

# UNLOCKED VOICES

## A Future Beyond Mass Incarceration



MULTIFAITH EMI

### WHAT DOES CHANGING THE NARRATIVE ABOUT MASS INCARCERATION MEAN?

For years, “get tough on crime” was the generic rallying cry in response to rising crime rates. As legislation and policies shifted toward punishment as a deterrent, incarceration rates in the United States skyrocketed. This resulted in broken families, generations stuck in a cycle of poverty and struggling communities across the country.

Fortunately, there is growing recognition of the harm caused by mass incarceration. Today, the Multifaith Initiative to End Mass Incarceration (Multifaith EMI) is helping to lead the charge toward a more holistic, evidence-based approach to criminal justice.

Through Unlocked Voices, Multifaith EMI is facilitating a more nuanced and accurate understanding about mass incarceration that focuses on:

#### 1. FAITH

**No matter where we come from or what we look like, our faith teaches the power of forgiveness and that we’re so much more than our mistakes.**

#### 2. EQUALITY

**In communities where people are treated equally—regardless of their backgrounds—everyone thrives.**

#### 3. SAFETY

**What keeps us safe are programs that foster healthy communities and a justice system that helps build a better future for all.**

#### 4. IMAGINE

**Instead of locking people away for mistakes, imagine a world where we can overcome challenges, make amends and heal in our own communities.**

When faith and community leaders come together to rethink how crime and punishment are handled in the United States, the narrative around mass incarceration includes a more equitable justice system for us all.

