



The **CAMPAIGN** for the
FAIR SENTENCING
of **YOUTH**

SURVIVORS' JUSTICE INITIATIVE

WHO WE ARE

The Survivors' Justice Initiative (SJI) is an initiative of CFSY's emergent body of work focused on Transformative Healing and Restorative Justice (THRJ). CFSY believes that a transformative, healing, and restorative approach to justice serves us all and that, in stark contrast, the continued imposition of extreme sentences on children—including life without parole/death by incarceration—further harms our communities, society, and fails survivors. Our vision is to bolster models that learn from:

- transformative justice in addressing root causes of youth violence and harm,
- healing justice in promoting the health and well-being of our young people and communities, and
- restorative justice in centering individual and community accountability and healing as vital ingredients to public health and safety.

The Survivors' Justice Initiative is a key component of this effort meant to build community as people dissatisfied with the current adversarial processes used by the courts. This space provides opportunities to connect, heal, share journeys, and inform CFSY's work to advance transformative, healing, and restorative justice. In addition to building community, the SJI aims to see restorative and healing approaches become available and accessible across the nation to those on all sides of harm, including in cases of serious harm involving youth.

SJI PARTICIPANTS ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE:

- Lost a loved one to violence/Experienced a serious physical harm involving a young person, *and*
- Have experience with, or support, transformative healing and restorative justice in response to serious physical harms, including homicide, involving youth.*



**This criteria intentionally rejects what CFSY describes as the oversimplified constraints of the victim-offender or victim vs. offender binary perpetuated by the carceral state and recognizes that many of us exist within the intersection of the false binary and have both caused or been party to harm as youth and have experienced harm caused by youth.*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT:

- Virtual and in-person gatherings for community-building and connection with other SJI participants, and other survivors in the CFSY community, including members of our Incarcerated Children's Advocacy Network and National Family Network;
- peer support from other survivors;
- circle processes;
- training experiences (including in advocacy, media, restorative justice practices);
- community care experiences, which focus on enhancing the well-being of people in CFSY's community;
- space to share your VOICE: Storytelling and advocacy to ensure your experiences are heard, and influence change;
- support CFSY's legislative efforts to end extreme sentencing of youth; and
- space to inform CFSY's THRJ efforts.

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