



## Policy & Community Organizing

### Achievements & Initiatives

- As members of **Communities United for Police Reform** we helped secure passage of the Community Safety Act, groundbreaking legislation that strengthened and expanded the ban on racial and other discriminatory profiling and established independent oversight of the NYPD.
- In September 2014, we released findings from our report "**Voices From the Box: Solitary Confinement at Rikers Island,**" exposing a systemic practice that is unquestionably inhumane, raises serious Eighth Amendment issues, and deserves the label torture.
- We launched a campaign to reform **civil forfeiture** laws, a multi-strategy initiative which tackles much-needed legislative changes and aims to increase understanding of the real-life impacts of property retrieval and civil forfeiture proceedings.
- We give Bronx residents crucial tools to navigate the criminal justice and child welfare systems through our "When ACS Knocks..." workshops and Know Your Rights outreach.
- We have re-defined the role of public defenders in the reentry process by advocating for legislation that would strengthen employment discrimination protections for job-seekers with conviction histories; protect tenants; improve access to education for people with criminal justice involvement; and restore fairness to New York's Parole system.
- We partner with organizations around the city and state to push for fair immigration policies, including the ICE out of Rikers Coalition, which successfully passed City Council legislation in 2011 to protect non-citizens who are arrested but not convicted of crimes from deportation, and passed an **expansion of that bill in 2014** to address the impact of "Secure Communities."