

Oct 7, 2024



Welcome to The Drop LWOP Coalition's Bulletin!

The bulletin will provide updates on all things related to the Coalition – events, legislation, workshops, resources, and everything in between, and it will arrive in your inbox quarterly. We encourage you to spread it far and wide!

If you have news, stories, or information for sharing or if you have questions, please feel free to reach out and email droplwopoutreach@gmail.com.

Looking to send the Drop LWOP Bulletin to a friend? Feel free to send them to our [website](#), where the Bulletins will be uploaded regularly!

The Coalition is working hard to expand our reach to every corner of the State of California. If you have friends, family, or community members who would like to engage with our work or get involved in any capacity please send them our way! Please reach out to droplwopoutreach@gmail.com or contact us through our [website](#).

Shoes of the Forgotten at CCWF

The first-of-its-kind event Shoes of the Forgotten at CCWF was a success! We want to express a special thank you to the organizers, performers, and speakers of the Shoes of the Forgotten event.

As Drop LWOP organizers on the outside, we are dedicated to ending unjust, inhumane, and all-too-common extreme sentences including life-without-parole (LWOP) sentences. Those of us who made it inside to this event were inspired and moved into a deeper commitment by the *Shoes of the Forgotten* event, and by the dedication and diligence of the community members inside. CCWF inside organizers hosted this transformative and impactful event on August 31st, 2024. People from Drop LWOP, advocacy groups, and even some Sacramento officials including a representative from the Governor's office were in attendance.

We were inspired by what the people inside co-created that day:

- The skits and performances communicated the experience of LWOP and hope for a brighter future brilliantly and viscerally. We want everyone we've ever spoken to about LWOP to be able to see and understand these!
- The program was packed and yet the schedule ran smoothly. At one point, we said, "On the outside, we could never!" It is difficult to keep an event with so many moving parts on track and the organizers were seamless.
- The art covered almost every wall from top to bottom. This was striking and inclusive of so many stories that were the backdrop to the entire event. On top of that, people created to-go materials (mini pamphlets, and slips of paper for attendees to take with them to continue spreading the word and advocating for them) that touched our hearts and inspired our own creativity.
- Overall, the historic and unprecedented nature of the event. The unity and collective energy in the room. It brought many of us to tears, multiple times. There were also many moments of joy, laughter, connection, and re-committing to our collective fight.

We are learning from the inside organizers constantly and are grateful to be working alongside them to end LWOP. Thank you to the people at CCWF again for all of their hard work making this happen - we know it took a lot of time, energy, and talent. This event reminded us that we need to continue to work and mobilize to fight to end LWOP every day, uplifting and reinforcing the incredible work of those inside.



(Opening Circle at Shoes of the Forgotten)



(Healing and Reflection Circle at Shoes of the Forgotten)



(Art Wall at Shoes of the Forgotten)



(Performers at Shoes of the Forgotten)

Legislative Updates

Despite our best efforts, Senate Bill 94 (which would have allowed individuals whose offenses occurred before June 5th, 1990, AND who've served a minimum of 25 years of their sentence to petition the courts to have their cases considered for resentencing) did not pass this year. Please find our Coalition's [full statement here](#).

Know that this is not the end of our efforts to fight tirelessly to end LWOP in the state of California, but rather just the beginning. We thank everyone for their advocacy and efforts on this bill, which made unprecedented progress in the legislature despite the challenging political landscape.

Media Committee:

The Media team has been hard at work trying to share more success stories of people who've come home from LWOP, including Joseph Bell.

They have also revamped a new postcard design, which will be used as a tool for people to write Governor Newsom urging him to take action and grant Clemency and Commutations for all people serving Life Without Parole sentences. These will be available soon for statewide distribution! Lastly, this team is putting together a slideshow uplifting the amazing art and storytelling pieces presented at the *Shoes of the Forgotten* event organized by people serving LWOP at CCWF, which quite a few Drop LWOP members attended, both from the outside and the inside!

Overall, the Media team needs support with social media! If you're interested in posting, especially on Instagram, and/or creating content, please reach out to: courtney@womenprisoners.org.

Outreach Committee:

The outreach committee is continuing to onboard new folks. To those who have just joined our coalition, welcome! We are so glad to have you!

The Outreach team is investing energy into creating in-person events to get folks in regional areas together to share space, connect, and inspire each other. If you are interested in getting involved in in-person event planning, please reach out to: droplwopoutreach@gmail.com.

Additionally, the Outreach team is looking for additional support in raising awareness about Drop LWOP and extreme sentencing through presentations. If you'd like to support these efforts, please reach out to droplwopoutreach@gmail.com.

Inreach Committee:

The Inreach Committee is happy to report that they have connected via GTL with *almost* every institution, kicking off a more comprehensive Inreach communication team inside. They are excited to be able to support the needs of more folks and increase the capacity of the Inreach team! Additionally, the Inreach Team is going strong with support letters – 32 and counting.

Our very own Kelly Savage-Rodriguez had the privilege of going to CCI Tehachapi to visit those in Living With Optimistic Paths, a group of individuals serving LWOP who meet weekly to support and empower one another. Kelly had the opportunity to educate this group on the efforts of our coalition and support them and their loved ones in joining in these efforts! Go, Inreach!



Upcoming Events!

