



*A Memorial For
Edwin “Eddie” Ellis*

6:30pm—8:30pm

September 12, 2014

New York Society for Ethical Culture

2 West 64th Street New York, NY 10025

MEMORIAL PROGRAM

6:30—6:35	Welcome
6:35—6:40	“Eulogy for Eddie Ellis”
6:40—6:50	Opening Remarks
6:50—6:55	The Black Panther Party Movement
6:55—7:10	Green Haven: Organizing on the Inside
7:10—7:20	The Healing Drum Collective
7:20—7:30	Neighborhood Defender Service: Organizing on the Outside
7:30—7:35	On The Count
7:35—7:45	The Language Letter
7:45—8:00	Organizing the Formerly Incarcerated
8:00—8:15	Eddie Ellis Academy for Human Justice
8:15—8:25	Continuing Eddie’s Legacy
8:30	Reception at the Social Hall

Anne Klaeyesen, Leader, New York Society for Ethical Culture

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Dr. Divine Pryor, Exec. Director Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions

David White, former member of the Black Panther Party

Hassan Gale, former Chair, Green Haven Think Tank

Chris Stone, President, Open Society Foundations

M. Ndigo Washington, Founder & Ellore Grossett, Drummer

Elsie Chandler, Senior Attorney, NDS & Vaughn Jackson, Community Liaison, Fortune Society and a childhood friend of Eddie Ellis

Imani Ward, Associate Producer and Co-Host of On the Count

Introduction by Greer Ellis Coleman, daughter of Eddie Ellis

Recorded reading of the letter by Danny Glover

Dorsey Nunn, Executive Director, All of Us or None & Dr. Divine Pryor

Chino Hardin, Youth Organizer, CNUS

Cory Greene, Community Organizer, CNUS

Kyung-Ji Kate Rhee, Juvenile Justice Director, CNUS

Leonard Dunston, Board Member, CNUS

Eddie pushed CNUS and fellow progressives to champion new nomenclature in our discussions of prison reform. Read it online.



An Open Letter to Our Friends on the Question of Language

“When there is emotional pain, psychiatrists like me believe that we can help. But before we act we need to find some handle for the problem, some name to guide action. Once in awhile, we realize that these names are inadequate for the problems we are seeing. Then we search for new names, or new ways to group old names.”

— Mindy Thompson Fullilove, M.D., “Root Shock,” 2005

Dear Friends:

The Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions is a human justice policy, advocacy and training center founded, directed and led by academics and advocates who were formerly incarcerated. It is the first and only one of its kind in the United States.

One of our first initiatives is to respond to the negative public perception about our population as expressed in the language and concepts used to describe us. When we are not called mad dogs, animals, predators, offenders and other derogatory terms, we are referred to as inmates, convicts, prisoners and felons—all terms devoid of humanness which identify us as “things” rather than as people. These terms are accepted as the “official” language of the media, law enforcement, prison industrial complex and public policy agencies. **However, they are no longer acceptable for us and we are asking people to stop using them.**

In an effort to assist our transition from prison to our communities as responsible citizens and to create a more positive human image of ourselves, we are asking everyone to stop using these negative terms and to simply refer to us as PEOPLE. People currently or formerly incarcerated, PEOPLE on parole, PEOPLE recently released from prison, PEOPLE in prison, PEOPLE with criminal convictions, but PEOPLE.

We habitually underestimate the power of language. **The bible says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”** In fact, all of the faith traditions recognize the power of words and, in particular, names that we are given or give ourselves. Ancient traditions considered the “naming ceremony” one of the most important rites of passage. Your name indicated

not only who you were and where you belonged, but also who you could be. The worst part of repeatedly hearing your negative definition of me, is that I begin to believe it myself “for as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.” It follows then, that calling me inmate, convict, prisoner, felon, or offender indicates a lack of understanding of who I am, but more importantly **what I can be.** I can be and am much more than an “ex-con,” or an “ex-offender,” or an “ex-felon.”

The Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions believes that if we can get progressive publications, organizations and individuals like you to stop using the old offensive language and simply refer to us as **“people,”** we will have achieved a significant step forward in our life giving struggle to be recognized as the human beings we are. We have made our mistakes, yes, but we have also paid or are paying our debts to society.

We believe we have the right to be called by a name we choose, rather than one someone else decides to use. We think that by insisting on being called **“people”** we reaffirm our right to be recognized as human beings, not animals, inmates, prisoners or offenders.

We also firmly believe that if we cannot persuade you to refer to us, and think of us, as people, then all our other efforts at reform and change are seriously compromised.

Accordingly, please talk with your friends and colleagues about this initiative. If you agree with our approach encourage others to join us. Use positive language in your writing, speeches, publications, web sites and literature. **When you hear people using the negative language, gently and respectfully correct them and explain why such language is hurting us. Kindly circulate this letter on your various list serves**

If you disagree with this initiative, please write and tell us by emailing us at info@centerfornuleadership.org. Perhaps, we have overlooked something. Please join us in making this campaign successful. With your help we can change public opinion, one person at a time.

Thank you so much.

In Solidarity and Love,

Eddie Ellis

Founder

4 EASY STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Be conscious of the language you use. Remember that each time you speak, you convey powerful word picture images.
2. Stop using the terms offender, felon, prisoner, inmate and convict.
3. Substitute the word PEOPLE for these other negative terms.
4. Encourage your friends, family and colleagues to use positive language in their speech, writing, publications and electronic communications.

ON EDDIE IN OTHERS' WORDS



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Eddie had a huge impact on us all. Here are a few words from some of his friends and colleagues.

“Eddie Ellis was a game changer, certainly for himself as he contended with an adverse world, but he made the world better for countless others as they seek to change their own game. No tribute too great for the man who reaches back for his brothers and sisters.”

New York State Assembly Member Jeff L. Aubry

“Beyond his own work, Eddie’s reach was enormous. He touched and profoundly impacted the lives and work of students, lawyers, faith leaders, elected officials, philanthropists and activists of all stripes. The power of his intellect, his compassion and his uncompromising commitment to justice will be carried forward through the countless hearts and minds he influenced. The many long conversations we had when I was a young leader heading the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem helped guide me through some challenging days, and for that I will be forever grateful. Eddie pushed me -- as I am sure he has done with countless others -- to be bold, principled and courageous. Some of my best days have been when I have been able to live up to the standards he set for me, and for himself.”

Lenny Noisette, Program Director, Justice Fund, Open Society Foundations U.S. Programs; Executive Director, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, 1993-2008

“Eddie served as a litmus test as to whether you were part of the problem or part of the solution in dismantling the prison industrial complex. His brilliance in this regard is rivaled by none. His insistence on the use of language that embraced the dignity of the people who were incarcerated shaped the conversation in ways far beyond our imagination. His vision and use of the airways with “On the Count” served to spread the word as far as his voice could be heard. His determination to improve the lives of many served as a beacon of light that will shine forever in our hearts.”

Soffiyah Elijah, Executive Director, Correctional Association of NY

“Eddie Ellis personified his generation’s struggle for justice, and his was not just a twenty-year generation, but a generation embracing more than a half-century. From his early organizing with the Panthers to achieve the basic elements of human dignity, to his 21st century arguments for a radical break from America’s obsession with incarceration, Eddie gave voice to our collective passion for justice.”

Chris Stone, President, Open Society Foundations

“Eddie was both a mystery and clear as water; honest and soft; intimate and held his own council. he held open a huge space for both vision and history; new allies and old friends. his body held politics, sweated the labors of solidarity and yet birthed possibility in hard times. he was of course brilliant and strategic; optimistic and pissed. he welcomed me generously into so many communities like a beloved first cousin; he created a landscape for human justice and joy. he never quite asked for help, “Michelle let me tell you about Medgar...” and i was writing letters... i didn’t know him well enough but i knew enough that nobody should mess with Eddie; that CUNY was lucky to have Eddie; that CUNY still owes Eddie. big shoes, generous heart, hugely missed.”

