

## LEADING POLICE-COMMUNITY DIALOGUES



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**THIS SPRING,** EJUSA launched a 2-year project in Newark, NJ to train 250 police officers and community members in trauma-informed responses to violence. Using trauma as an entry point has allowed participants to engage in difficult conversations about race, mass incarceration, and the impact of historical trauma such as slavery on communities of color.

Community members shared openly and frankly with police about their experiences of racism and marginalization. Officers gained an understanding of their own trauma and how it can impact their actions in the field. Participants left with an increased understanding of each others' common pain and humanity. Many are fired up to advocate with EJUSA to help change systems and practices highlighted in the trainings. Watch for our recommendations in 2017, and year 2 of the project!

## DEATH PENALTY SUPPORT PLUNGES

Death penalty support dropped to its lowest level in 40 years, falling below 50%. *Source: Pew Research Center, 2016*



The death penalties in both **DELAWARE** and **FLORIDA** were struck down by the courts.



Executions are set to hit their lowest level in 25 years, and may stay below 20 total for 2016.



*Source: Death Penalty Information Center*

Deep red **UTAH** came within a few votes of ending the death penalty. EJUSA and our local partners are already gearing up for 2017!



Only 16 U.S. counties *out of over 3,000* still use the death penalty with any regularity. *Source: Fair Punishment Project*

Conservatives Concerned | About the Death Penalty

A Project of EJUSA

**FOUR** years strong, EJUSA's conservative outreach project has become the go-to group for media, advocates, and lawmakers seeking the conservative case against the death penalty. From Utah's close repeal vote to the Kansas Republican Party's decision this year to reject death penalty support in its party platform,

Conservatives Concerned has changed the national conversation on the death penalty. More than a hundred media outlets covered our work with conservatives in 2016, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Washington Times*, the *Hill*, *The Oklahoman*, *Business Insider*, *Huffington Post*, *Red Alert Politics*, and more.

# RAISING THE STAKES FOR JUSTICE IN FLORIDA

**CHRISTINE** Henderson joined EJUSA in March to organize in Duval County, FL. Duval County is one of the worst offenders on the death penalty, but injustice also crosses county lines in Florida. In just six months, Christine organized a community rally for over 100 people, a criminal justice summit, two faith leader press conferences, keynoted an NAACP's event in Orlando, and much more. We are also co-leading a series of trainings for clergy to get involved in criminal justice issues. EJUSA recruited over 100 faith leaders to sign letters to county prosecutors representing Jacksonville and Tampa-Bay, and our events in Florida generated nearly two dozen media stories.



Photo: Brandon Duncan, St. Augustine Catholic

## EQUITY FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR WHO SURVIVE VIOLENCE

**EJUSA** supported more than 20 community-based organizations that help crime survivors of color to rebuild their lives. We have helped these groups to strengthen their infrastructure, develop new programs, and seek much-needed federal funding (called "VOCA") for the healing services they provide. Our work with Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches, for example, generated \$175,000 of new funds to three healing groups in LA.

These funds are more than just a grant. They mark a possible turning point for crime survivors of color, who have long been underserved by victim services. Our VOCA project traveled to Miami, Detroit, Baltimore, New Orleans, Albuquerque, Seattle, and Newark in 2016.

"The technical assistance that EJUSA provided was instrumental in providing the tools, support, and expertise we needed to submit a successful VOCA application... As forerunners to survivor services in faith communities, this grant will help us reimagine a better Los Angeles and offer hope, healing and support to survivors of crime."

— Cheryl Branch, Executive Director, Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches

## MORE HIGHLIGHTS:

### **BUILDING THE LATINO MOVEMENT FOR DEATH PENALTY REPEAL:**

In September the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) passed a bipartisan resolution calling for an end to the death penalty. And in January, the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, a coalition of 40 prominent Latino organizations, did the same.

### **WHITE HOUSE MEETING ON VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE:**

EJUSA organized and led a meeting at the White House! We brought together leading experts and advocates in violence prevention, public health, victim services, and criminal justice for an insightful dialogue about how to disrupt cycles of violence.

**EVANGELICALS FIGHTING THE DEATH PENALTY:** In March, EJUSA organized an educational panel at the Evangelical university, Calvin College, the alma matter of our Evangelical Organizer, Heather Beaudoin.

**OUR LATEST OP-ED IN THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER:** EJUSA's Executive Director joined with our partner Mothers in Charge to demand new approaches to healing communities touched by violence.

**AND OUR LATEST FACTSHEET:** The death penalty and the history of racial oppression: <http://ejusa.org/learn/race>.

**AND MANY MORE...**