



SSND Solidarity Summer Week Three, Mass Incarceration



Monday's SSND Solidarity Summer Webinar:

Featured Dr. Amy Levad, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics at the University of St. Thomas, who described the dozens of incremental steps that took us from the "war on drugs" to a crisis of mass incarceration that disproportionately affects people of color in the United States.

- Links to the July 27 Solidarity Summer webinar recording – [Mass Incarceration](#) and to Professor Levad's [Prezi Presentation Materials](#)
(A closed captioning enabled recording of the presentation can be [found here](#).)
- Link to the [Q & A session](#) that followed Professor Levad's original presentation
- Link to presentation reactions shared via chat - [Download PDF of July 27 Chats](#)

For links to the recording and related materials from our first webinar - [click here](#).

For links to the recording and related materials from our second webinar - [click here](#).

Optional Small Group Faith-Sharing Sessions on Thursday:

You are invited to join other webinar participants in some small group faith sharing this Thursday. We have two sessions, one at 2:30 pm and another at 6:30 pm. Each session will last less than an hour. Participants will be divided into small groups (4-6 people per group) for the faith-sharing. No reservations or Bluejeans app required, just click on the Bluejeans Meeting link below on Thursday to participate.

Faith-Sharing Sessions – just click on the link below to participate

- Thursday 2:30 pm Session - <https://bluejeans.com/131403397>
- Thursday 6:30 pm Session - <https://bluejeans.com/686457762>

Activity for Personal Integration:

1) If you haven't done so already, please consider taking the implicit bias test. [Click here to take the implicit bias test](#) through "Project Implicit."

Afterwards, take a few moments to reflect on the findings, and write down some initial reactions. If you have never taken the test before, consider your first test a baseline. You might return to the test in future years to see if the results have shifted.

2) Learn more about federal and state prison reform efforts. Write your elected representatives and urge their support.

For Personal Reflection:

What surprises, alarms, confuses you about the following statements?

- The politics of fear and anger cause Americans to tolerate things within the criminal justice system that are unjust.
- White supremacy is resilient. It keeps adapting to remain in control.
- 76% of people held by jails have not been convicted of any crime. With an average bail set at \$10,000.00, those who have to remain in jail are poor. The poorest are women and people of color.
- 6.1 million Americans are barred from voting because of a felony. In some states the person cannot vote for a lifetime.

For Further Study:

- Sylvester, Nancy. [This moment calls for a new consciousness: becoming an anti-racist](#), NCR Global Sisters Report.
- Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: New York Press, 2010
- Boyle, Gregory. *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*. New York: Free Press, 2010
- Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. New York: Spiegel and Grau, 2014

Fresh Air Episodes:

- ['Charged' Explains How Prosecutors And Plea Bargains Drive Mass Incarceration](#)
- [Is America Engaged in a "Vicious Cycle" of Jailing the Poor?](#)
- [How Can America Reduce Mass Incarceration?](#)

Websites:

- [Prison Policy Initiative](#)
- [Prison Gerrymandering Project](#)
- [The Sentencing Project](#)
- [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#)
- [Children's Defense Fund](#)
- [Vera Institute for Justice](#)
- [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#)

We are grateful for your participation in our SSND Solidarity Summer initiative. May our collective efforts lead to personal and communal transformation and ultimately help make the dismantling of racism a reality.

Sincerely,

CP Shalom Racial Justice Committee - Susan Adrians, Gen Cassani, Vicki Chambers, Tim Dewane, Maria Gomez, Gail Guelker, Vincella Lake, Rose Mercurio, Nancy McNemar, Barbara Pfarr, Waltermarie Ray, and Karen Walther