

AMC 2012

Hi ladies and gentleman,

I would like to start by giving thanks to between the Bars and the other grassroots organizations that are finally talking about the mass incarceration of people of color. My name is Marcel Ware I'm 36 years old and an African American male currently serving time in Wisconsin, one of the main states that incarcerate Black and Latino men at an alarming rate. As we address these issues we must be truthful about race here in America, and go at this methodically about all the issues leading up to mass incarceration of people of color, and the caste system that has been passed down from generation to generation.

First I would like to explain the different caste systems that have plagued the African American community. The first caste system was surrounding slavery we all know about the Civil War, in Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation which never gave us freedom (can be debated). The Civil War destroyed the Southerner way of life because it was depended upon the labor of the slaves, so once the war ended the Blacks started to leave the South but most stayed behind to try to make a life for themselves.

For the small time they were free there were things put in place like the Constitutional Amendments guaranteeing "equal protection of the law", and the right to vote but never enforce. This would lead to a caste system as well with Black people living in very poor conditions. Once again not giving the basic right to vote in live in peace, don't forget we were forced to come here we didn't come by choice. The next caste system was the Jim Crow the Southerner tried very hard to sustain their way of life on the backs of people of color, I will not go into a big dialogue about the Jim Crow because we all know what happened. For the purpose of this conversation I will like to add a few more things concerning this issue Blacks did for a brief time have their spot in the sun. They held the most spots in office back then, that was the most African American in politics every in the history of African Americans.

The White Southerner started a major campaign to take back the South hence the rise of the K.K.K. and the caste system that's maintain today. Since the South lost the Civil War they had to put in place a caste system that to the North looked legit so they pass laws like Vagrancy, Mischief, insulting gestures that were towards Blacks. They made these acts criminal, so that the people who committed these minor acts where fine in made to work there fines off, making the highest prison population of color men and women at that time. Now you have to remember these laws were pass for a reason to undermine the federal mandates that were put in place, some of the people who where part of these hurtful acts were

Sentence to jail time once the North Caught Wind of what was going on in the South.

As the pressure from the K.K.K started being felt in the North, politicians start caving in to the pressure so there were unspoken laws passed around the United States, even though blacks were being incarcerated and be little it wasn't doing what they thought it would do. Then comes J. Edgar Hoover who flooded the ghettos with heroin with the help of different organization, but what they didn't expect was it ending up in the home of the suburban Anglo-Saxons, then the problem ward out of control. I know some of you maybe listening to this speech doubting the information that im passing along, see its been known in the African American community whats been going on for a long time just no one speaks about this situation.

This is out of Michelle Alexander book Quote: The C.I.A Also admitted that in the midst of the war on drugs it block law enforcement efforts to investigate illegal drug networks that were helping to fund its covert war in Nicaragua.

These drugs found there way into the Black Communitys addicting our mothers and fathers with no one addressing the over all addiction, leaving the early 1970's and late 1970's with an infestation of the Black Community. I come from such an infestation I started with an two parent home my stepfather had a good job at ~~on~~ wealth Edison my mother was a stay at home mom, until they were introduce to cocaine and heroin. The drugs hit my family like an atom bomb we went from the middle class family to living with people it destroyed us, but there both been in recovery for 10 to 20 years and I love them both.

When Regan declare war on drugs, drugs wasn't even the main thing that Americans were weary about, but the Regan - Administration went on a massive campaign in the media showing gang members being arrested, Black people murder in the street. The media is a powerful tool when use good or bad, that wasn't the only thing Regan talk about, the infamous picture of the Black woman as a warfare queen didn't make matter any better. Let me say this before I go any further when Regan went down South in made the speech on how he was going to make things like they use to be what was he speaking about? Well I will be the first to say it was a racial over tone, listen to the politicians today when they speak of putting things back like Regan had them, what are they putting back? Newt Gingrich the whole time he ran in the Republican primary he always said Regan is his favorite

