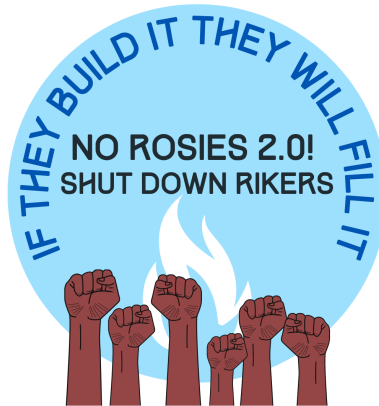




COLUMBIA: DIVEST FROM JAIL, NO ROSIES 2.0!
EMAIL ZAP

Link: <https://bit.ly/columbiazapjails>

Columbia University is supporting a proposal to build a new women's jail in Harlem, developed in part by the Columbia Justice Lab. We must take action to demand that Columbia stops legitimizing plans to lock up women, trans, and gender non-conforming people, primarily Black and Latinx, into more cages.

We're demanding that the **Columbia Justice Lab publicly renounce the new women's jail proposal OR redistribute its "abolitionist" funding to projects ACTUALLY invested in abolitionist efforts to end incarceration in New York City.**

Scroll down to find the script and [find graphics for sharing here](#).
You can share just the graphics about the zap or the full set.

Targets:

- **Vincent Schiraldi (Founder of Columbia Justice Lab)**
 - Email: vs2637@columbia.edu
 - Social: @VinSchiraldi
- **Bruce Western (Director of Columbia Justice Lab)**
 - Email: bw2562@columbia.edu
 - Email: <https://www.brucewestern.org/contact>
 - Social: @WesternBruce
- **Gladys Carrion (Senior Fellow at Columbia Justice Lab)**
 - Email: gc2904@columbia.edu

Email Script:

Hello [NAME]

We want to reach across the table to employees and collaborators with the Columbia Justice Lab regarding developments in the department. **We see you as a key driver behind the new women's jail, in your capacity at the CU Justice Lab.**

In 2021, in the wake of racial justice uprisings in response to the state murder of George Floyd, the Justice Lab received a \$5 million grant from the Mellon Foundation to develop “racial justice and abolition democracy” curricula. Last month, the public learned that the Justice Lab, while benefiting from this funding, is working to propose the construction of a new jail for “women and gender-expansive people” in New York City’s Harlem neighborhood.

Given the mission, funding, and programming demands of the Columbia Justice Lab, your department must rethink its advocacy of this plan and withdraw from it. Certainly, it would be unethical to continue to fund the Lab’s work with money earmarked for abolition while substantially supporting prison expansion.

The lab’s role in this project is in direct opposition to the most basic principles of abolition and feminism - innovating new forms of “gender-responsive” incarceration. As such, **we call upon the Columbia Justice Lab to renounce the new Women’s Jail Plan OR return the \$5 million it received from the Mellon Foundation and redistribute it to community-led projects that support the wellbeing of Black, trans, and poor New Yorkers including: abortion funds, survivor funds, harm reduction clinics, free healthcare, mutual aid collectives, and vocational training that are ACTUALLY invested in abolitionist education.**

We see this proposal for what it is: **a distraction from the longstanding inside-led struggle to close Rikers, layered on top of the indefensible Borough Based Jails plan.** We resist the tokenization of formerly incarcerated and current incarcerated people. Instead of dedicating funds to public housing, social welfare, and programs which promote community wellbeing, the borough-based jails lay the ground for another hundred years of anti-Black, anti-poor, incarceration.

We know that it is a false premise: “to close a jail we have to open a new one.” We refuse to allow another generation of New Yorkers to be subjected to the violence of these carceral humanist reform projects.

