

# YOUTH ADVOCACY RESOURCE LIST

## YOUTH COALITIONS AND OTHER GRASSROOTS GROUPS

**Berkeley Youth Alternatives**, has served youth and families by providing comprehensive services in a supportive and bias-free haven. During a period of soaring dropout rates, juvenile crime, drug abuse, and family breakdown, Berkeley Youth Alternatives has successfully helped thousands of young people sustain themselves on the difficult journey toward becoming productive and contributing adults. BYA fosters the success of youth and families through prevention and intervention services catered to encompass the mental, emotional, physical and social dimensions of development.

1255 Allston Way  
Berkeley, CA 94702  
Phone: 510-845-9010  
[www.byaonline.org](http://www.byaonline.org)

**Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth** works independently to change city policies and programs through advocacy, research, public education, and development of creative, cost-effective proposals on issues such as child welfare, health, juvenile justice, and recreation. Sponsors 'The Kids Network', a citizen watchdog group with a free newsletter for activists.

459 Vienna Street  
San Francisco, CA 94112  
Phone: 415-239-0161  
[www.colemanadvocates.org](http://www.colemanadvocates.org)

**Critical Resistance** seeks to build an international movement to end the Prison Industrial Complex by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people makes us safe.

1904 Franklin St., Suite 504  
Oakland, CA 94612  
phone: 510-444-0484  
[www.criticalresistance.org](http://www.criticalresistance.org)

**The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights** is an umbrella organization that coordinates **Bay Area Police Watch, Books not Bars, Let's Get Free, Freedom Fighter Music, Family Advocacy Project**, and other projects. These are very active, diverse, youth-based groups. At the core of their work they address institutional racism, the need for the reallocation of public resources to restore communities, and the need for reconciliation and rehabilitation among many other issues. Also, check out the recent press releases and news coverage in their press room:

[www.ellabakercenter.org/page.php?pageid=33](http://www.ellabakercenter.org/page.php?pageid=33)

Ella Baker Center  
1230 Market Street, PMB #409  
San Francisco, CA  
[www.ellabakercenter.org](http://www.ellabakercenter.org)  
[www.booksnotbars.org](http://www.booksnotbars.org)

**JustAct** is a national, nonprofit organization promoting youth leadership and action for global justice. Founded by students in 1983 as the Overseas Development Network, the organization has been a forum for thousands of young people to engage in struggles for social, economic and environmental justice.

JustAct  
333 Valencia Street, Suite 325  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
[www.justact.org](http://www.justact.org)

**Juvies:** The website of the documentary *Juvies*, narrated by actor Mark Wahlberg. This site advocates for the rights of juvenile defendants and also provides links to other resources on juvenile justice.

[www.juvies.net](http://www.juvies.net)

**LISTEN: Local Initiative Support Training and Education Network** is a national intermediary dedicated to building the organizational capacity of youth movement groups through training, support and technical assistance. LISTEN believes that effective youth leadership exists on street corners, in crowded classrooms, in juvenile detention centers, in youth development organizations and in street organizations.

LISTEN, Inc.  
413 A Eighth Street SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
Phone: 202-544-5520  
[www.lisn.org](http://www.lisn.org)

**YO! Youth Outlook** is an award-winning literary journal of youth life in the Bay Area. Featuring in-depth reporting pieces and first-person essays, comic strips and poetry pages, *YO!* is the communication outlet for youth who feel their voice and visions need to be seen and heard.

**The Beat Within**, has excellent links. A weekly publication of art and writing from the inside.

Contact info for YO! and The Beat Within

275 9th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415-503-4170  
[www.youthoutlook.org](http://www.youthoutlook.org)  
[www.thebeatwithin.org](http://www.thebeatwithin.org)

**Prison Moratorium Project** is a grassroots organization dedicated to halting prison expansion, empowering youth and other constituencies affected by prison expansion, and advocating for a fair, effective and humane criminal justice system.

