

VOLUME 4
AUGUST 2026

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JUSTICE DRIVEN.
FUTURE FOCUSED.

We advocate for change,
empower communities,
and create second
chances for a
better tomorrow.



STREET JUSTICE

FOUNDATION
NEWSLETTER



STREET JUSTICE
FOUNDER
Precious Jewel



ADVOCACY
Fighting for
Justice Reform



COMMUNITY
Uniting Today for
a Better Tomorrow



EMPOWERMENT
Providing Resources
& Opportunities

“THE STREETS DON’T LOVE NOBODY,
BUT WE DO. LET’S CHANGE THE NARRATIVE.”

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!
DONATE. VOLUNTEER. PARTNER. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



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By Precious Jewel

FOUNDER, STREET JUSTICE FOUNDATION

Let's keep it real—our prisons are packed. But what most people don't see, is the system behind those walls is barely holding on.

The South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) is operating in crisis mode. We can't build our way out of this. We have to reform our way out.

THE OVERCROWDING PROBLEM



SCDC facilities are housing thousands more inmates than they were designed to hold.

- Some prisons are over 150% capacity
- Triple-celling is the norm, not the exception
- Inmates are sleeping on floors, mats, and in dayrooms
- Mental health, medical care, and rehabilitation take a backseat

Overcrowding leads to more violence, more tension, and more lawsuits.

THE BOTTOM LINE

We can't keep pouring money into a broken system and expect a different result. It's time to shift from punishment to purpose. From cages to change.

**THE TIME IS NOW.
THE POWER IS OURS.**

OVERCROWDED CELLS. UNDERSTAFFED PRISONS. WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON IN SCDC?

South Carolina Department of Corrections is facing a dangerous imbalance: Too many bodies behind bars, not enough people to run the system.



THE UNDERSTAFFING CRISIS

While the inmate population keeps rising, the number of correctional officers keeps dropping.

- SCDC is short over 1,000 officers statewide
- Officers are overworked, underpaid, and underappreciated
- Mandatory overtime is causing burnout and high turnover
- Vacant positions stay open for months—or even longer

This creates an unsafe environment for staff and inmates. It also makes rehabilitation nearly impossible.

**“YOU CAN'T HAVE SAFETY,
SECURITY, OR REHABILITATION
WITHOUT STAFF.”
YOU CAN'T HAVE JUSTICE
WITHOUT REFORM.”**

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?



- Low pay & limited benefits
- Lack of respect for correctional staff
- Outdated policies and hiring practices
- No real investment in solutions
- Political silence on prison reform
- A system that reacts instead of planning ahead

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?



- 1 INVEST IN STAFF**
Pay living wages. Offer real benefits. Treat officers like professionals, not placeholders.
- 2 REDUCE THE POPULATION**
Expand second chance programs, parole opportunities, and reduce over-sentencing.
- 3 MODERNIZE THE SYSTEM**
Update facilities, technology, and mental health services.
- 4 HOLD LEADERS ACCOUNTABLE**
Stop making excuses. Start showing results.
- 5 COMMUNITY CONTROL NOT CROWD CONTROL**
It's time to invest in communities so we don't keep filling cages.



**COMMUNITY CONTROL
IS THE FUTURE.
REFORM IS THE KEY.
JUSTICE IS THE MISSION.**

STREET JUSTICE SPEAKS FOR THOSE THE SYSTEM IGNORES.

We will keep shining a light into the darkest places until real change happens.

**WE SEE YOU.
WE HEAR YOU.
WE STAND WITH YOU.**



STREET JUSTICE FOUNDATION

Our Mission: To advocate for change, empower communities, and create second chances for a better tomorrow.

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AUGUST 2026 | VOLUME 4

FOOD IS A
HUMAN RIGHT.
NOT A
PUNISHMENT.

IS THE FOOD SUITABLE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION?

A LOOK AT THE REALITY OF PRISON FOOD IN SCDC

It's a question inmates and their families ask every day: Is the food served in South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) facilities actually suitable for human consumption? Or is it just the system cutting corners to save a dollar?



