

REMOVING THE SLAVERY EXCEPTION CLAUSE FROM THE OREGON STATE CONSTITUTION

No slavery. No exceptions.



THE PROBLEM:

No matter what we look like or where we live, we all want our families to be whole and our communities to be vibrant and safe. But the systems we have to ensure our safety disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities. This results in the over-incarceration of BIPOC individuals: Oregon's prison population consists of 10% Black Oregonians, 16% Latine/x Oregonians, 3% Native/Indigenous Oregonians, and 69% white Oregonians, despite the population of Oregon consisting of only 2% Black Oregonians, 1% Native/Indigenous Oregonians, 12% Latine/x Oregonians, and nearly 78% white Oregonians.¹ No matter their racial identity, once incarcerated, adults in custody (AICs) are constitutionally classified as slaves, denying our incarcerated communities dignity and humanity. This is due to the language in Article 1, Section 34 of the Oregon State Constitution: "There shall be neither slavery, nor involuntary servitude in the State, **otherwise than as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.**"²

OUR SOLUTION:

We are coming together across the State to demand a more just and equitable future, wherein everyone has the rights, resources, and recognition needed to thrive. **SJR 10 would remove the exception of slavery and involuntary servitude from the Oregon State Constitution** and brings us one step closer to a more just and equitable state and world. By changing this language, Oregon would do away with the antiquated racist legacy of slavery in our State's most important document.

ABOUT US:

Oregonians Against Slavery and Involuntary Servitude (OASIS) is a growing coalition of AICs, community-based organizations, and concerned community members, dedicated to creating a more just future for all Oregonians by changing the language of the Oregon Constitution to formally ban slavery and involuntary servitude of incarcerated persons.

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PARTNERSHIP FOR
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Statewide Network

¹ Oregon Profile: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/OR.html>

² Article 1, Section 34 of the Oregon Constitution