LWOP Walk for Life at Valley State Prison - October 16th 2024

Drop LWOP has signed on as a co-sponsor to the Walk-A-Thon event at Valley State Prison, an event that will highlight how those with LWOP are eager to give back to their communities. The LWOP Walk for Life will take place on October 16th 2024 at Valley State Prison in Chowchilla, CA. This event is a fundraiser organized by the 2nd Change 2 Society for LWOP's group. It is to benefit Shriners Children's Northern California and will have live performances, food, and other programming, creating a space for the LWOP community to give back. [Donate here!](#)

"Second Chances, Stronger Voices: A Voting Rights Homecoming" - November 2nd, 2024

The Drop LWOP Coalition is proudly partnering with Initiate Justice to create an in-person event in early November for our folks in the Central Valley. Hosted in Fresno, California on Saturday, November 2nd, Drop LWOP and Initiate Justice are working to create a space that welcomes home folks who are celebrating their freedom and prioritizes homecoming as much as possible for everyone, including our LWOP community. In addition to these goals and emphasizing education for abolishing LWOP advocacy, the event will also include voter education and registering to vote ahead of the 2024 election cycle!

Clemency Coalition Rally - November 13th, 2024

On November 13th, the Coalition will be partnering with the California Clemency Coalition to host a lobby and rally day in Sacramento, focused on promoting pardons and commutations for individuals serving LWOP. If you'd like your organization to join, please reach out to Joe at josephbelljr.68@gmail.com. See the flyer below for more information.



The flyer features a light beige background. At the top left, the word "URGENT" is written in bold, dark blue letters on a pink rectangular background. To the right, "CALIFORNIA CLEMENCY COALITION" is written in dark blue, stacked vertically. Below this, "CALL TO ACTION" is written in large, bold, dark blue letters. A central yellow box with a black border contains the event details: "CLEMENCY RALLY IN SACRAMENTO" in dark blue, "8AM - 11AM" in pink, and "WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH" in dark blue. Below the text is a QR code. At the bottom of the yellow box, it says "REGISTER TODAY!" in pink and "TINYURL.COM/CACLEMENCYRALLY24" in pink. To the left of the yellow box is a colorful illustration of a hand holding a megaphone.

URGENT

CALIFORNIA
CLEMENCY
COALITION

CALL TO ACTION

**CLEMENCY RALLY IN
SACRAMENTO**

8AM - 11AM

**WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 13TH**

REGISTER TODAY!
[TINYURL.COM/CACLEMENCYRALLY24](https://tinyurl.com/caclemencyrally24)

Don't miss the next upcoming Close Guantánamo Global Vigils in San Francisco on Wednesday, November 6th.

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
JOIN THE GLOBAL VIGILS
CALLING TO CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO NOW!
STOP TORTURE NOW!

JOIN WORLD CAN'T WAIT, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL & CO-SPONSORING* ORGANIZATIONS CALLING ON PRESIDENT BIDEN TO CLOSE GITMO NOW!

*CO-SPONSORS: Amnesty International, Center for Constitutional Rights, Center for Victims of Torture, Close Guantanamo, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace, Muslim Counterpublics Lab, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, No More Guantánamos, NYC Veterans For Peace, Schoharie Peacemakers, September 11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, UK Guantanamo Network, Witness Against Torture, World Can't Wait

HUMAN RIGHTS VIGIL IN SAN FRANCISCO = CLOSE GITMO NOW!
President Biden & Secretary Blinken = release the 16 men cleared for release!!
STOP TORTURE & 22 YEARS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS!!

Wednesday November 6th, 2024
3 - 4 PM
Castro District Farmer's Market, San Francisco
(270 Noe St @ Market St)
Contact: Gavrilah@aivol.org

LEARN ABOUT AMNESTY'S URGENT CALL TO CLOSE GITMO:
[BIT.LY/CLOSEGITMO](https://bit.ly/closegitmo)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

(A Few) Actions:

Eager to teach others about LWOP sentencing?

Look no further than this thorough [one-pager](#) that provides a helpful and succinct overview of the who, what, when, and why of LWOP.

(A Few) Resources:

► Take a moment to read and share [Issue #73](#) of CCWP's The Fire Inside - moving, inspiring, and deeply powerful!

Support Hotlines:

The Transition Clinic Network Reentry Healthcare Hotline is 1-510-606-6400.

► People can call it collect from inside California prisons as well as from jails that use GTL phone services. The hotline is staffed by trained community health workers with histories of incarceration who can provide information about local clinics, how to get enrolled in Medi-Cal, and how to navigate the healthcare system.

To utilize the Mental Health First Oakland call or text 510-999-9641

► Mental Health First Oakland responds to mental health crises including, but not limited to psychiatric emergencies, substance use support, and domestic violence situations that require victim extraction. Call or text 510-999-9641 on Fridays and Saturdays 8:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. Save this number on your phone for easy access.

To utilize the National Alliance on Mental Health, call 1-800-950-6264 or by emailing info@nami.org.

► The National Alliance on Mental Health provides a wealth of services and can be used to support you through diverse types of situations. Although the helpline is only available Monday through Friday from 10 AM until 8 PM EST, there is a 24/7 text line available. Simply text 'NAMI' to 741-741 for assistance.

► [Here](#) is a list of mental health hotlines and support across the state of California.

INTERESTED IN JOINING A WORKGROUP?

LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED [HERE](#)



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