WHAT INMATES SAY

Complaints about prison food in SCDC facilities are nothing new. Inmates across the state report:

- Spoiled or expired food
- Small portions
- Repetitive, bland meals
- Food lacking nutrition
- Dirty trays, utensils, and unappetizing presentation

“We're not asking for five-star meals. But we are asking for food that won't make us sick.”

— Inmate, Lee Correctional Institution

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

The Eighth Amendment prohibits “cruel and unusual punishment.” That includes denying inmates adequate food.

According to the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC), incarcerated individuals should be served:

- Nutritious
- Adequate
- Well-prepared
- Served under sanitary conditions

If food is consistently: Unsafe, unsanitary, nutritionally deficient, or served in inadequate portions—it becomes a violation of basic human rights.

IS IT ABOUT COST SAVINGS?

Let's be honest—the budget says it all.

- SCDC spends as little as \$1.40 to \$1.60 per inmate, per day on food.
- That's less than the cost of a fast food value meal.
- Many believe the system chooses the cheapest route possible—buying in bulk from the lowest bidders, regardless of quality.

This isn't just about feeding people. It's about control, neglect, and a lack of accountability.



You can't expect rehabilitation when people are being fed food that damages their bodies and disrespects their humanity.

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

- ✓ **INCREASE THE FOOD BUDGET**
Invest more so inmates receive nutritious, quality meals.
- ✓ **TRANSPARENCY IN CONTRACTS**
Make food vendor contracts public. Stop hiding behind “confidentiality.”
- ✓ **INMATE OVERSIGHT BOARDS**
Let inmates have a voice in what they're served.
- ✓ **REGULAR INSPECTIONS & TESTING**
Facilities should be inspected more often—unannounced.
- ✓ **ACCOUNTABILITY FOR NEGLIGENCE**
If people get sick from food, someone needs to be held responsible.



“YOU CAN LOCK A MAN UP, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE HIS RIGHT TO BE TREATED LIKE A HUMAN BEING.”

REAL FOOD. REAL RESPECT.

Proper food isn't a luxury. It's a right. It affects physical health, mental health, and the ability to change.

If we want safer prisons, lower recidivism, and real reform—it starts with how we treat people behind those walls.



**REFORM THE SYSTEM.
RESPECT HUMANITY.
FEED PEOPLE, NOT
JUST PRISON BUDGETS.**



**FOOD IS FUEL. DIGNITY IS POWER. REFORM IS JUSTICE.
THE TIME IS NOW.**

**SPEAK UP. STAND UP.
STREET JUSTICE IS
HOW WE LEVEL UP.**

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

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Our mission is to advocate for change, empower communities, and create second chances for a better tomorrow.

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THE 85% RULE: WHY HASN'T SOUTH CAROLINA CHANGED IT TO 65%?

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT.

“JUSTICE SHOULD
REFORM.
NOT JUST
REPEAT.”

For years, families of incarcerated South Carolinians have heard the same question repeated in prison visiting rooms, court hallways, and community meetings:

“WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE BILL THAT WOULD REDUCE THE 85% RULE TO 65%?”

Many believed change was finally coming. There was discussion at the State House about sentencing reform, and many hoped lawmakers would reduce the amount of time certain people must serve before becoming eligible for release.

BUT AS OF AUGUST 2026, SOUTH CAROLINA HAS NOT CHANGED THE LAW FROM 85% TO 65%.

SO WHAT IS THE 85% RULE?

South Carolina requires people convicted of many violent crimes to serve at least 85% of their sentence before they can be considered for release.

The rule was designed to ensure that serious offenders serve most of their imposed sentence.

SUPPORTERS SAY



It promotes accountability and public safety.

CRITICS SAY

It contributes to:

- Prison overcrowding
- Rising correctional costs
- Fewer incentives for rehabilitation
- Families separated for decades
- Limited opportunities for second chances, even for people who have changed



WHY DIDN'T IT CHANGE?

While sentencing reform has been discussed, no law reducing the general 85% requirement to 65% has been enacted. Some criminal justice legislation advanced during the 2025–2026 session, but proposals affecting sentence reductions faced extended debate, were recommitted to committee, or did not become law.

