

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE & POLICY PRIORITIES



The Fortune Society  
BUILDING PEOPLE, NOT PRISONS

The Fortune Society is committed to creating a more just criminal legal system that ensures people with criminal records can achieve stability for themselves and their families. Our New York City and State legislative and policy priorities call on lawmakers to remove discriminatory barriers for people with criminal justice involvement, expand access to services and legal protections for people with conviction histories and improve conditions inside jails and prisons.



## CLOSE RIKERS

An ongoing and desperate humanitarian crisis at Rikers Island has been decades in the making. We must ensure that the plan to close Rikers Island in 2027 is followed, upon completion and opening of a network of four modern, humane jail sites in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. We must also ensure that people incarcerated in our City jails are treated humanely.



## YOUTH JUSTICE & OPPORTUNITIES ACT

The Youth Justice & Opportunities Act would expand Youthful Offender status eligibility for people under age 25 who currently face the threat of permanent criminal convictions and adult prison sentences. Young people's development continues through their mid-twenties. They should not face lifelong direct and collateral consequences, including a loss of future employment and access to stable housing, for mistakes made during maturation.



## COMMUNITIES NOT CAGES

As a grassroots campaign led by impacted people and families across New York State, CommunitiesNotCages is fighting to end mass incarceration and overhaul New York's racist and unjust sentencing laws. The demands for the campaign include the passage of the Eliminate Mandatory Minimum Act, Second Look Act and Earned Time Act.



## 13TH FORWARD

13th Forward is a legislative coalition of advocates, grassroots organizations and impacted people working to end exploitation and brutality within our prison labor system. This includes enshrining in our state constitution the abolition of slavery including for those convicted of crimes and creating a system of labor for incarcerated individuals that prohibits forced labor and raises wages, among other protections and opportunities.



Read all our 2024 priorities on our website at

[fortunesociety.org/2024-legislative-and-policy-priorities](https://fortunesociety.org/2024-legislative-and-policy-priorities)