President, And what was the killer is when he said instead of letting them kids grow up with role models as pimps and drug dealers lets make them work, Again who is them? The media use it for about two or three days then nothing else was ever said about the issue again. ~~_____~~ The reason I'm all over the place is that I'm trying to get you to see if we don't talk about race first how can we have an honest conversation about the mass incarceration of people of color. After the Reagan administration came Bush Sr. which he kept basically the same tactics as Reagan, then came to Bill Clinton Black folks swear he was the closest to a Black president we'd ever have. Unbeknownst to the Black folks Clinton made life for blacks hell. He pass a \$30 billion dollar crime bill in August 1994 also he authorized more than \$16 billion for state prison grants and expansion of state and local police forces. Congress revised the program that provides federal aid to law enforcement and called it the Edward Byrne memorial state and local law enforcement assistance program. Clinton also endorse the federal three strikes and your out law, and he enforce the one strike in your out law that if you had an felony on your record you couldn't apply for public housing. And if you were on housing in you had a felony you were automatically took off the public housing program. Under president Clinton was the largest increase in federal and state prison inmates of any president in American history! you can disagree to disagree the reason Clinton was successful with the budget and reaching over to work with Republicans because he use the same Reagan agenda but amp up by 100 times more. Of course you all know this already plus ~~lets~~ not forget the responsibility and work opportunity - Reconciliation Act were you had to work to get welfare.

I just want to throw this in, I love president Obama but once he got in office he kept his word even though there was warnings about the Byrne grant program he gave them \$2 billion in new Byrne funding and \$600 million to increase state and local law enforcement across the country. Tell me if the only Black president don't stand up for us then who will? And they wonder why the up with are desensitize and the killing of Black on Black men is at a record high, The three things they know they have coming is 1. Not leaving the hood 2. prison 3. Death, and that's sad but so true. Before I get off track let me back track, Now this Byrne grants affects the Black and Latino community at an alarming rate and hence ~~state~~ another caste system. First you have to understand that the money the federal government gives the local law enforcement agency is with a catch 22, you have to have a certain percentage of drug arrests to apply for the Byrne grant, so its an incentive for law enforcement to round

As many people as they can, plus they give them military equipment to use - when they go on Raids. That's like I own this company that make screw drivers I tell my workers that they make \$8.25 AN hour plus Rate meaning After they make 10,000 screw drivers anything After that I pay you by the bundle. They will work harder to make that extra money, that's know different than Law enforcement, All blacks know to be Careful on Tuesday and Thursday because that vice day, you go outside on your own Risk because the police will - Snatch you up in put dope on you. ~~Even if you didn't have anything on you.~~

I feel like were fighting a losing battle, on one hand the Black Democrats be the main ones talking about there going to be tuff on Crime I guess they feel like in order to get elected they have to say there going to be tuff on Crime, that's whats killing the Black Community We need to start holding them Accountable for there Actions. IF I get out of prison and I don't have my family then I'm out of Luck because I can't get public housing or welfare. I can't go to College because I have a drug offence, I'm 36 years old I NEVER Voted in my life but I pay taxes they'll take my money, and its not promise that I'll get a job. I know that I'm not going to starve or live on the streets then they wonder why there's a high Rate of Recidivism in the Black and Latino - Community.

The truth has Always been Right in front of us, Now the truth has become there Adversary and our Advocate so we - Most Continue to fight the Righteous fight. We'll brandish truth like a sword and triumph as our banner, they may have won the "battle" But we'll win the "war". The prison system has and still remains to be a metaphorical place of transformation, as you already know the Black and Latino Community is in a crises and the systematic slaughter of our children is at an - Epic proportion. This generation is Deceendance of us "The Seed of the father" there's a Biblical principal that has practical implications. What so ever a man sowth, that shall he also reap. A seed produces After its own kind, that's the natural occurance of things. IF WE sow violence; WE shall reap violence, IF WE sow Hate, WE shall reap discord. yet if WE Neglect parenting our children WE ARE INADVERTANTLY, setting them up to fail, Its our Sole Responsibility to stop this repetitive Destructive cycle and the mass incarceration of people of color. There has been and still remains to be a mass generation of young men that's interring these Institution at an Alarming Rate, I've seen the subtle transition of prison population. They're younger and unfortunate the off spring of Neglegant parents, failed systems, Impoverish Communities and many things that lead people to places such as this prison.

