

Liberty Hill's Liberation Fund

Investing in community-led solutions
to end system involvement for
girls & gender expansive youth.

Youth incarceration in Los Angeles County has decreased by 50% over the last five years. We should be celebrating. But since November 2021, incarceration rates for girls and trans youth have **increased by 50%**. We hoped that our youth justice policy wins would pave the way for **decarceration of girls and gender-expansive youth (GGE)**, but the reality is quite different. It has never been clearer, that a one size fits all approach to youth justice will not end youth incarceration for all.



This population is criminalized for their own trauma and often incarcerated for reasons that do not impact community safety. It is not uncommon for GGE youth to remain incarcerated "because they have nowhere else to go," or due to the disproven, but persistent, belief that girls are safer inside locked facilities. To staunch the flow of girls and trans youth into the county system, young people with complicated trauma histories must have access to safe home settings and wraparound resources.



"I've worked with so many of these organizations who are here—and they are powerhouses but we have never had a chance to really work together or talk to each other before now, so bringing us together this way is really exciting."

-Liberation Fund Community Partner

How do we best serve girls and gender-expansive youth? **We are turning to trusted community leaders for the answers.**

Through a community-informed process, Liberty Hill Foundation selected 10 organizations to chart the path for decarceration of GGE youth. These dynamic leaders have served this population for decades and are now coming together to form a powerhouse of knowledge, experience and visionary insight. Supported by the **Liberation Fund**, this group is creating a comprehensive plan for reducing incarceration of GGE youth in Los Angeles County and establishing pathways towards liberation, ensuring that these youth have agency over their bodies, lives, and minds. The blueprint will outline specific and connected strategies that will create systemic and lasting change, center the voices and leadership of impacted youth, scale proven programs, and welcome additional allies and champions to this work.

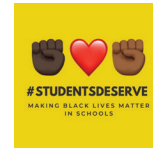
Liberty Hill Foundation enlisted the support of donors to launch the fund in January 2023, disbursed inaugural grants to the ten GGE organizations one month later, and contracted with a team of facilitators—who have deep expertise, trust, and lived experience—to help guide the collaboration and shared work.

Each time these individuals meet, they continue to recognize the power of the moment. The **Liberation Fund** sits at the intersection of youth justice, gender

justice, racial justice, trans liberation, reproductive justice, gender-based violence, and decarceration. The work ranges from public advocacy and organizing to education and direct service.

Fundamentally, the **Liberation Fund** takes a systems-change approach, and we see this work as the accelerant, not the exception, for the larger movement to end youth incarceration broadly and keep youth safe through positive youth development approaches.

Liberation Fund Organizations



Take Action

The **Liberation Fund** is seeking new donors to support the work of decarcerating GGE youth.

Help end philanthropy's historic underinvestment in BIPOC girls and GE youth leaders and their organizations by contributing to and learning along with the **Liberation Fund**.

Grants, gifts of appreciated stock, contributions from Donor Advised Funds, and individual gifts are welcomed.

Contact **Lisa Small, Director of Youth and Transformative Justice**, with questions about the fund or for gift instructions at

LSmall@libertyhill.org or 323-556-7217.



"When I look at the list of folks that are here, everyone interacts with the system differently. It might be through foster care, it might be through navigating poverty, or being a young mother in Child Protective Services. What's good to see is that everybody's working with the same young people but in a different way."

-Liberation Fund Community Partner