



PRESS RELEASE
August 13, 2018

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**Arkansas Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Public Meeting: *Civil Rights and Mass Incarcerations***

Little Rock, AR –The Arkansas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a public meeting with panel discussions on mass incarceration in the state.

The meeting will take place on Friday, September 7, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Central Daylight Time (CDT), at the Holiday Inn Presidential, 600 I-30, Little Rock, AR 72202. This meeting is open to the public. To request individual accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend, please contact the Regional Programs Unit at 312-353-8311 at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

The Committee will examine the state’s growing prison population, and the disproportionately high incarceration rate of individuals of color relative to the general population. The Committee will consider state and local policies and practices which may contribute to these disparities, and seek alternative policies and practices with the demonstrated potential to address such concerns.

The Committee will hear testimony from formerly incarcerated individuals, community members, advocates, academics, and public officials. Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment period scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to mwojnaroski@usccr.gov by Monday, October 8, 2018.

Committee Chair Carol Johnson said, “The disproportionate mass incarceration of persons of color is destructive not only to the families involved, but to society as a whole. This dialogue is critical in understanding ways to address policies and practices that deny equal protection under the law and will hopefully assist in the development of strategies necessary to change our course from destruction to hope.”

The Arkansas Committee will issue findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).