Twitter:

@CUJusticeLab is working to build a new women's jail in Harlem while receiving \$5 mill to develop abolitionist curricula. The lab must renounce its support for this jail or return its funding to the community! #NoNewWomensJailNYC @WesternBruce @VinSchiraldi

Incarceration will never be "feminist" - No cages in our feminism! No cages in NYC!
#NoNewWomensJailNYC @WesternBruce @VinSchiraldi @CUJusticeLab

The proposed new women's jail in Harlem is Rosies 2.0, you can't innovate the violence out of incarceration - @CUJusticeLab pull out of this caging project! #NoNewWomensJailNYC @WesternBruce @VinSchiraldi

Graphics

FULL RES GRAPHICS HERE

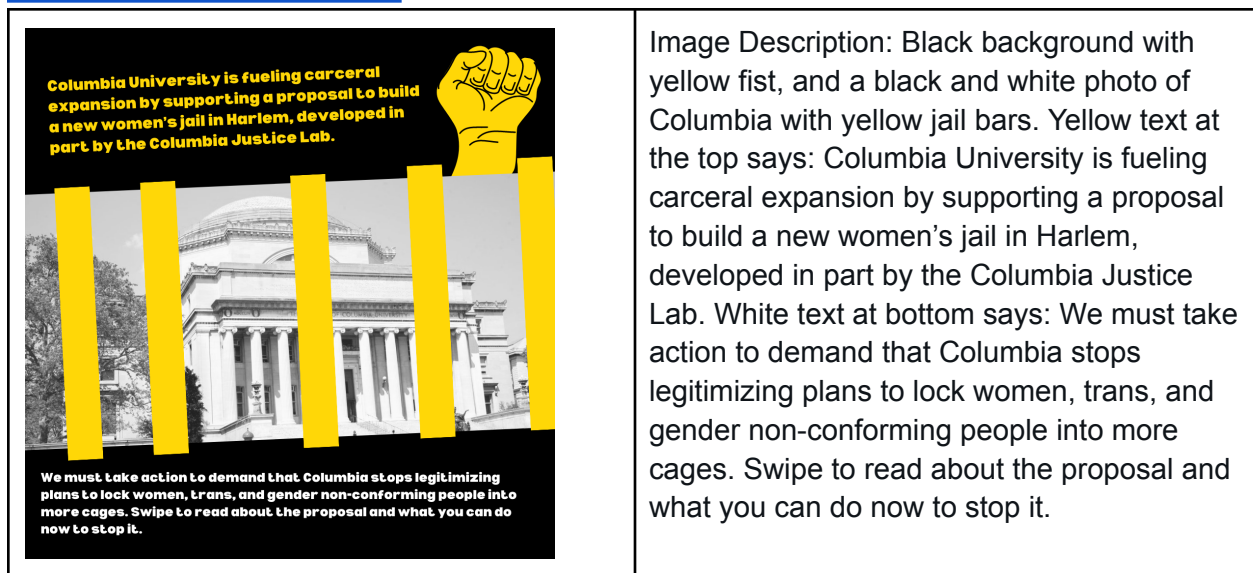
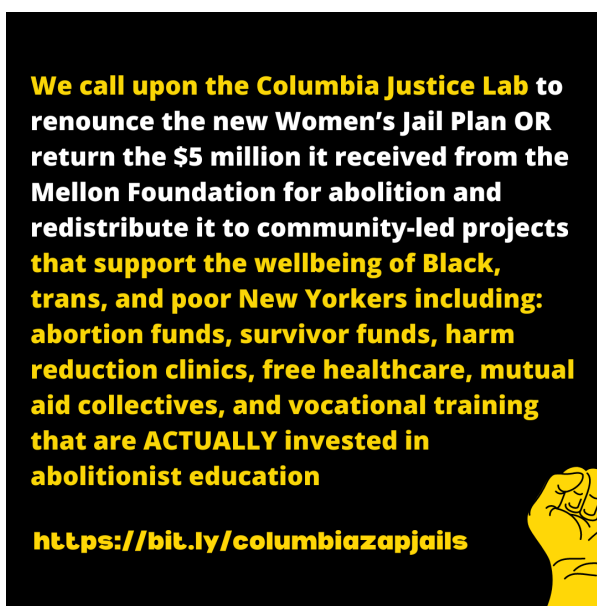




Image Description: Black background with yellow fist, and three photos. On the left, a photo of Vincent Schiraldi, a white man with a white shirt and grey coat and gray hair with glasses. Below it says Vincent Schiraldi, Senior Fellow/Adjunct Professor at the Columbia School of Social Work. To the right of him is a photo of Bruce Western, a white man with no hair and beige shirt, and under him it says, Bruce Western is the Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice and Director of the Justice Lab at Columbia University. To the right of him, a white woman with brown hair, under which it says, Gladys Carrión, Senior Fellow at the Columbia Justice Lab. Yellow text says "We call upon the Columbia Justice Lab to renounce the new women's jail plan OR redistribute its \$5 million dollar "abolition" grant to community-led projects that are ACTUALLY invested in abolitionist education and praxis."