180 Varick Street, (12th flr.),

New York, NY

212-727-8610 x23

[www.nomoreprisons.org](http://www.nomoreprisons.org)

**Southeast Regional Economic Justice Network's** mission is to build an inclusive, intergenerational economic justice movement that creates fullness of life for all. REJN was organized to enable organizations of Southern workers, women, and youth, and the general public to better understand and proactively respond to economic restructuring and worsening conditions in Southern communities.

Southeast Regional Economic Justice Network, Inc.

P.O. Box 240

Durham, North Carolina

27702-0240

Phone: 919-683-4310

[www.rejn.org](http://www.rejn.org)

**Youth Action** is a youth organizing intermediary focused on the southwestern US, which offers training and technical assistance to grassroots youth groups in rural and other underserved areas.

YouthAction

PO Box 12372

Albuquerque, NM 87195

Phone: 505-873-3345

[www.youthaction.net](http://www.youthaction.net)

**Youth Force Coalition (YFC)** is a coalition of youth organizations fighting against the oppressive attacks particularly on communities of color, and focusing especially on the Prison Industrial Complex.

1357A Fifth Street

Oakland, CA 94607

Phone: (510) 451-5466 x302

[www.yfc.youthec.org](http://www.yfc.youthec.org)

[www.youthec.org/index.html](http://www.youthec.org/index.html)

**Youth in Focus** provides support and training to youth groups on youth-led research, evaluation and planning.

San Francisco Bay Area Office

1611 Telegraph Ave. #510

Oakland, CA 94612

[www.youthinfocus.net](http://www.youthinfocus.net)

Melissa Chabran,  
Public School Improvement Initiative  
Phone: 510-251-9800 x304

Central Valley Office  
1930 East 8th Street, #300  
Davis, CA 95616  
Phone: 530-758-3688

**Youth Media Council** trains young people and youth organizations on media advocacy to strengthen the impact of these groups' campaigns for equity and social justice.

Listen Up!

6 E. 32nd St., 8th Floor  
New York, NY 10016  
Phone: 212-725-7000

[www.pbs.org/merrow/listenup/](http://www.pbs.org/merrow/listenup/)

**Youth Space** is a city-wide youth-run recreation, entertainment, and entrepreneurial center which is a collaborative effort of numerous youth organizations. They have many projects to serve youth in San Francisco, such as young adult homeless shelters, HIV/AIDS services, and others.

1025 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
phone: 415-861-6566 or 415.861.6555

[www.arkofrefuge.org](http://www.arkofrefuge.org)

## **ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST TO WOMEN**

**The Center for Young Women's Development** provides gender specific, peer based opportunities for high-risk low- and no-income young women to build healthier lives and healthier communities. They also publish the "Know Justice Handbook," a highly readable document with pertinent legal information for youth. One of their main projects is the Girls Detention Advocacy Project.

1550 Bryant Street, Suite #700  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415-703-8800

[www.cywd.org](http://www.cywd.org)

**JusticeWorks Community** educates, organizes and mobilizes a national partnership of religious and secular grassroots groups to advocate for just and humane criminal justice policies for women.

1012 Eighth Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Phone: 718-499-6704  
[www.justiceworks.org](http://www.justiceworks.org)

**Legal Services for Prisoners with Children** advocates for the human rights and empowerment of incarcerated parents, children, family members and people at risk for incarceration. Their focus is on women prisoners and their families, and they emphasize that issues of race are central to any discussion of incarceration.

1540 Market St., Suite 490

San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: 415-255-7036

[www.prisonerswithchildren.org](http://www.prisonerswithchildren.org)

## **ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING ISSUES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

The **Building Blocks for Youth** initiative is an alliance of children and youth advocates, researchers, law enforcement professionals and community organizers that seeks to reduce overrepresentation and disparate treatment of youth of color in the justice system and promote fair, rational and effective juvenile justice policies.

