

Break the Chains Conference • June 5-6, 2008 Baltimore



**BREAK THE CHAINS**  
Communities of Color and the War on Drugs  
[www.breakchains.org](http://www.breakchains.org)

June 5, 2008

Greetings,

Break the Chains is pleased to welcome you to the *Breaking the Chains by Making Connections* conference. We hope you are ready for what will be a truly historic event.

This conference brings together people from the communities most affected by drug law enforcement to gain a holistic understanding of the impact of the “war on drugs” on communities of color. Over the course of the conference, we will begin to develop a plan for replacing our current failed drug policies with alternatives based on science, public health and human rights.

We invite you to take this opportunity to listen, discuss, debate, network, relax and make new friends and allies. We believe that if you do, you will find that by the end of the conference you will know a lot more about drug policy and the steps that we can take to lessen the harms caused by both drug abuse and punitive drug laws.

Break the Chains is proud to provide this forum to support the emerging social justice movement aimed at reforming our failed drug laws. We hope that this conference will be remembered as one of the important events in the effort to end the war on drugs, which is truly a war on communities of color.

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Small". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Deborah Peterson Small,  
Executive Director

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*Breaking the Chains by Making Connections*

## CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

### THURSDAY, JUNE 5

6:00 – 9:00 PM      **TOWN HALL MEETING: THE DRUG WAR IN BALTIMORE – ON THE STREETS AND IN THE MEDIA – BALLROOM I**

### FRIDAY, JUNE 6

7:00 – 9:00 AM      **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST - OUTSIDE BALLROOM I**

9:00 – 9:15 AM      **WELCOME - BALLROOM I**

9:15 - 9:30 AM      **OPENING CEREMONY - BALLROOM I**

9:30 – 11:00 AM      **PLENARY: HOW DID WE GET INTO THIS MESS? - BALLROOM I**

11:00 – 11:15 AM      ***BREAK***

11:15 – 12:45 PM      **PLENARY: THE DRUG ECONOMY – CHALLENGES AND ALTERNATIVES – BALLROOM I**

12:45 – 2:00 PM      **LUNCHEON PLENARY: CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR SUCCESS IN OUR SCHOOLS – BALLROOM I**

2:15 – 4:00 PM      **CONCURRENT WORKING GROUPS**  
DRUG TREATMENT AND HARM REDUCTION – ROOM 336  
EDUCATION - ROOM 337  
EMPLOYMENT – ROOM 338  
FAMILY STABILIZATION – ROOM 339  
PUBLIC SAFETY – ROOM 340

4:00 – 4:15 PM      ***BREAK***

4:15 – 5:45 PM      **CLOSING PLENARY: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? A PLAN FOR ACTION & STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS – BALLROOM I**

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## A G E N D A

### Thursday, June 5, 2008

#### 6:00 – 9:00 PM REGISTRATION AND RECEPTION

##### **Town Hall Meeting —THE DRUG WAR IN BALTIMORE ON THE STREETS AND IN THE MEDIA**

**Moderator:** *Carlos Hardy, Executive Director, National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence, Maryland*

**Panelists:** *Maria Broom, Dancer, Storyteller and Actress, “The Corner” and “The Wire”*  
*Terry Brown, Vice President, Resource Development for Baltimore Behavioral Health*  
*Dr. Carnell Cooper, University of Maryland, Shock Trauma Center, Baltimore*  
*Matthew Fogg, former U.S. Marshall*  
*Colonel Richard Hite, Baltimore City Police Department*  
*William H. Murphy, Jr., Attorney at Law and Actor, “The Wire”*  
*Melvin Williams, Counselor, Community Activist, and Actor, “The Wire”*  
*Michael K. Williams, Actor, “The Sopranos” and “The Wire”*

### Friday, June 6, 2008

#### 7:00 – 9:00 AM BREAKFAST / REGISTRATION

#### 9:00 – 9:15 AM WELCOME

*Deborah Small, Executive Director, Break the Chains*  
*Dr. Kima Taylor, Director of Drug Addiction Treatment, Open Society Institute - Baltimore*

#### 9:15 – 9:30 AM OPENING CEREMONY

*Maria Broom, Dancer, Storyteller and Actress from “The Wire”*

#### 9:30 – 11:00 AM PLENARY: HOW DID WE GET INTO THIS MESS?

The history of the development of the heroin and crack cocaine markets in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. is a fascinating one that illustrates how a combination of economic change, political and social upheaval, criminal opportunism and policy change can lead to the perfect storm of drug abuse and drug-related crime and disease that has plagued the region over the past twenty-five years. Panelists will discuss the development of Baltimore’s drug culture and the social, political and law enforcement responses to it.

