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FJP Releases 13 Key Recommendations for the Biden-Harris Administration to Advance Criminal Justice Reform

With the unprecedented success of criminal justice reforms at the ballot box, and having received a record number of votes, the new administration has a mandate for change

Today, [Fair and Just Prosecution](#) released [“How the Biden-Harris Administration Can Advance Criminal Justice Reform: 13 Recommendations for Change and Federal Engagement,”](#) a new report with critical and timely ways the new administration can take action to promote a fairer, more equitable justice system. The report includes recommendations President-Elect Joe Biden can advance immediately upon taking office through executive actions, as well as opportunities for collaboration with Congress. Among the recommendations included are ending the federal death penalty, closing private prisons, discontinuing the use of solitary confinement, revoking harsh DOJ charging and sentencing policies, halting prosecution of drug use and possession cases, embracing harm reduction strategies (including issuing guidance clarifying that federal law does not preclude the opening of overdose prevention sites proven in other countries to save lives), creating an independent Clemency Commission and an independent immigration court system, implementing a litany of police accountability reforms, and establishing a task force on 21st Century Prosecution.

“In every corner of the country, the American people sent a clear message on Election Day that they are ready for a new vision of justice, one that includes a new normal among elected prosecutors, fairer drug policies, and enhanced oversight of policing practices,” said **Miriam Krinsky**, Executive Director of [Fair and Just Prosecution](#) and a former federal prosecutor.

“President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris have an immense opportunity to enact meaningful criminal justice reform and fortify trust in our criminal legal system. With COVID-19 continuing to tragically afflict and kill people behind bars, and the ongoing protests against systemic racism in the criminal legal system, the need for change is urgent. These recommendations will move us closer to the justice system that the American people want and deserve.”

The recommendations are drawn from FJP’s experience and work with dozens of inspiring, reform-minded local district attorneys and state attorneys general who are seeking to end the failed “tough on crime” policies of the past and promote fair, just, and evidence-based criminal justice strategies.

As the document highlights, “These recommendations would mark a much-needed and unprecedented step towards the justice system that Americans overwhelmingly demand: one that strengthens communities instead of tearing them down, rehabilitates the people it detains, provides second chances predicated on the recognition that people inevitably change over time, breaks cycles of violence, and prioritizes fairness over vengeance.”

Read the report and recommendations [here](#).

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP’s work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).