

Formerly Incarcerated Activists, Families and Supporters of People in Prison to Call
on Media to Report Horrific Conditions Due to COVID-19 at Press Conference
Outside of CNN Center in Atlanta, GA Monday, January 31, 2022, AT 3:00 PM ET

LOS ANGELES, Jan 30, 2022 – Formerly incarcerated activist and founder of Saving the Forgotten, Velma Bowens, is currently on a multi-state tour to raise awareness of the deadly and inhumane conditions and treatment of incarcerated people in state and federal prisons during the Covid-19 pandemic and advocate for the early release of those most at risk. Bowen's next stop will be Atlanta, Georgia where she will be joined by the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls (The National Council), local grass-root organizers, activists, families, and supporters of incarcerated people.

Where: CNN News Headquarters, at 1 CNN Center, Atlanta, GA 30303

Time: 3:00 – 3:30 PM ET

"The media has done a good job at staying silent when it comes to reporting the deadly conditions in this country's prisons and jails. But these are human beings, they deserve a chance to live and not be killed by neglect and a pandemic. So, if the media won't come to them, we will come to the media". – *V. Bowens*

"The federal Bureau of Prisons alone has admitted to 276 deaths from COVID-19, although the real number is certainly much higher. Infection rates in prisons and jails is six times that of the general population due to failure to provide PPE and cleaning supplies and refusal to decarcerate to allow meaningful social distancing. Lockdowns with four people in a 6 x 9 cell who are let out for 90 minutes every two days are common. Twice a day they get food marked "not for human consumption." Prison staff refuse to wear masks and deliberately expose healthy incarcerated individuals to those with positive COVID tests and active illness.; Those with COVID are left to fend for themselves with no medical care. There are thousands of incarcerated people who are elderly, ill, survivors of domestic violence, and long-timers who need to come home. Now is the time". – *The National Council*

About The National Council

The National Council was founded in 2010 by a group of women while incarcerated in the federal prison in Danbury, CT.

Our mission is to end the incarceration of women and girls. In 2015 the work that began in a prison yard led to the establishment of The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, which has a nationwide reach. For more information, please visit www.nationalcouncil.us.

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