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Prison Privatization: It's Impact on women, minorities

Prison privatization and its impact on women, minorities, and the poor will be discussed at an upcoming international conference hosted by Texas Southern University August 6 – 8, 2009. Key presenters and panelists will explore alternative strategies for sentencing, economic development in rural communities, and re-entry prevention.

Organizers for the conference promise participants thought-provoking, energetic information to share with their organizations and communities. Conference partners to date include; TSU's Barbara Jordan Institute for Policy and Research and the Administration of Justice Department, the State Bar of Texas, Harris County Criminal Defense Attorneys, the Innocence Project, Senator Rodney Ellis, Senator Royce West, State Representative Harold Dutton, Children Defense Fund and Children at Risk.

Topics that will be discussed are: Financial and Social Costs of Increasing Imprisonment, Commodification of Prisoners and Human Rights, Constitutional Implications of Private Prisons, The Commercialization of Justice, Inter-jurisdictional Issues and Common Concerns, Demystifying Prison Privatization and privatized Detention of Immigrants.

The conference committee is also accepting proposals for presentations. Proposals should be between 200-400 words. Completed papers are due on July 15, 2009. Please contact Professor Byron Price, the conference chair at 713-313-4809 or send proposals as a word document or pdf to pricebe@tsu.edu.

Conference speakers are Dr. Judith Greene, Justice Strategies (www.justicestrategies.net); Si Kahn, Grassroots Leadership (www.grassrootsleadership.org/index.html); Stephen Nathan, Prison Privatization Report International (www.psiru.org/justice); Byron Price, Texas Southern University; and Jeffrey Ian Ross, Fellow of the Center for International and Comparative Law, University of Baltimore (www.jeffreyianross.com).

For additional information, interested persons should call 713-313-4809 or email Byron Price at pricebe@tsu.edu. Additional details are online at <http://www.tsu.edu/pages/2595.asp>.