

Fwd: [New post] Mississippi Prison Reform Coalition Responds to Gov. Tate Reeves' Announcement of Parchman Unit 29 Closure

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 06:12 PM EST

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **BLACK WITH NO CHASER**<[donotreply@wordpress.com](mailto:donotreply@wordpress.com)>

Date: Tue, Jan 28, 2020, 11:20 AM

Subject: [New post] Mississippi Prison Reform Coalition Responds to Gov. Tate Reeves' Announcement of Parchman Unit 29 Closure

To: <[REDACTED]>

New post on **BLACK WITH NO CHASER**



## Mississippi Prison Reform Coalition Responds to Gov. Tate Reeves' Announcement of Parchman Unit 29 Closure

by [CJ Lawrence](#)

**Full Statement Via [MS Prison Reform Coalition](#):**

Last Friday, we held a rally at the State Capitol attended by over 600 people to demand that our elected representatives shut down Parchman and enact prison system reforms. Yesterday, Gov. Tate Reeves announced that the state will be closing the notoriously inhumane Parchman Unit 29, where multiple deaths have occurred in the last month alone.

While we are hopeful that Gov. Reeves will follow through with this promise, we can not ignore the fact that he failed to provide a detailed plan for closure of the entirety of the Parchman Mississippi State Penitentiary, which continues to be plagued with overcrowding, inadequate heat, lack of running water and sanitation, crumbling walls and violence; the urgent transfer of the 325 incarcerated men who remain housed in Units 29 and 30; and comprehensive policy reforms that will remedy the system-wide failures that have resulted in the current humanitarian and legal crisis as well as the ongoing threats to the safety and well-being of the men and women in the state's care and those it employs.

We have presented policy solutions, crafted with the input of individuals most impacted by the system and advocates. Our policy platform is supported by critical analysis of the potential financial and social impacts, and we believe our proposals will benefit individuals in the system and those it employs, their families, our communities and our state at large.

**Our policy platform is simple:**

**RELEASE & REDUCE** incarceration in Mississippi, Decarcerate.

- Release people with Juvenile Life w/o Parole convictions.
- Release the infirm and elderly.
- Make HB585 retroactive.
- Repeal state Habitual Offender Law.
- Make simple possession a misdemeanor and support drug treatment not incarceration.

**REMOVE** harmful conditions, policies and practices.

- Immediately end lock-downs/shake-downs for cellphones & ensure all people incarcerated are provided food, clean water, heat, clothes, showers, blankets, a clean mattress to sleep on, a working toilet, yard time, mental health and medical care.
- Immediately inform family members of their incarcerated loved one's whereabouts & well-being.
- Implement community-led restorative, educational, recreational, wellness and spiritual programs in all MDOC prisons.

**REMEDY** the harm.

- Create a community oversight board of MDOC prisons.
- Conduct a full and independent investigation into the deaths of incarcerated people, including any officers or prison personnel who may have been involved.
- Increase funding for reentry services including transitional housing & employment.
- Shut down Parchman Prison for good.

Mississippi Prison Reform Coalition: Mississippi Poor People's Campaign, MS Southern Belles, People's Advocacy Institute, Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy, Black With No Chaser, One Voice MS, Central Mississippi Anti-Fund, IWOC MS, MS Southern Poverty Law Center, Alternate Roots, with national partners including Color of Change, Until Freedom and others.



**NATIONWIDE**  
**PRISON**  
**STRIKE**  
**#AUGUST21**

SLAVERY NEVER ENDED

# LIST OF DEMANDS

- 1.** Immediate improvements to the conditions of prisons and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned persons.
- 2.** An immediate end to prison slavery. All persons imprisoned in any place of detention under United States jurisdiction must be paid the prevailing wage in their state or territory for their labor.
- 3.** The Prison Litigation Reform Act must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to address grievances and violations of their rights.
- 4.** The Truth in Sentencing Act and the Sentencing Reform Act must be rescinded so that imprisoned humans have a possibility of rehabilitation and parole. No human shall be sentenced to Death by Incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.
- 5.** An immediate end to the racial overcharging, over-sentencing, and parole denials of Black and brown humans. Black humans shall no longer be denied parole because the victim of the crime was white, which is a particular problem in southern states.
- 6.** An immediate end to racist gang enhancement laws targeting Black and brown humans.
- 7.** No imprisoned human shall be denied access to rehabilitation programs at their place of detention because of their label as a violent offender.
- 8.** State prisons must be funded specifically to offer more rehabilitation services.
- 9.** Pell grants must be reinstated in all US states and territories.
- 10.** The voting rights of all confined citizens serving prison sentences, pretrial detainees, and so-called "ex-felons" must be counted. Representation is demanded. All voices count.

**GUST21#AUGUST21#AUGUST**