Several factors continue to influence the debate:



Public safety concerns from some lawmakers and victims' advocates



Political disagreement over mandatory sentencing



Questions about how reforms would affect violent offenses



Concerns about consistency and judicial discretion

STREET JUSTICE SPEAKS

Justice is more than punishment.

When prisons become overcrowded, correctional officers become overworked, and rehabilitation becomes an afterthought, everyone pays the price—including our communities.

The question isn't simply how long someone should stay in prison.

**THE QUESTION IS:
WHAT ARE WE DOING
WHILE THEY'RE THERE?**

Because if prison doesn't produce rehabilitation, then longer sentences alone won't solve the problem.



THE BIGGER QUESTION

Street Justice believes the conversation shouldn't simply be:

“SHOULD PEOPLE GET OUT EARLIER?”

The real questions are:

- Is rehabilitation actually being rewarded?
- Is South Carolina investing enough in education, mental health treatment, and reentry?
- Are prisons preparing people to succeed—or just warehousing them?
- Can public safety and meaningful reform exist together?

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

- ✓ Individual case reviews based on rehabilitation and institutional behavior
- ✓ Expanded education, job training, and treatment programs
- ✓ Strong victim notification and participation
- ✓ Greater transparency in sentencing and parole decisions
- ✓ Evidence-based policies that improve both public safety and successful reentry

“WE CAN DO BOTH:
KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE
AND GIVE PEOPLE A REAL
CHANCE TO CHANGE.”

**REAL JUSTICE DOESN'T STOP AT THE COURTROOM—
IT CONTINUES THROUGH ACCOUNTABILITY,
REHABILITATION, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO
BUILD SAFER COMMUNITIES.**



JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

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STREET JUSTICE

— NEWSLETTER —

ADVOCATE.
EDUCATE.
EMPOWER.
ELEVATE.

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GIVING A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS. ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE.

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Why community involvement is key to changing lives.
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Resources and programs that open doors for our youth.
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 **SECOND CHANCES DO EXIST**
Success stories from returning citizens who made it out and made it happen.
PAGE 10

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

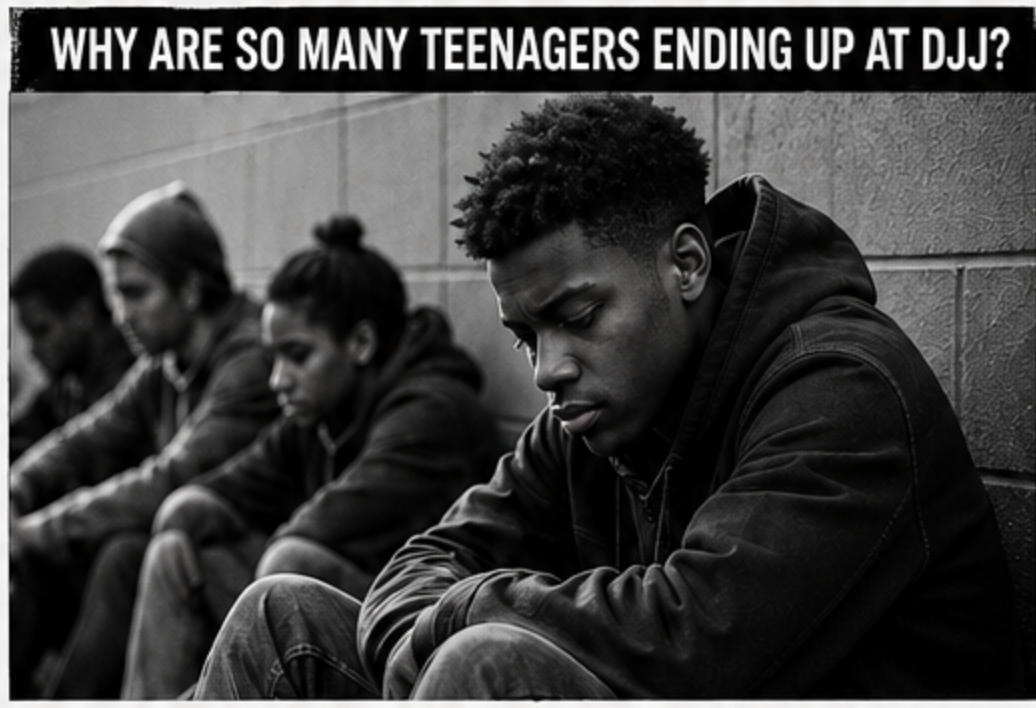
“The best way to predict the future is to help create it.”
— UNKNOWN

GET INVOLVED

- ✓ Volunteer
- ✓ Mentor a Youth
- ✓ Donate
- ✓ Spread Awareness

TOGETHER WE CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

ARE WE LISTENING TO OUR YOUTH?



