

# Hastings Journal of Crime and Punishment

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Volume 2  
Number 1 *Winter 2021*

Article 2

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Winter 2021

## Editor's Foreword

Ava Agree

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### Recommended Citation

Ava Agree, *Editor's Foreword*, 2 *Hastings J. Crime & Punish.* 1 (2021).

Available at: [https://repository.uchastings.edu/hastings\\_journal\\_crime\\_punishment/vol2/iss1/2](https://repository.uchastings.edu/hastings_journal_crime_punishment/vol2/iss1/2)

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### **Editor's Foreword**

This first issue of the *Hastings Journal of Crime and Punishment's* second year of publication is a product, like so much else this year, of a time of crisis. Recognizing the significant sacrifices made by all who contributed to its publication, I want to begin by thanking all of our team and collaborators for their continued patience, grit, empathy, and determination. All of the many hands that touched this issue on its way to publication did so while balancing unprecedented challenges. We are honored that in the midst of so many crises, the journal staff members and contributors whose work is represented here gave their time to push needed conversations about criminal justice reform forward. Thank you.

Following our inaugural year, the *Hastings Journal of Crime and Punishment* sought to clarify our mission and recommit ourselves to publishing voices that challenge traditional orthodoxies within academic discourse related to criminal justice. Written on the heels of nationwide uprisings challenging white supremacy and the role of policing in our society, this issue has attempted to respond meaningfully to the demands of our moment. We have attempted to fulfill that mission in two ways. First, we have prioritized the publication of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated voices. Second, we have committed to publishing perspectives that challenge the anti-racist and reform discussion to demand meaningful change and address root causes of injustice within our criminal justice system. We are proud of the work we have done, and we recognize that it is just a beginning.

Given the difficulties of publishing amidst the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and unfolding political upheaval, this issue is brief, including only two articles. This is, in part, also a result of our own dedication to publishing predominately formerly incarcerated voices. In attempting to bring those who have been historically excluded from academic discussions about criminal justice reform into that space, we have committed large amounts of time to supporting emerging voices in this field. That work has been rewarding, but it has also required more time and attention than was initially anticipated, resulting in the deferment of several articles originally intended for this issue to our Spring 2021 issue.

We are honored to be able to present the two pieces included in this issue. First, we are proud to publish for the first time work from a formerly incarcerated writer, Juan Flores' article "*Criminalization of Homies: Gang Policing Tactics and Community Fragmentation*". This piece provides a

powerful example of research emerging from within communities who have been most victimized by the excesses of our criminal justice system into the ways that system has defined criminality and fractured community cohesion in the process. Next, we are proud to present a new work by Udi Ofer, “*Defunding Prosecutors: The Case for Reducing the Power and Budgets of Prosecutors to Help End Mass Incarceration*”. This piece grew out of the symposium we hosted in February 2020 on the topic of progressive prosecution, and we are excited to have been able to work with Udi in crafting it. In it, Udi addresses an implicit critique of the ‘Progressive Prosecutor’ movement from the left: namely, that it is the discretionary power of prosecutor offices that is inherently damaging. In his article, Udi challenges us to think in novel ways about how decreasing the capacity of those offices may in the end, be the most progressive way of reforming them.

In closing, we would like to thank all of our many collaborators who have made this issue possible. It has been an honor to work on producing this issue and we look forward to continue our work together and it is our sincere hope that from this moment of crisis we will emerge with renewed commitment to reshaping the way we define and address crime and punishment.

Ava Agree

Editor in Chief

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