

The EJUSA Difference

Equal Justice USA is a national organization working at the intersection of criminal justice, public health, and racial justice to transform responses to violence to ones that heal instead of harm. We envision a world where violence is rare and every community is safe and thriving. Our core values – equity, partnership, centering healing, and transcending divides – steer our work to build community power, advocate for investment in community-centered approaches to safety, and amplify essential narratives. The work unites harm survivors; Black and Brown communities; evangelicals; conservatives; and police, prosecutors, and other system actors.



Impact

EJUSA works with communities most impacted by violence to advance community-centered responses that heal trauma, promote well-being, and create true safety while reducing the current systems' harm.

Stopping State Violence

Partnerships are the cornerstone of EJUSA's legacy of change. By strengthening the capacity of our partners, we bring profound systemic change — especially in Black and Brown communities — by ending the death penalty and curbing law enforcement violence.

We have played an integral role in the last 11 state death penalty repeals, which has created opportunities to expand violence prevention and healing strategies. Our Trauma to Trust program is changing police culture and reducing harm in Newark, NJ, after training 300+ officers — and more community members — on the trauma of policing, and how to mitigate it going forward. That program has expanded to Baton Rouge, LA.

We bolster the long-term success of this harm reduction work by redefining justice away from a

fixation on punishment and toward the creation of healing, safety, and accountability that repairs.

Building True Community Safety

Mounting evidence makes clear that increased policing, prosecutions, and prisons do not strengthen public safety. Instead, those efforts target and destabilize Black and Brown communities. A national movement is taking shape that recognizes that the community members closest to the problem are best equipped to imagine and build solutions.

In the past several years, EJUSA has worked in coalition with organizations in New Jersey and California to generate funding for community-centered strategies to build public safety. Those states will invest about \$300



“How do we reimagine justice? By promoting responses to violence that break cycles of trauma, that are rooted in racial equity, and through campaigns and organizing with the communities most impacted to strengthen their power.”

– Jamila Hodge, Executive Director

million into under-resourced communities to create programs that address the root causes of violence. Across the country, we build our allies’ capacity to engage and activate their communities in this work and strengthen their programs. The stories we tell about their collective work is fundamental to our goal of changing the way people think and talk about safety and justice.

Strengthening Movements

Violence, racism, and the mass incarceration they have produced are deeply entrenched in our society. But they are solvable. Our success is contingent on narrative shifting — centering the voices of those directly impacted — and finding common ground and shared values to unite unlikely allies and move them


toward a new community-centered ecosystem of safety.

Our partners include crime survivors and other directly impacted leaders from Black and Brown communities, evangelicals, conservatives, and members of law enforcement. Together, we have documented the community-centered public safety ecosystem in Newark, NJ, while recruiting communities in other areas to replicate the model. We play a leading role in connecting the various parts of the death penalty repeal movement and its efforts to center racial equity. Our growing networks unite community-based healers and organizers in collaboration and resource sharing that creates sustained change.

The Organization

EJUSA is a team of fierce organizers and advocates, many of whom have been touched by violence. We bring a breadth of perspectives to our work, united by our common belief that everyone deserves healing, safety, equity, and well-being. Executive Director Jamila Hodge leads nearly 40 staff members with an annual budget of \$7.4m.

Justice, Reimagined.®

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