

## KEYNOTE | ABOLISHING OUR PRISON COMPLEX



### MARLON PETERSON

Marlon is the founder and chief re-imaginator of The Precedential Group, a social justice consulting firm, and a 2015 recipient of the prestigious Soros Justice Fellowship. Ebony Magazine has named him one of America's 100 most influential and inspiring leaders in the Black community. He is also an Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar.

Marlon spent his entire 20's inside of New York State prisons for his involvement in a crime as a teenager. During that time he earned an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice with Honors. He spent the last five years of his incarceration as the head of the Transitional Services Center where he created programming and curricula for men nearing release from incarceration. He also spearheaded and designed an experiential workshop for incarcerated men and college students from Vassar College called, "Vassar & Otisville--Two Communities Bridging the Gap."

During his incarceration he collaborated with friend, author, and founding principal of Mott Hall Bridges Academy, Dr. Nadia Lopez, to create a letter correspondence mentorship program with middle school students. This program set the foundation for the creation of H.O.L.L.A. (How Our Lives Link Altogether). Serving as the founding executive director, HOLLA is a 2016 recipient of an Echoing Green Fellowship under the leadership of the current executive director, Andrew Cory Green.

Since his release in prison in December 2009, Marlon has held several nonprofit positions. He is the former Director of Community Relations at The Fortune Society, and previously served as the Associate Director of the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center, founding coordinator of Youth Organizing to Save Our Streets, and co-founder of How Our Lives Link Altogether (H.O.L.L.A!). Marlon also serves as board chair of Families For Freedom and board member of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence.

Marlon graduated from New York University with a Bachelors of Science with a concentration on Organizational Behavior.

Marlon's writings have appeared in Ebony, Gawker, The Nation, The Crime Report, Black Press USA, Huff Post, and other online publications. He has contributed to Kiese Laymon's award winning novel, How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America and Love Lives Here, Too by former New York Times columnist, Sheila Rule.

Marlon resides in BedStuy, Brooklyn, and lives by the hashtag, #BePrecedential.

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your voice

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Bringing Justice to the  
Criminal Justice System

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