

Last Year 24,500 People Came Home from Prison in New York

What is the New York Reentry Roundtable?

Most of the 55,000 people incarcerated in New York State will be released at some point; many will return to their home communities in New York City. Once released, these men and women face discrimination in jobs, housing, credit, and other areas. The Community Service Society (CSS) formed the **New York Reentry Roundtable** in 2005 to address barriers that contribute to high rates of unemployment, poverty, and increased recidivism among the formerly incarcerated.

Sharing Information, Building Alliances

Each month, the New York Reentry Roundtable invites formerly incarcerated people, direct service providers, government agency representatives, family members, and other community activists to come together to develop and promote policies that support formerly incarcerated New Yorkers seeking to re-connect to family life, work, and their communities.

The Roundtable represents more than 60 stakeholder organizations, providing a unique forum for networking, information sharing, and building alliances in support of systemic change at the New York State level through a legislative agenda focused on

- Education
- Employment
- Family connections
- Parole and sentencing
- Housing
- Voting rights



Roundtable Perspectives

Recent Roundtable guest speakers include:

Dionna King, Community Organizer, and **Mel Gagarin**, Senior Associate of Public Affairs, College & Community Fellowship

Five Mualimm-Ak, Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement; Executive Director, Incarcerated Nation Corp.

Jaya Vasandani, **LadyKathryn Williams-Julien**, and **Anisah Sabur**, Coalition for Women Prisoners, Correctional Association of NY

Glenn Martin, Founder of JustLeadershipUSA

Judy Whiting, General Counsel, CSS

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“The Roundtable is an invaluable space for the NYS reentry communities to exchange ideas and take action.”

Glenn Martin, JustLeadershipUSA

MASS IMPRISONMENT & REENTRY INITIATIVES: Albany Advocacy Day

About Albany Advocacy Day

As an outgrowth of the New York Reentry Roundtable, CSS established “Albany Advocacy Day” in 2007. Each year since then, more than 100 participants have traveled with us to the state capital to advocate for policies to help New Yorkers with conviction histories overcome tough legal barriers to rebuilding their lives

During in-person discussions with elected officials and staff, Albany Advocacy Day attendees present the year’s legislative Agenda—a set of bills that address critical issues for people with conviction histories and those who are incarcerated.



Albany Advocacy Day legislative agenda promotes increased access to education, expanded employment opportunities, more humane parole, effective alternatives to long-term solitary confinement, and other issues of critical importance to New Yorkers with conviction histories, their families, and communities.

Removing Barriers, Rebuilding Lives

The 2015 Albany Advocacy Day Agenda includes three bills to help New Yorkers with conviction histories find stability and support in their lives after prison:

- **The Domestic Violence Survivors' Justice Act** would—among other common-sense provisions—allow judges greater discretion in sentencing of domestic violence (DV) survivors convicted of crimes directly related to the abuse they suffered, and who pose no threat to public safety.
- **The Fair Access to Education Act** recognizes that access to higher education plays a critical—and proven—role in the successful and productive reintegration into society of people who have a past conviction.
- **Humane Alternatives to Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act** offers effective, humane alternatives to long-term solitary confinement.



Visit www.cssny.org to learn more about the New York Reentry Roundtable, Albany Advocacy Day, and how you can join the movement for change.