Michelle Fine, Co-Director, Public Science Project,
Center for Human Environments at the CUNY Graduate Center

“Eddie stretched himself into a giant in the world - a force for changing the system and always remembering to care and nurture others, young and old. Eddie supported our vision of building a presence on the cam-pus of Columbia—one of education and action about mass incarceration, generously sharing from his work at NuLeadership at Medgar Evers. And then, he always remembered the individual, taking the time to talk to the teens we were working with who wanted to learn media work. He is, for me, an ongoing inspiration in commitment and in constant reimagining our path forward.”

Kathy Boudin, Center for Justice, Columbia University

“Brother Eddie Ellis, will be forever remembered in the annals of Human and Criminal Justice work/history for his introduction of a new lexicon when we describe incarcerated and formerly incarcerated citizens. The human face that he gave this group of citizens through his language, is indelibly imprinted in my memory and all who were privileged to hear him speak, or read his incisive writings.”

Leonard Dunston, Convener, Black Family Summit/Institute of the Black World 21st Century; Former Commissioner, New York State Division for Youth (Now the Office of Children and Family Services)

“Eddie’s iconic and unapologetic leadership in the criminal justice reform movement laid the foundation for leaders like myself to further blaze a trail to freedom and dignity for so many others. Eddie’s investment in the collective vision and self sacrifice for the cause means we all walk a path that has been mapped by a selfless visionary and we do so with his spirit serving as the wind against our backs. While the moral arc of the universe bends towards justice, Eddie held a relentless grip that forced the arc to bend significantly during his lifetime. Eddie reminded America that the people closest to the problem are also closest to the solution. His voice and legacy will forever serve to calibrate my moral compass.”

Glenn E. Martin, Founder of JustLeadershipUSA

*“Dr. Eddie Ellis, presente. I first met Eddie at a Socialist Scholars conference about 20 years ago. He spoke on a panel with Kevin Pranis about their prison moratorium work in New York State. He used the words “general strike” and I thought “that’s it! That’s the direction radical anti-prison organizing -- not yet called *abolition* -- must follow.” From such inspiration and insight a west coast cadre brought California Prison Moratorium Project into being. Since 1998 CPMP Valle has cut a multi-directional path deep into the golden state, connecting urban and rural struggles for racial, environmental, economic, immigration, gender, and anti-criminalization justice. Eddie and I became friends and I loved him. We disagreed and I loved him. He lived for the people. RIP.”*

Ruthie Wilson Gilmore, Director, Center for Place, Culture, and Politics, Graduate Center, CUNY; co-founder, Critical Resistance; California Prison Moratorium Project; Central California Environmental Justice Network; Californians United for a Responsible Budget

“Hard to summarize any life, but particularly a life as rich as Eddie’s, in a few sentences. I’ll focus on his influence on our work at probation. Eddie (and KJ and Divine) were some of the first people I met with when I came back to NYC to run probation. When Susan Tucker came to probation to help spur reforms, we knew we wanted to do “real” justice reinvestment - in the 7 neighborhoods where most people on probation lived - which almost perfectly overlapped with the communities from Eddie’s and his prison colleagues’ “7 Neighborhood Study.” True to form, Eddie issued us a challenge “what does Probation know about really working in communities? You need our help.” Thus began a many year relationship during which Eddie and the Center keynoted Probation’s annual conference, consulted on the development of our neighborhood offices (NeONs), trained our managers and, I’m proud to say, helped us co-locate our 7th NeON in the Center for Nu Leadership’s building in Bed-Stuy. I hope Eddie was as proud as I was that he helped bring his justice reinvestment dream to fruition right in his own city and neighborhood before he passed on.”

