From Classrooms to Cells: Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Abstract

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Mariana Ramiro-Gomez

The Juvenile Justice System is not fulfilling its mission to rehabilitate youth so they can return to U.S. society and participate in democracy. Instead of rehabilitating, it has become legalized discrimination against youth who identify as students of color, low-income, queer and (dis)abled. The P-12 public education system is where the school-to-prison pipeline begins and where it can also be abolished. Improving educator-student relationships, no longer enforcing zero tolerance policies and removing police from schools are key steps to keeping students in classrooms instead of sending them to prison cells.

Keywords: school-to-prison pipeline, race, class, queer, ability, education