

January 12, 2021

Seeing Us, and Hearing Our Voices: A Criminal Justice Conversation with Yusef Salaam and John Legend

Time: 6:00pm - 7:00pm

The Quattrone Center is proud to host an online conversation with world-famous recording artist and criminal justice reform advocate, John Legend and member of the Exonerated Five, Dr. Yusef Salaam. They will be discussing new directions in criminal justice reform and how their reform efforts reflect this year's dramatic shift in national focus towards racial justice.

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John Legend

EGOT-winning, critically acclaimed, multiplatinum singer-songwriter John Legend has garnered 11 Grammy Awards, an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, a Tony Award, and an Emmy Award, among others.

As a philanthropist, Legend initiated the #FREEAMERICA campaign in 2015 to change the national conversation surrounding our country's misguided criminal justice policies and to end mass incarceration. In addition to Legend's signature initiatives, he serves on the Board of Directors of Harlem Village Academies and Management Leadership for Tomorrow, and on the Advisory Board for The Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School and Teach for All.

Dr. Yusef Salaam

Dr. Yusef Salaam is a published poet, public speaker and powerful advocate for criminal justice reform. He regularly speaks out against injustice by sharing his story and fighting for social change. He is part of "The Exonerated Five", who were wrongly charged and convicted in 1989/1990 of a highly publicized rape in New York's Central Park. While in prison, another man confessed to the crime. Tests confirmed the presence of that man's DNA in the victim's rape kit. On the recommendation of the Manhattan District Attorney, the convictions of all five men were overturned and the men were exonerated in 2002. Dr. Salaam was imprisoned for close to seven years and had finished parole before his conviction was overturned.

The story is the subject of Ava DuVernay's acclaimed Netflix dramatization "When They See Us", which was nominated for 16 Emmy Awards, winning 2. Dr. Salaam has received various awards for

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John Legend

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