**Moderator:** *Deborah Small, Executive Director, Break the Chains*

**Panelists:** *Michael Agar, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology & Linguistics, University of Maryland*  
*Eddie Ellis, Executive Director, Center for NuLeadership in Urban Solutions, New York, New York*  
*Carlos Hardy, Executive Director, National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence, Maryland*  
*Richard Hite, Lt. Colonel, Baltimore Police Department*  
*Melvin Williams, Counselor, Community Activist, Baltimore, MD*  
*Bernard Young, Baltimore City Council [invited]*

#### 11:00 – 11:15 AM BREAK

#### 11:15 – 12:45 PM THE DRUG ECONOMY: CHALLENGES AND ALTERNATIVES

This session will examine the economic factors supporting the drug economy in poor communities. It will identify the participants in the drug economy in Baltimore. It will discuss economic factors that cause young people to become part of the drug economy and innovative approaches in helping youth generate alternative lifestyles and incomes.

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**Moderator:** *Ronald E. Hampton, Executive Director, National Black Police Association*

**Panelists:** *Dr. Carnell Cooper, Shock Trauma Center, Univ. of Maryland School of Medicine*  
*Leon Faruq, Violence Prevention Coordinator, Safe Streets – East*  
*Matthew Fogg, Law Enforcement against Prohibition*  
*Glenn Loury, Professor of Economics, Brown University*  
*David Muhammad, Career Development Facilitator, The Reentry Center [invited]*  
*Sebastian Saville, Executive Director, Release –United Kingdom*

### 12:45 – 2:00 PM LUNCHEON PLENARY: CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR SUCCESS IN OUR SCHOOLS

This session will examine the impact of drugs and crime on school safety and educational quality. Panelists will examine the current state of local public school systems and discuss various initiatives to improve educational outcomes and school retention. Panelists will focus on the impact of school-based drug and zero tolerance policies.

**Moderator:** *Judge Arthur L. Burnett, Sr. Executive Director, National African American Drug Policy Coalition*

**Panelists:**

*Rebka Atnafou, The After-School Initiative, Baltimore, MD*  
*Judith A. Browne-Dianis, Co-Director, The Advancement Project, Washington, DC*  
*Jonathan Brice, Executive Director of Student Support, Baltimore Public Schools*  
*Adrienne Codette, Student Success Teacher, Woodroffe High School, Ottawa*  
*Fanon Hill, Baltimore Safe and Sound Campaign, Baltimore, MD*  
*Vivian Nixon, Executive Director, College & Community Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center*

### 2:15 – 4:00 PM CONCURRENT WORKING GROUPS

#### **EDUCATION: CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR SUCCESS**

How do we define educational success? What are the barriers to educational achievement in Baltimore? Do criminal justice and/or current drug policies improve the situation or exacerbate the problems? The group will discuss policy alternatives and develop a set of reform priorities.

**Facilitators:**

*Adrienne Codette, Student Success Teacher, Woodroffe High School, Ottawa, ON, Canada*  
*Eddie Ellis, Executive Director, Center for NuLeadership in Urban Solutions, New York, NY*  
*Fanon Hill, Baltimore Safe and Sound Campaign, Baltimore, MD*  
*Brother Ellsworth Johnson-Bey, Founder & CEO, Fraternal Order of X-Offenders, Baltimore, MD*  
*Vivian Nixon, Executive Director, College & Community Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY*  
*Frank Pantinella, ACLU of Maryland*

#### **EMPLOYMENT: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

What is the current status of job development in the region? What barriers do people with histories of substance abuse and/or incarceration face in seeking employment? What impact do drug policies have on these barriers? How are communities affected by the difficulties faced by people returning from prison or residential treatment programs? What can we do to support rehabilitation, reengagement and civic participation? How can we help youth prepare for the jobs of the future?

