

## The New Jim Crow

### Discussion Questions: Introduction and Chapter 1:

1. What reasons would you have for deciding that the increase in the rate of incarceration reflects the racism in US society?
2. Why have Civil Rights organizations not focused on or have been slow to focus on the issue of racial justice?
3. What strategies have wealthier whites used to divide poor whites from African Americans in the past and in the present?
4. "The current system of control depends on black exceptionalism; it is not disproved or undermined by it." (p. 14) Do you agree or disagree?

### Discussion Questions Chapters 2 and 3:

- 1-. What has been the role of the Supreme Court in addressing racial bias since the beginning of the Drug War?
2. Compare the "Old Jim Crow" system to the "New Jim Crow" system. What similarities? What differences? Purposes? Methods?
3. What do we feel is a reasonable response to those in possession of drugs currently defined as illegal? To those currently selling drugs that are currently defined as illegal?

### Discussion Questions Chapters 4 and 5:

1. What are the similarities and differences between the "old" and "new" Jim Crow? What differences would be important to take into account when organizing a movement?
2. Alexander summarizes the social meaning of slavery as exploitation, Jim Crow as subordination and Mass incarceration as marginalization. Does this seem to be an accurate summary and if so, how can marginalization be addressed?
3. How might the social silence around incarceration affect a movement for change? What factors does Alexander feel have caused Americans to deny the fact of mass incarceration of people of color? In what ways might a movement for change want to address them?

### Discussion Questions Chapter 6:

1. Do we agree that that colorblindness is part of the problem? If so, how can this be addressed?

2. What are our thoughts about Alexander's idea of no longer pursuing affirmative action?
3. Why does Alexander believe that when building a movement the focus should shift from Civil Rights to Human Rights?
4. What kinds of strategies can be effective in including all, especially poor whites?
5. Is punishment the best or necessary response to crime?
6. How do we change the power structure?
7. What prevents justice from being administered equally and fairly in the United States?
8. How do we engage people in promoting change whose interests are not so immediately involved in dismantling the system of mass incarceration?
9. In what ways may we help those who have been incarcerated reintegrate into our communities?
10. What next steps do we feel we should take?