

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

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**DR. HAZEL DUKES OF THE NAACP TO JOIN
NYU LAW CENTER ON RACE, INEQUALITY &
THE LAW TO RELEASE REPORT ON RACIAL
DISPARITIES IN PAROLE DECISIONS AT
VIRTUAL PRESS CONFERENCE**

*SPEAKERS WILL RELEASE NEW DATA
HIGHLIGHTING RACIAL DISPARITIES IN NEW
YORK'S PAROLE SYSTEM AND CALL ON ALBANY
LAWMAKERS TO PASS THE ELDER PAROLE & FAIR
& TIMELY PAROLE BILLS IN FINAL DAYS OF
LEGISLATIVE SESSION*

WHAT: Dr. Hazel Dukes, President of the New York Chapter of the NAACP, NYU Law Center on Race, Inequality and the Law, and parole reform advocates will host a virtual press conference to release a report with new data on the deep racial disparities in New York State's parole release system, and call on NY lawmakers to pass the Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole bills in the final days of the legislative session. See [here for an embargoed version of the report](#) by NYU Law's Center for Race, Inequality and the Law, and the Parole Preparation Project. Key findings of the report include:

- Black and Latino applicants are denied parole release at a higher rate than their white counterparts and are imprisoned beyond their minimum sentence for longer than white applicants
- 33% of people of color were granted parole at their first parole release appearance, compared to 43% of white first-time applicants.
- From January 2018 and January 2020, 46% of white people seeking parole were granted release, compared to only 39% of

people of color.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 9th, 10AM

WHERE: Zoom: [Webinar Link Here](#)

WHO: Dr. Hazel Dukes, President of NY NAACP, Vincent Southerland, Executive Director of the NYU Center on Race, Inequality and the Law, Jose Saldana, Director of the Release Aging People in Prison Campaign, and leaders with the People's Campaign for Parole Justice.

BACKGROUND:

- Dr. Hazel Dukes and the NAACP New York State Conference of Branches [announced their support](#) for the Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole bills, joining a broad coalition from members of Congress like [Rep. Jamaal Bowman](#), [Rep. Adriano Espaillat](#), [Rep. Jerry Nadler](#), and, big unions like 1199 SEIU, political parties like Working Families Party, and celebrities such as [Chelsea Clinton](#).
- The Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole bills are supported by more than 300 organizations across New York State, including some of the largest crime victims and survivor advocacy groups due to [the connections between parole justice and justice for victims and survivors of crime](#): The New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Crime Victims Treatment Center, The Working Families Party, 1199 SEIU, CWA District 1, VOCAL-NY, Citizen Action, New Hour for Women and Children, LiveOn NY, JASA, the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging, NY Communities for Change, Center for Community Alternatives, Osborne Association, NYCLU, [FWD.us](#), the #HALTsolitary Campaign, Legal Aid Society, Center for Justice at Columbia, and NYU Law's Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law.
- There is a crisis of aging and dying for New Yorkers in prison and their families because of decades of extreme sentencing and blanket denials of parole release by a racially biased Parole Board.
- 55% of the roughly 30,000 people currently incarcerated in New York State prisons are Black people, despite the fact that only 18% of the overall population in the state is Black. 77% are

People of Color.

- According to a [Times Union analysis](#) of the nearly 19,000 parole board decisions over the last two years, racial bias infects parole release determinations and disparities have only widened in recent years. The data, which spans October 2018 through October 2020, shows the Parole Board granted parole release to 41 percent of white people, compared to 34 percent of Black people and 33 percent of Latinx people.
- Nearly 1-in-4 (24%) people in New York State prisons are serving life or virtual life sentences.
- 4,704 people in prison are defined by NYS DOCCS as older adults, meaning they are 55 or older.
- Without reforms to expand access to parole release and make the process more fair in New York State, New Yorkers, especially those who are Black and Latinx, will continue to age without dignity, get sick, and die in prison regardless of their transformation and potential benefits to the outside community.
- The People's Campaign for Parole Justice is calling on lawmakers in Albany to pass two bills that, together, will ensure that people in prison have meaningful opportunities for individualized consideration for parole release based on who they are today, what they have done to change, and whether they pose a risk if released:
- [Elder Parole \(S.15A/A.3475A\)](#) would allow the State Board of Parole to conduct an evaluation for potential parole release to incarcerated people aged 55 and older who have already served 15 or more years, including some of the state's oldest and sickest incarcerated people.
- [Fair and Timely Parole \(S.1415A/A.4231A\)](#) would provide more meaningful parole reviews for incarcerated people who are already parole eligible.

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