Vinny Schiraldi, Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice;
former Commissioner, NYC Probation Department

“As many of you may or may not know, Eddie was there at the founding of All of Us or None. I spent time with Eddie in both South Africa and Alabama. He was someone that I often turned to for deep thinking. At times we had our differences, but he was one of those people with whom you could disagree and still grow from the experience. As I grew in our struggle, I learned that our difference was over tactics and never substance or foundation. In the core group of All of Us or None we see Eddie as a co-founder. He was also with us in the founding of Formerly Incarcerated and Convicted People’s Movement. I often reached out to Eddie and every time I knew I was reaching for a friend and a teacher.”

Dorsey Nunn, Executive Director
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

“Eddie was a man of quiet dignity. Despite all the travails he endured he kept his decency and his ability to listen and to love others. I consider myself privileged to have known him, he was a friend and a teacher.”

Martin Horn, Executive Director
New York State Permanent Sentencing Commission

“Eddie Ellis was the first person to continually sound the alarm about the inordinate and tragic contribution of men and women from New York City to the New York STATE system of prisons. In a New York Times article in the 1990s, he pointed out that upwards of 70 percent of the State’s incarcerated population hailed from 7 neighborhoods in New York City. When we looked at the data he cited, it became clear that those were the 7 neighborhoods with the highest rates of HIV/AIDS in the city. My work and my research since then have focused on the insidious role that mass incarceration plays in driving the HIV epidemic in the United States, and I owe it all to Eddie’s pioneer contributions. His most important contribution, among many, was in alerting us all to the way in which mass incarceration as a policy menaces the public health of us all!”

Bob Fullilove, Associate Dean, Community and Minority Affairs; Professor at Columbia University Medical Center of Sociomedical Sciences

“Eddie recognized that prisons had to be moved from the periphery of the conversation to the center, and he did it by connecting prisons to the communities from which prisoners came. Over the years, a lot of young activists like me brought energy, enthusiasm, and ideas to the effort to expose and end mass incarceration. Without Eddie and fellow formerly incarcerated leaders, most of us could never have fully understood what prisons really are and the ties that bind them to besieged communities, or made a persuasive case that prisons were the plague not the cure. Fortunately, Eddie didn’t hold our lack of experience against us – he was generous with his insights, his connections, and his time although there was never quite enough of his time to go around. Eddie treated us as equals long before we’d earned it, for which I’ll be forever grateful. He did as much as anyone I know to nurture the next generation of activists and leaders, and I hope and believe that his vision will live on in all of us.”

Kevin Pranis, Marketing Manager – MN/ND, LIUNA Great Lakes Region; Co-founder, Prison Moratorium Project

“I first knew Eddie from a distance, following the high profile Panther trial in the 1970s. Then as I became active in the field he and I began to correspond while he was behind bars and I began to appreciate his fortitude and insight. Finally, I had the pleasure of working with him as a colleague for many years after he came home. What I remember most about Eddie were his skills as an activist. He never wavered in his commitment to a better world, and yet his way of convincing us of the rightness of the cause was done in a way that was so gentle and inclusive that I always came away from our discussions more enlightened about his vision for that better world.”

Marc Mauer, Executive Director, The Sentencing Project

“Eddie Ellis was a true champion of justice. He changed our understanding of the relationships between New York City’s neighborhoods and our prison population, gently and successfully advocated for a profound change in the language used to refer to formerly incarcerated people, and through his radio show provided a voice in the void for those who experience our justice system. His leadership will be missed.”

Jeremy Travis, President, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

“I first met Eddie when I became the NYC Correction Commissioner in 1995. Though I can’t exactly remember the circumstances of our first meeting, we obviously had very different personal histories, experiences and jobs. Despite those differences, and in some ways because of those differences, we became fast friends and over the years we were in numerous meetings, conferences and panels together. I always found Eddie incredibly insightful and thoughtful (and tenacious) and his work over the years had a significant and profound effect on those of us who were and are policy makers in the criminal justice system. He was also a warm, lovely guy and I’ll miss him very much.”

