‘Nothing About Us Without Us’: Including the Voices and Ideas of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls

Founder and Executive Director of the National Council For Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls and of Families for Justice as Healing, author of Upper Bunkies Unite: And Other Thoughts On the Politics of Mass Incarceration, a 2015 Soros Justice Fellow, and recipient of the RFK Human Rights award. Andrea worked within the criminal justice system for more than 25 years, including as a trial and 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. Andrea uses her experience to raise awareness of the effect of incarceration of women on themselves, their children and communities, and to contribute to the shift from a criminal legal system to a system focused on human justice.