**Facilitators:**

*Karyne Henry, President/CEO Orion Enterprises & Consulting Services, Inc.*  
*David Muhammad, Career Development Facilitator, The Reentry Center, Baltimore, MD*  
*Sebastian Saville, Executive Director*

#### **FAMILY STABILIZATION: HOLDING IT TOGETHER**

This session examines the impact of drug policies and child welfare policies on families. Particular focus will be placed on the impact of sentencing, social services and zero tolerance policies on fragile families coping with addiction, poverty and limited resources.

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## **Facilitators:**

*Kamala Greene, Baltimore Rising, Inc, Baltimore, MD*  
*Kemba Smith, Soros Justice Fellow, Kemba Smith Youth Foundation, Richmond, VA*  
*Alfreda Robinson, Executive Director, National Women's Prison Project, Baltimore, MD*  
*John Wilson, Jr. Consultant, Therapist, Washington, D.C.*

## **PUBLIC HEALTH: HARM REDUCTION AND DRUG TREATMENT - A CONTINUUM OF CARE**

This working group will assess the effectiveness of current efforts towards reducing drug-related harms and expanding opportunities for treatment. Participants and health professionals will discuss various strategies for working with active and recovering drug users for the benefit of all.

## **Facilitators:**

*Terry Brown, Vice President, Resource Development for Baltimore Behavioral Health*  
*Holly Catania, Project Director, International Center for Advancement of Addiction Treatment, New York, NY*  
*Carlos Hardy, Executive Director, National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence, Maryland*  
*Chris Serio-Chapman, Director, Staying Alive Drug Overdose Prevention and Response Program, Baltimore, MD*

## **PUBLIC SAFETY: WHAT IS LAW AND ORDER?**

This session features a discussion about those charged with making and enforcing the drug laws. Participants will examine current policing practices intended to promote public safety and reduce incarceration, their effectiveness and the perception of those practices by community members.

## **Facilitators:**

*Leon Faruq, Violence Prevention Coordinator, Safe Streets – East, Baltimore, MD*  
*Ronald E. Hampton, Executive Director, National Black Police Association*  
*Colonel Richard Hite, Baltimore City Police Department*  
*Johonna McCants, Director, Visions to Peace Project, Washington, DC*  
*James Smith, Violence Prevention Coordinator, Safe Streets, Southwest, Baltimore, MD*

**3:30 – 3:45 PM BREAK**

**3:45 – 5:15 PM CLOSING PLENARY: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? A PLAN FOR ACTION – STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS**

This session features leaders that advocate for economic, social, political and criminal justice in their communities. Panelists will discuss prospects for legislative reform at the state, federal and local levels. Panelists will focus on what interested individuals, groups, and activists can do to educate and influence policy makers.

## **Moderator:**

*Nkechi Taifa, Senior Policy Analyst, Open Society Policy Center, Washington, DC*

## **Panelists:**

*Delegate Curt Stovall Anderson [invited]*  
*Donna Edwards, Democratic candidate for Congress*  
*State Senator Lisa Gladden [invited]*  
*Carlos Hardy, Executive Director, National Council for Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-Maryland*  
*Brother Ellsworth Johnson-Bey, Founder and CEO, Fraternal Order of X-Offenders, Baltimore, MD*  
*Naomi Long, Director, Washington Metro Office, Drug Policy Alliance*  
*Hillary Shelton, National Legislative Director, NAACP, Washington, D.C. [invited]*  
*Kimberly Haven, Executive Director, Maryland Justice Coalition, Baltimore, MD*  
*Connie Smith, Executive Director, Families Against Injustice, Baltimore, MD*

## YOUTH CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, June 6, 2008

- 7:45 AM *Youth Groups Depart from DC*
- 7:30 - 9:30 AM *On Site Registration/Continental Breakfast – outside Room 344*
- 9:30 - 9:40 AM *Welcoming and the Opening of the Space – Poetry/Hip-Hop/Spoken Word  
Rooms 343 & 344*
- 9:40 - 10:00 AM *Agenda Overview and Group Ice Breaker - Rooms 343 & 344*
- 10:00 - 11:15 AM *"The Chains" – Telling Our Story – Rooms 343 & 344*  
  