Michael Jacobson, Director
CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance;
Professor, Sociology Department CUNY Graduate Center

“Eddie Ellis was and remains a bright light in the dark world of America’s justice system. His perception and analysis of the issues we still face today were decades beyond his time. Years before The Prison Industrial Complex became a “household” term, Eddie understood and described the core drivers of mass incarceration and the proliferation of prisons and community corrections. Years before the emergence of the Justice Reinvestment concept, Eddie delineated the neighborhoods that fill the cells of NY’s prison system and raised his voice in demand for an investment in those very communities.

Years before the New Jim Crow helped to change the national conversation on justice policy, Eddie accurately pinpointed the impact of racial politics, punitive drug policy and the wholesale disenfranchisement of young men of color. And years before currently and formerly incarcerated people began - in significant numbers - to assume positions of leadership in the field of justice policy and practice, Eddie dared to fill that void. A friend, mentor, teacher, inspiration and luminary to thousands, Eddie was one who we needed to help get this far in our struggle to transform justice systems and the communities they impact and his vision remains one which we’ll continue to rely on as this great struggle continues.

For me personally Eddie is all that I’ve said and more. He shaped my formative thinking about justice issues back in the early 90’s when I first read about his work and had the chance to meet him at Riverside Church. Through the years, fate would have it that I’d encounter him at Various meetings.

Sometime around 2000, at an Interfaith Center retreat, he spoke to me of the importance of keeping the long view of the struggle, quoting a Vietnamese revolutionary he said that ‘it doesn’t matter if I don’t live to see our ultimate victory, as long as I die fighting, because I know that we will win, even if it takes several generations, we will win and I will have been a part of that victory’.

Years later, just in 2013, at Probation, we were continuing our outreach to key leaders to seek their guidance on our core community engagement initiative known as the NeONs. Eddie’s health was already clearly fading, but he got out of his bed to set up and participate in a very important meeting between myself and then Councilman Al Vann.

Needless to say the meeting was immensely helpful in informing and supporting our work, but it was also one of the most powerful experiences in my life. After the meeting, as Eddie waited for his car service, we sat and talked a while longer. Eddie dropped many jewels as I sat in inspiration, but what I remember most and will always hold on to was his firm belief and articulation that the work that we're doing—all of us engaged in transformation—has already changed the game and will ultimately redefine justice as we now know it.

Yes, we will ultimately win Eddie; and you will have been a major part of it. Peace to Eddie, his family and to all."

Clinton Lacey, Deputy Commissioner,
Adult Operations, NYC Department of Probation



Harry Belafonte presents the Human Justice award to Eddie Ellis on April 12, 2012 at the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions' Inaugural Human Justice Gala at 1199/SEIU.