STANDALONE IMAGE Image Description: Black background with Yellow text says "We call upon the Columbia Justice Lab to renounce the new Women's Jail Plan OR return the \$5 million it received from the Mellon Foundation for abolition and redistribute it to community-led projects that support the wellbeing of Black, trans, and poor New Yorkers including: abortion funds, survivor funds, harm reduction clinics, free healthcare, mutual aid collectives, and vocational training that are ACTUALLY invested in abolitionist education."

What is the proposal?

- In May, the Columbia Justice Lab along with the Women's Community Justice Association (WCJA), the UT Austin Prison and Jail Innovation Lab, and real-estate firm HR&A advisors, released plans to open a new jail for "women and gender-expansive people" at the site of the closed Lincoln Correctional Facility in Harlem.
- The proposal brands itself as a "feminist," "humane," "gender-responsive" alternative to existing jails. It claims to focus on "treatment" rather than punishment.
- As abolitionists, we know that cages can never be "humane" or "feminist." Here's why...

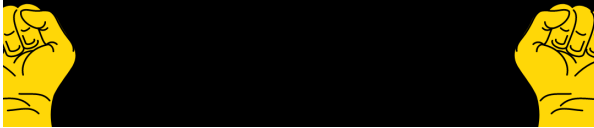


Image Description: Black background with yellow fists on the bottom corners, and a sun outline at the top. Yellow text says: What is the proposal? White text says: In May, the Columbia Justice Lab along with the Women's Community Justice Association (WCJA), the UT Austin Prison and Jail Innovation Lab, and real-estate firm HR&A advisors, released plans to open a new jail for "women and gender-expansive people" at the site of the closed Lincoln Correctional Facility in Harlem.

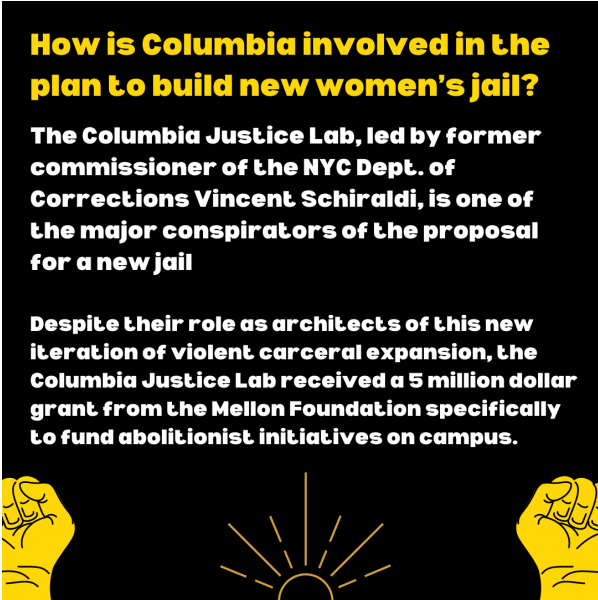
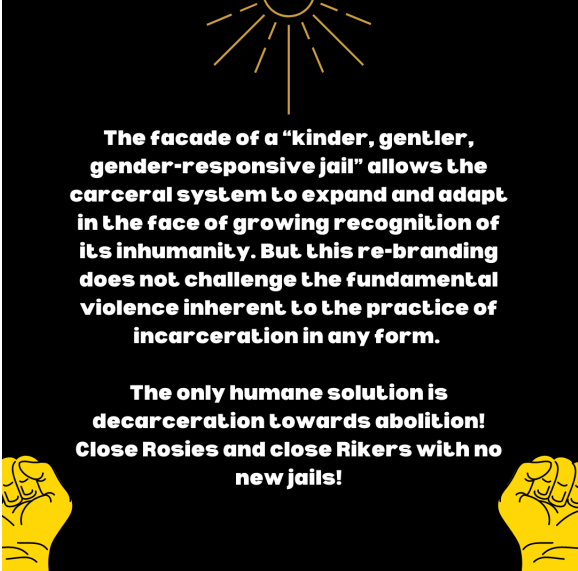
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Why is the "feminist jail" dangerous?

