

“UNITED VOICES for SEX OFFENSE REFORM”

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 7:30 PM EST / Via ZOOM

Attendees: 32

Overview:

- Team updates will be discussed and the 1/7/2025 meeting minutes will be reviewed at our next general meeting on 2/4/2025
- Procedure for the meeting protocol with a guest speaker and for asking questions
- Information about tonight’s topic, guest speaker, introduction, and welcome
- Group discussion

Notes:

1. Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM EST
2. Introduction and welcome to our guest speaker, Laurie Jo Reynolds.
Laurie Jo is a policy advocate and community organizer. She has spent two decades opposing the demonization, warehousing, and social exclusion of people in the criminal justice system. Laurie is focusing on solitary confinement and public conviction registries, and extreme punishments that emerged in the punitive turn of the 1990’s. She was the organizer of Tamms Year Ten, the grassroots campaign to close the notorious Illinois state supermax prison, shuttered by Governor Pat Quinn in 2013. Laurie Jo now coordinates the Chicago 400 Alliance, a grassroots coalition challenging conviction registries and housing banishment laws. The Alliance is led by [Chicago 400](#), formerly incarcerated people who have been forced into homelessness due to housing banishment laws. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
3. Discussion and group questions.
 - Laurie Jo spoke about the goals of the Chicago 400 Alliance and the challenges facing the group and those who are burdened by public conviction registries in Illinois. She provided advice on organizing groups and strategic messaging techniques and reviewed current legislative efforts.
 - Laurie Jo answered questions regarding successful techniques used to engage legislators and targeted efficient communication practices for advocacy. The Chicago 400's effective collaboration with diverse partners serves as an inspiring model for UV4SOR advocates to draw lessons from. Laurie Jo Reynolds can be reached at ljr@uic.edu.

9:01p.m. Adjourn Meeting

The next General Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 7:30 p.m. EST