



## **The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls**

### **Andrea James, Founder of The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls Named Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award Recipient**

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls is honored to announce that our Founder, Andrea James has been selected, with Glenn Martin of Just Leadership, to receive the 2016 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award. The award recognizes Andrea's visionary and path-breaking leadership to end the incarceration of women and girls.

Andrea James is the Founder and Executive Director of [Families for Justice as Healing](#), the founder of the [National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls](#), a 2015 Soros Justice Fellow, and the author of [Upper Bunkies Unite: And Other Thoughts On the Politics of Mass Incarceration](#).

"We are very proud Andrea James is being honored for her vision and tireless work. We invite Council members, our friends and supporters to join us for the award ceremony in Washington DC on November 17<sup>th</sup>", said Topeka K. Sam, Council Founding member and National Organizer.

"Andrea worked within the criminal justice system for more than 25 years, from her days as a youth worker, to her work as a criminal defense attorney. In 2009 she was sentenced to serve a 24-month federal prison sentence. After a lifetime of work seeking justice on behalf of disenfranchised people, she was stunned at what she encountered upon entering the federal prison system as an incarcerated person and uses her experience to raise awareness of the effect of incarceration of women on children and communities, and to shift from a criminal legal system to a system focused on human justice," wrote the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights in their [announcement of the award](#). At this crucial moment, Andrea James is focused on clemency for the many women serving life without the possibility of parole in the Federal system. Thus far, President Obama has granted clemency to 872 people and only 60 women. "We have only a few months before the Obama Administration comes to an end and the window of opportunity closes", says James.

The award ceremony will take place Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 11:00 AM, Kennedy Caucus Room, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20002. Attending the ceremony will be Andrea James and her family, Council members, Glenn Martin and Mrs. Ethel Kennedy with remarks by Kerry Kennedy, president of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights.

The ceremony is free and open to all. Seating is limited. To attend, [RSVP](#) now through November 10<sup>th</sup>.

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