

CAMPAIGN FOR
YOUTH JUSTICE

BECAUSE THE CONSEQUENCES AREN'T MINOR

The film *Prison Kids* will take you inside the harsh realities of the juvenile justice system. You can follow the journeys of kids who have been permanently affected by serving time at an adult prison. Many of these children struggle to return to life outside of prison after being subjected to solitary confinement and violence. *Prison Kids* emphasizes how we must use alternative approaches to break this cycle.

<http://fusion.net/video/207874/prison-kids-investigative-documentary-about-juvenile-justice-in-america/>

Prison Kids Discussion Questions:

1. Were you surprised by anything in the film? Why or why not?
2. What were some mistakes you made as a child and how have you changed since then?
3. What are some of the main reasons why some kids may be more vulnerable to being incarcerated in the United States than others?
4. Do you think children should be arrested in their schools for minor offenses such as petty theft or fighting? Why or why not?
5. What do you think the impact of having no minimum age for conviction of crime (as in Florida) has on kids in those states and our society as a whole?
6. Do you still see the "super-predator" myth in today's society and if so how could we change that perception?
7. Should solitary confinement be considered cruel and unusual punishment?
8. Why do you think prisons continue to use solitary confinement if studies have shown that they actually make an inmate's behavior worse?
9. Why do you think there are such drastic racial disparities in incarceration, as evident at the Youth Study Center in New Orleans highlighted in the film where the entire population was African American?
10. How does the juvenile criminal justice system make it extremely difficult to get out of the cycle of incarceration once you are first arrested?
11. What kind of laws should states pass to improve the juvenile system and help those most at risk of childhood incarceration?
12. How does the Promise program, as seen in the film, provide a successful alternative to arresting youth?
13. How could our communities and society improve if we didn't imprison our youth?
14. Why do you think there is such a high percentage of incarcerated youth with mental health issues (70%) and how could we work to change that?

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