- Rosie's, the existing women's jail on Rikers Island, was originally proposed as a "humane reform," and now produces immeasurable death and trauma. **This is because Incarceration is inherently violent, traumatic, and anti-feminist.**
- **No institution that deprives people of their freedom, severs family and community ties, and produces the violent power relations characteristic of carceral spaces can ever be called humane.**
- People must be given the option to be free first, before anything else. At present fewer than 300 people are at Rosie's.
- The majority of people who will be locked in this new jail are Black, Brown, poor, and disabled. **Why not invest in better resources for them instead of funding incarceration?**
- People inside Rikers **of all genders** deserve a high quality of care.

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- Rosie's, the existing women's jail on Rikers Island, was originally proposed as a "humane reform," and now produces immeasurable death and trauma. (in yellow text) This is because Incarceration is inherently violent, traumatic, and anti-feminist.
- (yellow text) No institution that deprives people of their freedom, severs family and community ties, and produces the violent power relations characteristic of carceral spaces can ever be called humane
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	Brown, poor, and disabled. (in yellow text) Why not invest in better resources for them instead of funding incarceration? • People inside Rikers of all genders deserve a high quality of care.
 How is Columbia involved in the plan to build new women's jail? The Columbia Justice Lab, led by former commissioner of the NYC Dept. of Corrections Vincent Schiraldi, is one of the major conspirators of the proposal for a new jail Despite their role as architects of this new iteration of violent carceral expansion, the Columbia Justice Lab received a 5 million dollar grant from the Mellon Foundation specifically to fund abolitionist initiatives on campus.	Image Description: Black background with yellow fists on the bottom corners, and a sun outline at the top. Yellow text says: How is Columbia involved in the plan to build new women's jail? White text says: The Columbia Justice Lab, led by former commissioner of the NYC Dept. of Corrections Vincent Schiraldi, is one of the major conspirators of the proposal for a new jail. Despite their role as architects of this new iteration of violent carceral expansion, the Columbia Justice Lab received a 5 million dollar grant from the Mellon Foundation specifically to fund abolitionist initiatives on campus.
 The facade of a "kinder, gentler, gender-responsive jail" allows the carceral system to expand and adapt in the face of growing recognition of its inhumanity. But this re-branding does not challenge the fundamental violence inherent to the practice of incarceration in any form. The only humane solution is decarceration towards abolition! Close Rosies and close Rikers with no new jails!	Image Description: Black background with yellow fists on the bottom corners, and a sun outline at the top. White text says: The facade of a "kinder, gentler, gender-responsive jail" allows the carceral system to expand and adapt in the face of growing recognition of its inhumanity. But this re-branding does not challenge the fundamental violence inherent to the practice of incarceration in any form. The only humane solution is decarceration towards abolition! Close Rosies and close Rikers with no new jails!

EMAIL ZAP TO COLUMBIA!

Vincent Schiraldi (Founder of Columbia Justice Lab)

Email: vs2637@columbia.edu

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Email: <https://www.brucewestern.org/contact>

Social: @WesternBruce

Bernard Harcourt (Cofounder of Columbia Justice Lab)

Email: bharcourt@law.columbia.edu

Social: @BernardHarcourt

Call: (212) 854-1997

Gladys Carrion (Senior Fellow at Columbia Justice Lab)

Email: gc2904@columbia.edu

SCRIPT HERE:

<https://bit.ly/columbiazapjails>



Image Description: Black background with yellow fists on the bottom corners, and a sun outline at the top. Yellow text says: Email Zap to Columbia! White text says: Vincent Schiraldi (Founder of Columbia Justice Lab) Email: vs2637@columbia.edu Social: @VinSchiraldi Bruce Western (Director of Columbia Justice Lab) Email: mel2243@columbia.edu Email: <https://www.brucewestern.org/contact> Social: @WesternBruce Bernard Harcourt (Cofounder of Columbia Justice Lab) Email: bharcourt@law.columbia.edu Social: @BernardHarcourt Call: (212) 854-1997 Gladys Carrion (Senior Fellow at Columbia Justice Lab) Email: gc2904@columbia.edu

With a link:

<https://bit.ly/columbiazapjails>