BIOGRAPHY OF EDWIN 'EDDIE' ELLIS

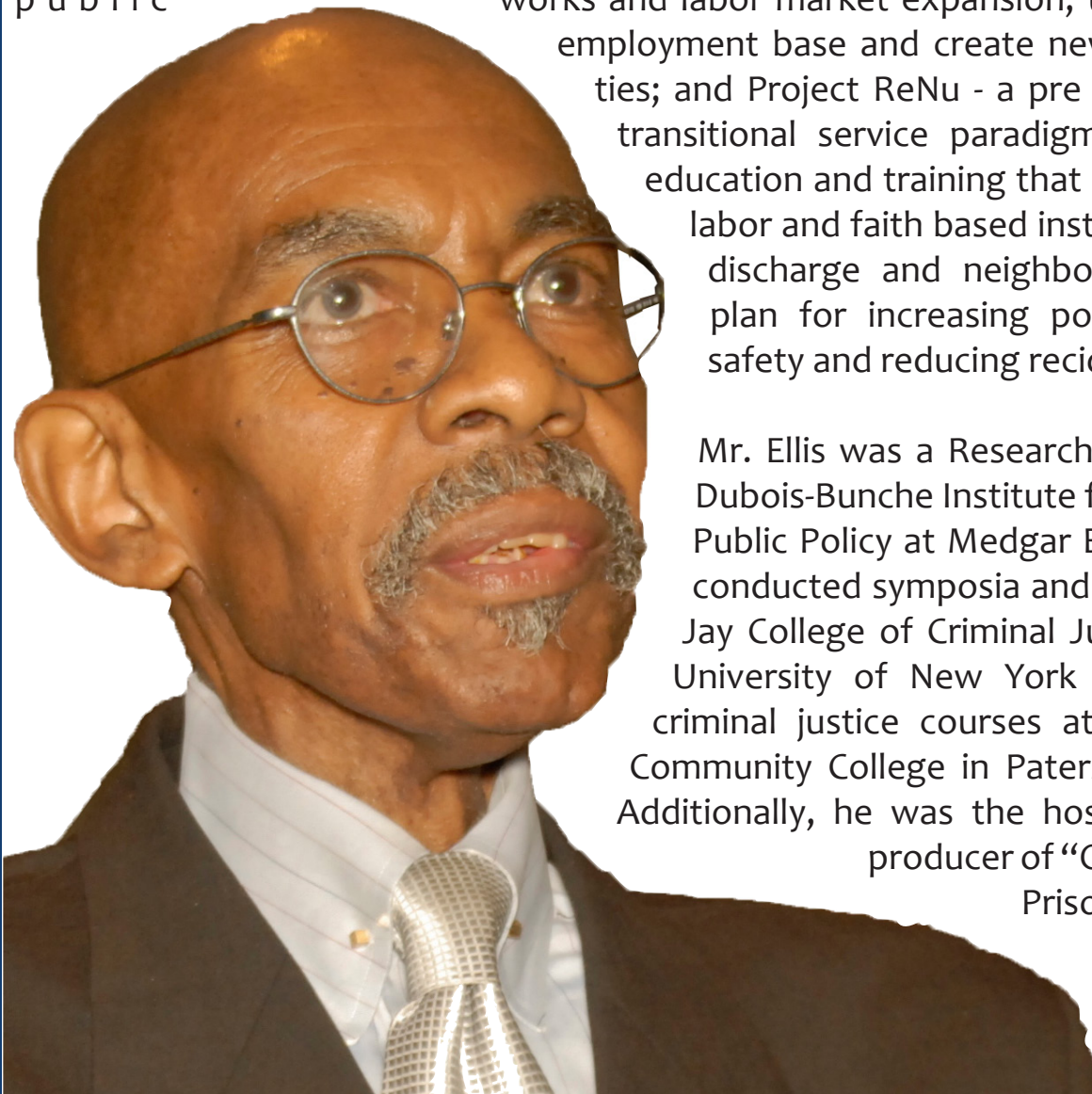
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Edwin (Eddie) Ellis was the founder and president of the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions, a human justice policy advocacy and training service center (formerly at Medgar Evers College in the City University of New York), founded and developed by academic professionals with prior experience within the criminal punishment system. It is the first of its kind in the country.

Under his leadership, the Center developed several innovative projects, including: the Full Employment Opportunities Campaign – to remove barriers that serve as bars to achieving full employment opportunities for people with criminal convictions who want to work; NuLeadership Development Institute – to provide “community specific” and culturally competent education, through the Criminal Justice Practitioner Training Program; the NuUrban Marshall Plan – for community economic development, public works and labor market expansion, that increase the

employment base and create new job opportunities; and Project ReNu - a pre and post-release transitional service paradigm shift in prison education and training that links community, labor and faith based institutions in a joint discharge and neighborhood follow-up plan for increasing post-release public safety and reducing recidivism.

