# Mass Incarceration: Missing in America

## What is Mass Incarceration?
- Mass incarceration is the disproportionately high rate of incarceration, particularly among Black males, due to racial bias in the justice system.
- The American justice system has been cast as racially colorblind, yet it consistently targets poor communities of color.
- Although black and white populations use and sell drugs at roughly the same rate, 75% of those in prison for drug crimes are people of color.
- Racial discrimination in the judicial system seeps into institutions, social systems, and everyday beliefs, effectively becoming a method of social control for racial minorities.

## What Are the Consequences?
- Under our current system, many ex-convicts cannot vote until the completion of their probation or parole. As a result, nearly 13% of black men, or 1.4 million black citizens, were ineligible to vote in the 2008 Presidential Election.
- Other forms of legalized discrimination include disenfranchisement, job discrimination, and barriers to public housing, education, and federal assistance.
- These barriers to socioeconomic mobility continue the cycle of disadvantage, creating environments that actively keep black people incarcerated.

## What Are Our Goals?
1. To expose and challenge the discrimination within our justice system that allows the system of mass incarceration to continue.
2. To stimulate a discussion on equality and civil rights within and outside of our Boston College community.
3. To evaluate current judicial policies and to then take action through our resources and knowledge of these unjust policies.
4. To advocate for a justice system free from the racial bias that unfairly targets people of color, bringing America back to the values of equal opportunity, democracy, and freedom.

## How Are We Doing This?
### Awareness
- Through a combination of creative performances and scholarly discussions, we wish to promote **awareness** of mass incarceration in America.
- These events include: a **spoken word event** to introduce the effects of mass incarceration (Oct 20); a **famous speaker** to encourage and magnify interest; and a **expert panel dialogue** to explore the reality of social reform (April 2016).

### Action
- Mass Incarceration: MIA also works to **take action** against recidivism in concrete ways.
- These policy movements include: advocating for more effective post-prison rehabilitation, producing a freely-accessible resource guide for ex-convicts in need of social support, and linking students with advocacy groups working to end mass incarceration in America.

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Questions? Concerns? Want to help or get involved? Can we improve in any way? Contact us!

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