I Would Like to close this Essay by Saying Most often WE have to go through something to understand its meaning, I don't think I would have Developed into the person I Am today. IF I Wouldn't have gone through what I'm going through. Now; "Gold is Refine by fire" This Experience has both trayed And Challenged me in Every Essence of my being I've been forced, even compell to Reevaluate Who I Am As a person. I must Confess Self ANALIZATION And EVALUATION Can only be ~~achieved~~ Achieved With Absolute Humility And Honesty in Who WE ARE OR Adwedge to Believe in Who people Say WE ARE.

FOR YEARS I Lived A Lie And thought I WAS something I Wasn't and because of this belief I Lived A social pathic, Suicidal life style; WE All Lived that way (my friends). What else explains the Devalue And Deappreciation For human life, IF WE Disregarded our own life. Instead of locking us up give us help With drugs And Alcohole because it murders the soul And Desensitive the Conscience, OF COURSE, I didn't Realize this until I Embark on my Quest I Discover I WAS in prison way before I made it to prison, What A Disturbing Reality. That - Demeritization paralized my soul And HAUNTED my mind until I was willing to except the truth that the ~~Depressivity~~ **Depressivity** of my mind made me Capable of doing anything. I Believe that's Not who I've Always been but WAS Conformed into. The Street - Demoralize A person making us more sinicle And Suceptable to victimizing - people, who would WANT to think of themselves in such AWAY. WE All have potential And undiscovered talents to be anything in life, UNFORTUNATLY, WE WAIST them And End up in places like this prison.

Question

What ARE the most pressing issue that the Network should focus on (examples; high Cost of phone Access, mental health, Employment, voting Rights) The Solution to the phone problem is very simple fix its a Company called "Correctional Billing" For me to call from Wisconsin to Chicago on the old phone system would cost me \$20.00 dollar for a 15 minute call. Now that the prison uses Correctional Billing its \$12cents a minute for All-local calls, And \$18cents a minute for long distance anywhere in the USA.

The mental health issue is A serious problem in these prison because A lot of these younger guys come through these doors with serious issue And the repeatedly go back in forth to the hole then the prison puts them on Administration Confidement (A/C) to keep them lock-up 24 hours A day that's Not Addressing the Issue. WE Need to set A Volunteer mental health program in each state or non-profit that they take turns visiting the prison N give the in house doctor there finding And every 6 month the All get togeth in their states With A member from Congress or senate And Address the Over All Issue At hand ~~us~~ it saves the state money!

~~Employment?~~ Employment? Most state have programs for the inmates, like they give company TAXS breaks in things like that but the inmates are Not told of these program

Like bonding programs and when the money is not use in a certain time limit they use that money for other things that may have nothing to do with ex-cons. WE need to stand on these programs that's getting federal funding for ex-con and make them use the money for what its for, the ex-cons!

Voting Rights? WE need to lobby the Congress heavy about this issue 7 million black men and women are on probation or parole in the United States including the prison population it maybe more. WE need to make the case that our founding fathers that were kick out of England for murder, rape and everything else, they even then had a say in what would become America. I feel that they know the balance of power would shift strongly in the black and latino community, what we can argue is that ~~it~~ it violates our constitutional right by us paying taxes, not only that, another argument is voter suppression on the fact that they sentence black and latino men to out-raggeous sentence that never will be completed and we show them facts because its true, just look these things up by states.

How can organization working to end mass incarceration do better? Simply by communicating with each other by the different states, I mean if something working in your state e-mail another organization and let them know your break through in the end were fighting for the something!

What support do you need that you are not getting? These prison are so far from our homes that alot of inmates lose contact with there family, and family is very important and better education for as colleges, Wisconsin is getting rid of a lot of educational programs not letting the inmates grow mentally!

Are there any changes to laws that we should advocate for? Yes! The sentence structure were doing more time then the federal inmates the feds pass a crack law that reduces the sentence of someone who sold crack why havent these states adopt this law, in Wisconsin for a sale of one bag of crack your doing anywhere from 3-6 years and your doing either the 3 years or the 6 years which ever you get straight, so if I get I have to do 6 years with 8 years paper that's crazy, when the feds catch you with 2 and half ounce you get 6 years you only do 4 ~~years~~ years. This is the issue that needs to be address nation wide.

How can we use media to advance these causes? WE need to use the internet and organize meeting to gather and talk about all the issue at hand, and have people like michelle Alexander speak who know about these problem and like I said before communicate with each other.