Mr. Ellis was a Research Fellow with the Dubois-Bunche Institute for Economic and Public Policy at Medgar Evers College. He conducted symposia and lectured at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in the City University of New York and has taught criminal justice courses at Passaic County Community College in Paterson New Jersey. Additionally, he was the host and executive producer of “On the Count: The Prison and Criminal Justice Report,” the critically acclaimed 90



minute weekly public affairs program broadcast, for the past nine years, over Radio Station WBAI (99.5 FM) in New York City. It is the only program on radio whose production staff is composed of formerly incarcerated people.

As an internationally recognized justice policy analyst and political activist, Mr. Ellis had over 30 years experience in the

field. He lectured extensively and visited prisons in the United States, England, Scotland, Belgium, the Caribbean and South Africa. In 2006, he served on New York Governor-elect Eliot Spitzer's Transition Team. In that position, he advised the governor-elect on criminal justice public policy, personnel decisions and priority legislation for the new administration. In addition to working with numerous congressional and state legislators, he served as a consultant on justice policy issues for the Domestic Policy Advisor to President George W. Bush; was legislative assistant to New York State Senator Joseph L. Galiber; served as a senior advisor to Roger Green, former chair of the Committee on Children and Families in the New York State Assembly; and as a consultant to the New York State Black, Puerto Rican and Hispanic Legislative Caucus. He has authored research and public policy briefing papers for corrections, parole and probation officials and legislators in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Washington DC.

Mr. Ellis worked as a teacher, advisor and consultant on criminal justice research, public policy, model legislation, programs and practices for the Vera Institute of Justice, the New York City Commission on Human Rights, Center for Law and Justice in Albany, New York, Council of State Governments and the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, both in Washington, D.C. He previously served on the Drug Policy Task Force of the New York County Trial Lawyer's Association, and the National

Charles
Hamilton
Houston

INSTITUTE FOR
RACE & JUSTICE

SATURDAY SCHOOL
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

From Attica to Abolition

*An Evening to
Honor Edwin
"Eddie" Ellis*



Drum Major for Justice Award Presented by the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard University School of Law (November 2011)

Criminal Justice Commission, Washington, D.C., where he helped author, “The Real War on Crime.” He was a senior consultant for the Soros Foundation’s Open Society Institute, Criminal Justice Initiative, responsible for program evaluation and design, and also served as a member of the selection committee for Soros Justice Fellowships.



Additionally, he was formerly director of Metropolitan Prison Ministry at the historic Riverside Church in New York City. There he developed guidelines for creating prison ministries in other churches and organized the Ecumenical Justice Project, an interfaith initiative designed to train and mobilize citywide prison ministries toward influencing criminal justice policy and improving levels of direct social service provision. He is the author of, “Criminal Justice in New York: Just Us 2007,” and the follow-up, The State of Black New York City 2010, two major reports by the New York Urban League and the Black Equity Alliance, (SoBNYC@nyul.org).

Eddie Ellis spent 25 years in prison (1969-1994) for a crime he did not commit and has always maintained his innocence. In 1967 he was targeted for “neutralization” under the FBI Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO), resulting in his arrest and imprisonment. At the time he was a leader in the Black Panther Party, a writer, lecturer and community activist.

While in prison he acquired a Masters Degree, summa cum laude, from New York Theological Seminary; a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, magna cum laude, from Marist College; an Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies from Sullivan County Community College; and an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from the State University of New York (SUNY).

Among his many honors include the Human Justice Award, presented by Harry Belafonte, Drum Major for Justice Award, presented by the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard University School of Law; Proclamation award presented by New York City Council Member Jumaane Williams, the Union Square Award for outstanding Grass Roots Activists sponsored by the Fund for the City of New York; the Joseph L. Galiber Award for Community Service given by the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican State Legislators, Inc.; The Citation of Honor for Outstanding Leadership and Character, presented by the Office of the District Attorney, Kings County, New York City and the Life Time Achievement Award from Citizens Against Recidivism.



OUR FORMULA FOR HUMAN JUSTICE

Our concept of Human Justice stems from the words of Eddie, who first spoke of this concept more than 20 years ago.

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Our Philosophy

“People are the real wealth of a nation.”