Youth Law Center

1010 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 310

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202-637-0377

[www.buildingblocksforyouth.org](http://www.buildingblocksforyouth.org)

**The National Center on Education, Disability, and Juvenile Justice** is a collaborative research, training, technical assistance and dissemination program designed to develop more effective responses to the needs of youth with disabilities in the juvenile justice system or those at-risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system. See also article:

[www.edjj.org/Publications/put\\_06\\_13\\_00\\_2.html](http://www.edjj.org/Publications/put_06_13_00_2.html) “Differential Treatment of African American Youth” by Will Drakeford and Lili Frank Garfinkle

National Center on Education, Disability and Juvenile Justice

1224 Benjamin Building

College Park, MD 20742

Phone: 301-405-6462

[www.edjj.org](http://www.edjj.org)

The **W. Haywood Burns Institute for Juvenile Justice, Fairness, and Equity** is a leading national organization working to reduce the overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system. The Burns Institute focuses on issues such as the juvenile death penalty, school

discipline policies and mental health matters -- as well as on international juvenile justice concerns.

Haywood Burns Institute  
180 Howard Street, Suite 320  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Phone: 415-321-4100  
[www.burnsinstitute.org](http://www.burnsinstitute.org)

**Human Rights Watch** has multiple national and international programs on a wide variety of human rights issues which can be accessed from their website. Their website has statistics and well-researched articles on race, gender, and age demographics of people in prisons on the following web-pages: [www.hrw.org/background/usa/race/](http://www.hrw.org/background/usa/race/)

[www.hrw.org/prisons/](http://www.hrw.org/prisons/)  
Human Rights Watch  
350 Fifth Avenue, 34th floor  
New York, NY 10118-3299 USA  
Phone: 212-290-4700  
[www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

Human Rights Watch  
100 Bush Street, Suite 1812  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
Phone: 415-362-3250

## **POLICY AND LEGAL ISSUES**

### **American Bar Association Juvenile Justice Center**

The Center's current activities emphasize the right to effective assistance of counsel and the representation of delinquent youth, issues surrounding juveniles tried as adults, and conditions of confinement. The Center works with attorneys across the country to combat obstacles to effective representation. The Center also published "More Than Meets the Eye: Rethinking Assessment, Competency and Sentencing for a Harsher Era of Juvenile Justice", and "Beyond the Walls: Improving Conditions of Confinement for Youth in Custody." See their publications page for these and other reports they have produced.

American Bar Association, Juvenile Justice Center  
740-15th St., N.W., 10th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: 202-662-1515  
[www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/home.html](http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/home.html)

**Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice** addresses policy issues and also provides direct services to youth and adults across the country that are facing or transitioning from incarceration. National Office (see website for regional offices)  
1622 Folsom Street

San Francisco, CA 94103

Phone: 415-621-5661

[www.cjcj.org](http://www.cjcj.org)

The **Coalition for Juvenile Justice** serves as a premier national resource on delinquency prevention and juvenile justice issues. CJJ opposes trying and sentencing youth in adult criminal court, except in the rare case of a chronic and violent offender, and then only at the discretion of a juvenile court judge. Under no circumstance does CJJ support sending a child younger than age 15 into the adult system. CJJ believes that all children deserve to be treated fairly—regardless of race, ethnicity or other factors. CJJ believes that children require effective treatment, not ineffective incarceration, for their mental health needs, and they advocate for non-institutional, community and family-based treatment for children with mental illnesses.

Coalition for Juvenile Justice

1710 Rhode Island Ave., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor,

Washington D.C. 20036

Phone: 202-467-0864

[www.juvjustice.org](http://www.juvjustice.org)

Part of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, this page is devoted to resources about juvenile justice, including statistics on race and ethnicity.

[www.juvjustice.org/media/index\\_media.html](http://www.juvjustice.org/media/index_media.html)

**Commonweal's Juvenile Justice Program** addresses state and national youth policy issues, with a main focus on children in the juvenile justice system. Much of this work is targeted to the state of California, and to the goal of building an adequate service network within the state for troubled children and their families.

Commonweal

P.O. Box 316, 451 Mesa Road

Bolinas, CA 94924

Phone: 415-868-0970

[www.commonweal.org/cjprprog.html](http://www.commonweal.org/cjprprog.html)

The **Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana** is a non-profit statewide law and advocacy center dedicated to juvenile justice reform. JJPL works on a number of fronts to demonstrate that rehabilitation and education are more cost-effective and humane ways to not only prevent recidivism but save the lives of our children. Their work includes: challenging unconstitutional and abusive conditions of confinement for youth, improving the level of legal representation and advocacy for young people, and increasing the availability of community-based treatment alternatives.

Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana

1600 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.

New Orleans, LA 70113

Phone: 504-522-5437

[www.jjpl.org](http://www.jjpl.org)

The **MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice**. This website is an excellent resource for anyone doing further research on Juvenile

Justice issues. This is a good place to access well-researched publications by scholars addressing juvenile justice issues.

[www.mac-adoldev-juvjustice.org](http://www.mac-adoldev-juvjustice.org)

### **National Council on Crime and Delinquency**

The oldest criminal justice research organization in America, NCCD promotes effective, humane, fair, and economically sound solutions to family, community, and justice problems.

1970 Broadway, Suite 500

Oakland, CA 94612

Phone: 510-208-0500

<http://www.nccd-crc.org/>

**Youth Law Center** is a national organization working to stop the abuse of children in foster care systems and juvenile institutions by working with the systems or through litigation.

Youth Law Center

1010 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 310

Washington, D.C. 20005

Phone: 202-637-0377 x110, x113, x115

[www.youthlawcenter.com/htm/ylc-cont.html](http://www.youthlawcenter.com/htm/ylc-cont.html)

### **The Zero**

Andrew Vachss is a child advocacy lawyer. Among many other issues relating to children's rights, the following is an extensive collection of resources and links on juvenile justice.

[www.vachss.com/help\\_text/juvenile\\_justice.html](http://www.vachss.com/help_text/juvenile_justice.html)

## **MISCELLANEOUS USEFUL LINKS**

- [See also dharma-related programs for youth listed under Ministry and Training.](#)

**Family & Corrections Network** has an extensive database and lots of resources for children of incarcerated parents.

32 Oak Grove Road

Palmyra, VA 22963

Phone: 434-589-3036

[www.fcnetwork.org](http://www.fcnetwork.org)

The **Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign** is designed to support the work of community and faith-based organizations through offering diverse media resources that will facilitate community discussion and decision-making about solution-based reentry programs. A listing of television documentaries and films which feature current and former inmates, and an extensive set of national re-entry programs, including many for youth and families, are only some of the many resources which are available through this organization.

[www.reentrymediaoutreach.org](http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org)

**Teen Challenge's** goals are to provide comprehensive and effective faith-based and community-based drug education, prevention, and restoration programs to youth, adults, and families, including former offenders.

Teen Challenge International, USA

3728 W. Chestnut Expressway

Springfield, MO 65802

Phone: 417-862-6969

[www.teenchallenge.com](http://www.teenchallenge.com)

**Vera Program:** See Juvenile Justice Resources at the **Vera Program** on this page, including: Esperanza/Hope program in NYC area, Detention Diversion, Pathways to Change, and the Independent Living Program.

[www.vera.org/section5/section5\\_1.asp](http://www.vera.org/section5/section5_1.asp)

## JUVENILE DEATH PENALTY

The **American Bar Association Juvenile Justice Center** for information and resources on juvenile death penalty.

[www.abanet.org/crimjus/juvjust/juvdp.html](http://www.abanet.org/crimjus/juvjust/juvdp.html)

**American Civil Liberties Union** has a page devoted to the death penalty and specific information on the juvenile death penalty, as well as many other issues.

[www.aclu.org/DeathPenalty/DeathPenaltylist.cfm?c=66](http://www.aclu.org/DeathPenalty/DeathPenaltylist.cfm?c=66)

**The Death Penalty Information Center** has state by state information on the juvenile death penalty including age and race characteristics.

[www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=205&scid=27](http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=205&scid=27)

**National Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty** also has a specific campaign to end the juvenile death penalty.

Sapna Mirchandani, Program Coordinator

(202) 543-9577 ext. 25

[www.ncadp.org/html/juvenile\\_campaign.html](http://www.ncadp.org/html/juvenile_campaign.html)