



## Understanding the Problem of Racism in the Judicial System

Community Forum

"THINGS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN..."



*This is the third in a set of four roundtable discussions about understanding the problem of racism as it exists in Broome County and the Greater Binghamton area. This roundtable focuses on racism in the judicial system. The judicial system reinforces inequalities and oppression through its policies and practices.*

### **Opening Remarks**

Carole Coppens, Director, YWCA, Broome County

### **Introduction:**

Zeynep Gönen and Zhandarka Kurti

### **A personal story: Ms. Teresa Avilés**

(30 minutes for presentation and questions)

Introduction by Carmen Arey

## **Small Group Discussion (45 minutes- Discuss two or more)**

1. What brought you here tonight? What do you hope to get from this conversation?
2. Does the information presented on arrests, convictions and detentions correspond to what you have seen or experienced? What are the effects of such practices on Binghamton communities? Do these communities experience these effects differently?
3. Why are youth of color arrested more and end up in prison more than white youths?
4. At what level [arrests, booking, courts, detention, jail or prisons] do we encounter the biggest problems?
5. Do undocumented people/youth face special problems? Is the problem increasing because of what is happening across the United States? Who gets identified as "undocumented"?
6. How can we begin to confront police brutality?
7. How can we collectively think of ways to combat the demise of legal aid?
8. Have you identified any discrepancies between the amount of federal funds that go towards education as opposed to the amount invested in juvenile detentions and prisons? Has this affected you in any way?
9. Do you know of the conditions in local jails, detention centers, prisons? How are people's concerns being silenced with respect to healthcare [especially HIV, Hepatitis C, etc]? How can we address these healthcare issues?

**Buffet and Report from small groups and Group discussion  
(45 minutes) – Leo Wilton**

**Where do we go from here?**



*Coordinating Committee*  
Zhandarka Kari  
Zeynep Gönen  
Kelvin Santiago-Valles  
Delvin Williams  
Carmen Arty  
Leo Wilton  
Dina Marimba  
Josh Price  
Gladys Jiménez-Muñoz  
Bill Marin  
Michael West

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Broome County YWCA  
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Tanya Robinson  
Israel Silva Merced  
Alycia Zieno  
Sheena O'Connor  
Bonnie Phelps

We are planning another roundtable for Fall 2006 that will emphasize the connection between racism and the social service system.

If you want more information please contact Professor Gladys Jiménez-Muñoz at 607-7772498 or at the e-mail: [gjimenez@binghamton.edu](mailto:gjimenez@binghamton.edu)