TO
HELP DISMANTLE MASS INCARCERATION**

*New Seven-Year Initiative Will Decrease Involvement of Women and Families
in All Phases of the Justice System*

(New York, NY, October 17, 2018) - [The New York Women's Foundation](#) announced today the creation of The Justice Fund, a new collaboration to help dismantle mass incarceration. Part of a seven-year grantmaking and philanthropic mobilization effort, the initiative will focus specifically on incarceration and its effects on women, girls and TGNC communities. The fund is the first of its kind in the country to engage in criminal justice reform through a lens of gender and racial equity.

Through The Justice Fund, The Foundation will invest in community-based and cross-sector solutions that significantly decrease the involvement of women and families in all phases and aspects of the justice system. Key among the priorities will be closing Rikers Island and investing in alternatives that promote justice, safety and overall well-being for these communities.

"As a public foundation rooted in and led by community experience, we have both a moral and practical imperative to leverage our resources towards a more just society for those traditionally at the margins," said **Ana Oliveira**, President & CEO of The New York Women's Foundation. "Our initiative will create a new paradigm for justice that dismantles unfair and biased systems and creates new paths for stability and opportunity in the lives of New York City women, families, and communities."

The fund will harness financial and other resources of a diverse set of funders committed to justice reform for women, TGNC individuals, families, and communities in New York City. Its framework for grantmaking will target organizations engaged in systems change and reform and community solutions and leadership.

Oliveira noted that insufficient attention has been paid to comprehensive policy and practice solutions that fully center issues of economic, racial and gender justice in their analysis and implementation. When women are jailed, the impact is far reaching and destabilizes families and entire communities, yet gender-specific solutions and long-term solutions for women and families involved in the criminal justice system remain elusive.

While the focus will be on efforts targeted toward women, girls and TGNC individuals, it will also recognize that ending the effects of mass incarceration for them means ending mass incarceration for all.

Community-led expertise, input and solutions will be central to the initiative and will include the voices and visions of individuals with histories of criminal justice involvement, community leaders and community-based organizations, and leaders from academia and research.

Key strategies for implementation include grantmaking and philanthropic mobilization; thought leadership and outreach that supports reform efforts and disseminates best practices; and partnerships with policymakers and leaders at the city and state level in coordinated reform efforts.

Informed by the experiences of system-involved individuals, The Justice Fund will engage in a variety of reform efforts. These include: local and citywide grassroots organizing that supports closing Rikers, with a focus on closing the Rose M. Singer Center early; bail reform efforts; capacity building for the ecosystem of local community organizations engaging in reform efforts; investment in community solutions in the early stages of development in areas such as housing, mental health, and leadership development; and education and training for families. The initiative was unveiled at a panel discussion titled *A New Paradigm for Justice: Centering Women and Families* presented by The New York Women's Foundation and New York Philanthropy. To watch the panel, please visit [here](#).

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[About The New York Women's Foundation](#)

Since 1987, The New York Women's Foundation has advanced a dynamic philanthropic strategy based on the fundamental reality that, when women thrive, their families and communities also thrive. The Foundation's grantmaking places it at the top of public women's foundations in the United States, and in the top two in the world. We invest in women-led, community-based solutions that promote the economic security, safety, and health of the most vulnerable women in New York City. We foster women's leadership, create partnerships that spark catalytic change, exchange insights with experts across sectors, and empower women by training them in activism and philanthropy to accelerate and sustain forward progress. Visit <http://www.nywf.org> to learn more about our work to transform lives, families, and communities – and create a better New York City for all.

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