



Who We Are

The Incarcerated Children's Advocacy Network (ICAN) is a project of the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth that was launched in 2014. This first-of-its kind national network is run in partnership with a growing number of leaders who were incarcerated as children with hundreds of members all over the country. Each and every one of the members of ICAN are living proof of the unique capacity for change that resides within every child and the one-of-a-kind leadership that often comes from directly impacted communities.

These individuals are experts who demonstrate through their advocacy that children, even those convicted of serious crimes, can mature and become rehabilitated. ICAN identifies, mobilizes, and amplifies the experiences of individuals incarcerated as youth to inform the public debate about children's capacity for positive change and to debunk racially charged and dehumanizing narratives that seek to justify extreme sentencing of youth.

Our Mission

ICAN is committed to creating a truly equitable and transformative legal system that recognizes children's capacity for change and provides them with equal opportunity for success. We use our stories to bring awareness to the mistreatment of children by the legal system and the racial, class, and gender disparities in incarceration. As ICAN members, we support each other by providing community care, professional skill-building opportunities, and connecting members to the reintegration resources necessary to rebuild our lives and advocate for change.

What We Do

As an initiative of the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, we aim to change the narrative of formerly incarcerated youth and advocate for age-appropriate accountability measures for children by:

- o Speaking publicly to provide living examples of positive change
- o Educating stakeholders and other strategic audiences about the impacts of extreme sentences upon individuals, families, and communities
- o Highlighting in the media and in amicus briefs stories of individual change that demonstrate the potential of formerly incarcerated youth to become positive and productive members of society
- o Advocating for reforms to justice policies at the state and federal levels that fail to reflect the fundamental differences between adolescents and adults
- o Supporting campaign partners and other organizations and initiatives that advocate for age-appropriate and trauma-informed consequences for children
- o Sharing our unique insights to inform institutional policies and practices around working with youth

To learn more about ICAN, please visit:

<https://cfsy.org/>

ICAN Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ican.nochildbornbad>