Friends and Allies Talking Points

Hillary for America

**Calling for an end to the era of mass incarceration, Hillary Clinton delivered the keynote address at the 18th Annual David N. Dinkins Leadership and Public Policy Forum at Columbia University today**. Her remarks addressed the tragic situation in Baltimore and laid out a broader vision for criminal justice reform that included specific policy proposals.

**Baltimore Tears At the Soul.** Hillary said that the news in Baltimore “tears at the soul” of this nation and called on the country to “to come to terms with some hard truths about race and justice in America.”

* She weaved together the news about Walter Scott of South Carolina, Tamir Rice of Ohio, Eric Garner of Staten Island and now Freddie Gray in Baltimore.
* She said that the criminal justice system has gotten “out of balance” and said “everyone in every community benefits when there is respect for the law and when everyone in every community is respected by the law.”

**“End the Era of Mass Incarceration.”** Hillary called for reform to our criminal justice system by changing the way we approach punishment and prison, including reforms to probation and drug diversions, increasing support for mental health and drug treatment, and pursuing alternative punishments for low level offenders, especially young people.

* She cited an estimated 1.5 million black men who are “missing” from their families and communities because of incarceration and premature death.

**Body Cameras for Every Police Department in the Country**. Hillary pledged innovative strategies to fight crime and rebuild trust between law enforcement and the communities they represent.

* She called for every police department in the country to have body cameras to improve transparency and accountability in order to protect those on both sides of the lens.

**There’s something wrong: the system is out of balance.** She said there is something fundamentally wrong in our country when African American men are far more likely to be stopped and searched by police, charged with crimes and sentenced to longer prison terms.)

**Hillary Clinton is a proven fighter and champion of criminal justice reform.**

* After law school, Hillary worked for the Children’s Defense Fund fighting for juvenile justice issues.
* As director of the University of Arkansas School of Law’s legal aid clinic, Hillary advocated for prison inmates and poor families.
* Hillary proposed an anti-crime plan to cut down on repeat offenders and reduce prison population
* Hillary authored a plan to reform probation and drug diversion programs.
* Hillary proposed a plan that would give states grants to reform or expand drug courts, mental health courts, drug diversion programs, and the juvenile justice system.

**This is just the start of Hillary on this issue.** Today’s speech was scheduled prior to Hillary announcing her candidacy for President, and while today’s remarks discussed specific policy ideas, and challenges we must address, the campaign is still in a “ramp up” stage, and there will be a more detailed policy rollout as we move forward.