Concept and measurement of Human Development
Human Development Report (1990) published for the United Nations

HUMAN RIGHTS + HUMAN DEVELOPMENT = HUMAN JUSTICE

Equal Rights for all

“Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”

Preamble,
Universal Declaration
of Human Rights

Striving for Well-Being and a Life of Value

“We believe that a person’s or society’s well-being cannot be measured by Human Rights or Gross Domestic Product alone. They must be accompanied by opportunities and capabilities to actualize these opportunities. Central to the human development approach is the concept of capabilities. Capabilities – what people can do and what they can become – are the equipment one has to pursue a life of value.”

About Human Development,
Measure of America

Where Accountability and Healing takes place on three levels: Individual, Community and System

“If you give me a fish you have fed me for a day. If you teach me how to fish then you’ve fed me until the river is contaminated and the shoreline seized for development. But if you teach me to organize, then whatever the challenge I can join together with my peers and we will fashion our own solution.”

Ricardo Levins Morales

If you want to go quickly, go alone;
but, if you want to go further, go
together.

-- African Proverb

“If you give me a fish you have fed me for a day. If you teach me how to fish then you’ve fed me until the river is contaminated and the shoreline seized for development. But if you teach me to organize, then whatever the challenge I can join together with my peers and we will fashion our own solution.”

-- Ricardo Levins Morales

You are not judged by the height
you have risen, but from the depth
you have climbed.

-- Frederick Douglass



EDDIE ELLIS ACADEMY FOR HUMAN JUSTICE

“Prisons and prison populations are a reflection of what takes place outside of the prisons. The direct relationship constitutes the basis by which we propose that there are no prison problems, only community problems. Once we begin to address community problems, prison problems will also be addressed.” - Eddie Ellis



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Become a Human Justice Ambassador

Sign up by filling out the Giving Card!

Kindly help us raise a development fund of \$150,000 to assemble a stellar team of educators, activists, administrators, entrepreneurs and philanthropists, along with the Center's alumni, to develop a strategic plan and build an endowment for the Eddie Ellis Academy for Human Justice.

The Eddie Ellis Academy for Human Justice will serve as a “Communiversities”, a university without walls founded on principles of Human Rights and Human Development, towards achieving Human Justice.

Sign up to host a fundraiser or donate to the development fund for the Eddie Ellis Academy for Human Justice!

Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions
510 Gates Avenue, 1st Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11216
info@centerfornuleadership.org | 718-484-5879

EDDIE ELLIS ACADEMY FOR HUMAN JUSTICE BLUEPRINT

- I. An academy for children under thirteen with incarcerated parents, comprising multi-literacy and social justice based af-ter-school and summer camp programs.
- II. An academy for the Human Development of thirteen to twenty-four year olds whose lives have been hardest hit by mass incarceration, comprising social justice based alternative schools and summer camp programs.
- III. An academy for Human Justice Leadership & Fellowship Institute for formerly incarcerated men and women looking to become public policy professionals and experts, leading to a paid fellowship with placement in various public policy institutions.



VISION - To create a new justice and public safety paradigm evolving from the current criminal “justice” model to one of Human Justice, where Human Justice is defined as a merger between Human Rights and Human Development.

MISSION - The mission of the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions is to influence socio-economic, criminal and juvenile justice policy by providing research, advocacy and leadership training to formerly and currently incarcerated people, their families, communities, allies and criminal justice professionals for the purpose of:

- (1) increasing public health and safety by creating viable alternatives that challenge and change over reliance on incarceration-punishment policies and practices as a solution to socio-economic urban and rural problems;
- (2) reshaping the media portrayal and public opinion of people with criminal records by humanizing their popular image and offering language alternatives to counter current negative stereotypes, beliefs, misinformation and myths; and
- (3) promoting active participation in criminal and social justice policy decisions, discussions and deliberations by the people whose lives are most directly affected and who have a legitimate stake in the outcomes.

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