

Reform & Advocacy

Washington Community Action Network is the largest grassroots organization in Washington State. With 44,000 members, we fight for health equality, economic justice, immigrant rights, and an end to mass incarceration. We organize and develop leadership of people of color and people in poverty, who drive campaigns to defend the well-being and self-determination of their communities. In recent years, Washington CAN has recognized punitive approaches to incarceration do not have a net positive impact on society. Community organizers have worked in coalitions to update and rewrite Washington's sentencing structure, while helping families impacted by incarceration share their stories with legislators and the public. Over the past two legislative sessions, the Community Review Board bill has gained traction and Washington CAN will continue to send community members to Olympia to share the economic, community and personal impact incarceration has had on their families until the bill is passed.

www.washingtoncan.org

Legal Aid

Columbia Legal Services works for communities to dismantle our racialized criminal justice system. We believe that the poor shouldn't face harsher punishment than the rich. We work to ensure that people who are returning home after imprisonment should have a chance to find work, a job, and care for their health and for their families.

<https://columbialegal.org/issues/criminal-justice-reform/>

The Washington Innocence Project Clinic, formerly Innocence Project Northwest (IPNW), the only resource of its kind in Washington state, works to free innocent prisoners, remedy causes of wrongful conviction and offer law students an outstanding education. The efforts of Washington Innocence Project attorneys, clinic students and volunteers have exonerated 14 men and women who collectively served over 100 years in prison for crimes they did not commit. Clinic students at the Washington Innocence Project gain an understanding of why the criminal justice system makes errors and learn about ways the system can be reformed to decrease the number of wrongful convictions.

<https://www.law.uw.edu/academics/experiential-learning/clinics/ipnw>