What are the chains (challenges, obstacles) that keep us locked down: Peer pressure, gangs, low self-esteem, absent parents, inadequate funding for education, the lure of the streets, poverty – the list is long, but how do these issues affect you individually, what is your story? During this session youth will share through an interactive chain building exercise the challenges they individually and collectively face. The conversation will begin with participants answering the following questions: How does the War on Drugs impact me? How does the War on Drugs impact my community?
- 11:15 - 11:30 AM *Break*
- 11:30 - 12:45 PM *Connecting the Chains – Rooms 343 & 344*  
During this session participants will report back from their breakout groups to build a collective chain of key problems that need to change in order to break the chains of obstacles in our path to a successful future. Each group will present to everyone before lunch. The session will focus on how the problems identified and stories told impact everyone collectively AND how these stories help to bring about a better understanding of others who come from different places, backgrounds and experiences. By sharing our collective stories, we hope to break stereotypes and begin building a space of trust.
- 12:45 - 2:00 PM *Lunch – Rooms 341 & 342*  
Connect with your group and continue conversation or take a break
- 2:00 – 2:30 PM *Reflections – Rooms 343 & 344*

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In this session, youth will discuss what we can do to keep our communities' legacies of resistance alive. What examples can we turn to in our past and present to make a difference in our lives today...

2:30 - 3:15 PM

### ***Dream Wall*** – Rooms 343 & 344

In this session, youth will build a new vision for what they want their future to look like. What do you dream of? What do you want to see in your future? What are some solutions youth can develop to address the problems we have discussed? This will be an open space discussion facilitated and led by youth. This will be a space to build on each other's strengths, a strength identifying exercise. Everyone has a purpose, what is your purpose in building a movement

3:15 – 3:30 PM

### ***Break***

3:30 - 4:30 PM

### ***Visioning Our Future*** – Rooms 343 & 344

Step Forward and Embrace Your Purpose – Building from the Dream Wall youth will go through a visualization exercise to help them create a clear vision for themselves and their community. Youth will create a vision of who they are and how they can powerfully impact this world.

4:30 PM - 5:15 PM

### ***Break the Chains*** – Rooms 343 & 344

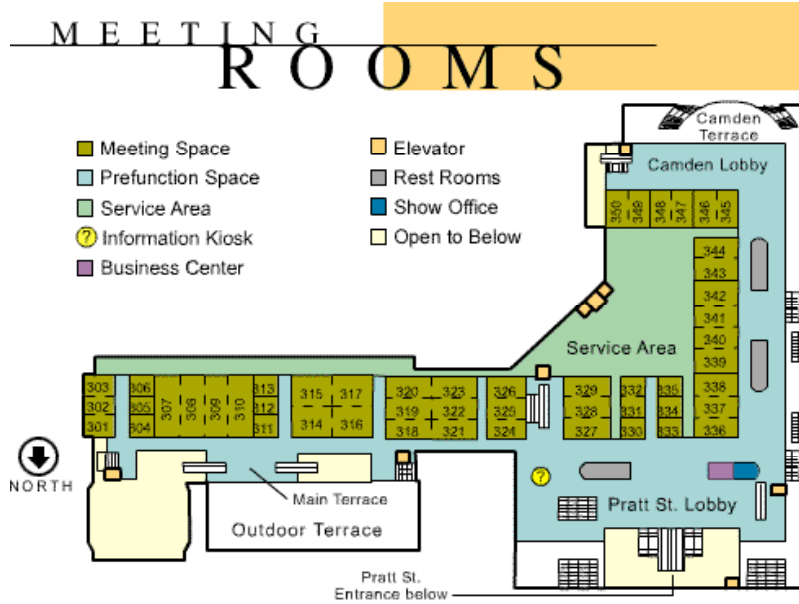
Youth will do a shout out, of how they personally will do to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others, and we'll collectively break the chains we built in the morning.

5:15 PM – 6:00 PM

### ***Closing Ceremony*** – Poetry/Hip-Hop/Spoken Word – Rooms 343 & 344

## BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER MEETING ROOM LEVEL

Level 300



## BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER BALLROOM LEVEL

Level 400