WHY ARE SO MANY TEENAGERS ENDING UP AT DJJ?

Every day, more young people are entering the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). The question is: Are these kids truly beyond help, or are they crying out for someone to listen?

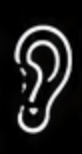
Many of our youth aren't born angry or violent. Some are growing up without stable homes, positive role models, quality education, or access to mental health support. Others are dealing with trauma, bullying, abuse, peer pressure, social media influences, substance abuse, poverty, and hopelessness.

When these problems go unaddressed, they often show up as bad behavior. Unfortunately, many young people are punished before anyone asks, "What's hurting you?"



LET'S START LISTENING

Sometimes our youth don't need another lecture—they need someone willing to hear their story.



WHEN WE LISTEN, WE LEARN.



WHEN WE MENTOR, WE BUILD.



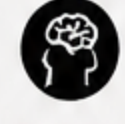
WHEN WE INVEST, WE CHANGE LIVES.

The future of our communities depends on the decisions we make today. Let's stop asking, "What's wrong with these kids?" and start asking, "What happened to them, and how can we help?"

HOW DO WE GET OUR YOUTH BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

Real change starts before a child enters the juvenile justice system.

WE NEED:

-  Strong mentorship programs.
-  Parents, teachers, and community leaders working together.
-  Mental health counseling that is accessible and stigma-free.
-  Financial literacy and life-skills education.
-  Trade programs, apprenticeships, and career opportunities.
-  After-school activities and safe community spaces.
-  Accountability balanced with compassion and guidance.

EVERY CHILD DESERVES SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES IN THEM BEFORE THEY BECOME ANOTHER STATISTIC.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

What do you think is causing more teenagers to enter DJJ?

What programs, resources, or changes would help keep our youth out of the justice system and on the path to success?



SEND YOUR COMMENTS, IDEAS, AND LETTERS TO:

streetjusticefoundation@gmail.com

TOGETHER,
WE CAN GET OUR YOUTH
BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK!



Building Stronger Communities. Changing Generations.

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REAL TALK.
REAL CHANGE.
REAL **JUSTICE.**

WORDS FROM THE WISE

THEY DON'T SEE YOUR VISION—SO THEY TRY TO DIM YOUR LIGHT.

It's real when you step out on faith and start building something different, people will have something to say. They'll question your moves, criticize your ideas, and try to convince you it won't work. Why? Because they can't see what you see. They're stuck in their limits, so they try to put limitations on you.

They'll call your dreams unrealistic. They'll laugh at your goals. They'll remind you of your past, your mistakes, and your struggles. Some will do it out of fear. Some out of jealousy. But none of it has anything to do with you—it has everything to do with them.

Here's the truth: You were never meant to live small. You were never created to blend in. You were born to build, to lead, and to leave a legacy. Your vision is not for everyone. It's for those who are ready for the next level.

Not everyone deserves a seat at your table. Not everyone deserves to hear your next move. Protect your vision like your life depends on it—because it does. The same people that doubt you today will be the same people asking for help tomorrow.

Let their words be fuel, not fire. Let their doubt push you to work harder. Let their disbelief motivate you to prove to yourself what's possible. Stay in your lane. Stay in your purpose. Keep your circle small. Keep your mind solid. And keep your timing in front of you.

One day, your vision will be your reality—and the same people who didn't believe in you will be watching in silence. That's not for revenge. That's for vindication. This is your time. Don't let their opinions steal it.

**STAY FOCUSED. STAY SOLID. KEEP BUILDING.
YOUR VISION. YOUR JOURNEY. YOUR LEGACY.**

*Yours Truly,
Precious Jewel*