



## Let Our Families Have a Future Campaign

*"I pleaded to him to please understand me and hear me clearly that I at no point requested or desired this tubal ligation. So with clear hesitation and an unsuccessful attempt to persuade me otherwise, I was finally handed a medical form to sign supposedly declining the tubal ligation following delivery. I was told to put my signature on this paper, which I could not fully understand due to the incoherent state I was in as a result of the anesthesia. Today, I do not know if this tubal ligation was performed or not."*

-Kimberly Jeffery; an African American mother previously imprisoned in a CA

Every day, California prisons violate numerous rights afforded to pregnant people, parents, and their communities under international law, including the right to family, the right to health, and the right to be free from cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. For many, being pregnant in prison means facing grossly inadequate diets and prenatal care, indifferent responses to severe pain or bleeding, derogatory and degrading treatment during the labor process, painful separation from their children very shortly after giving birth, and little to no postpartum care.

The *Let Our Families Have a Future* campaign is focused on bringing light to and ending the many ways that people's human right to form a family is interrupted and destroyed by the prison system. This includes, but is not limited to: Being imprisoned during reproductive and family formation years, sterilization during the birthing process, sterilization during other operations for birth control purposes, very low quality or abusive reproductive health care. Justice Now has been urging the state to:

**Investigate:** Hold hearings to investigate the fraudulent use of state funds for illegal sterilizations.

**Acknowledgment/Apology:** A formal acknowledgment and apology from the Governor and legislature of California.

**Safety:** An end to all illegal sterilizations and measures in place to ensure that illegal sterilization of people inside CA prisons never occurs again.

**Reparations:** Immediate notification and reparation for people in CA women's prisons who have been illegally sterilized on the watch of and at the hands of the CDCR.

Justice Now also sponsored SB 1135, Prison Sterilization Prohibition Bill in 2014 that was unanimously passed by legislature and signed into law by the Governor. The intent of this legislation is to prevent sterilization abuse of vulnerable populations, ensure safeguards against sterilization abuse within the coercive environment of prison and jails, and to positively affirm all people's right to fully self-determine their reproductive lives free from coercion, violence, or threat of force.

To learn more about Justice Now and get involved:

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