

## Fair Trials:

# A Transatlantic Bridge to Offer a Global Perspective on US Criminal Justice Reform

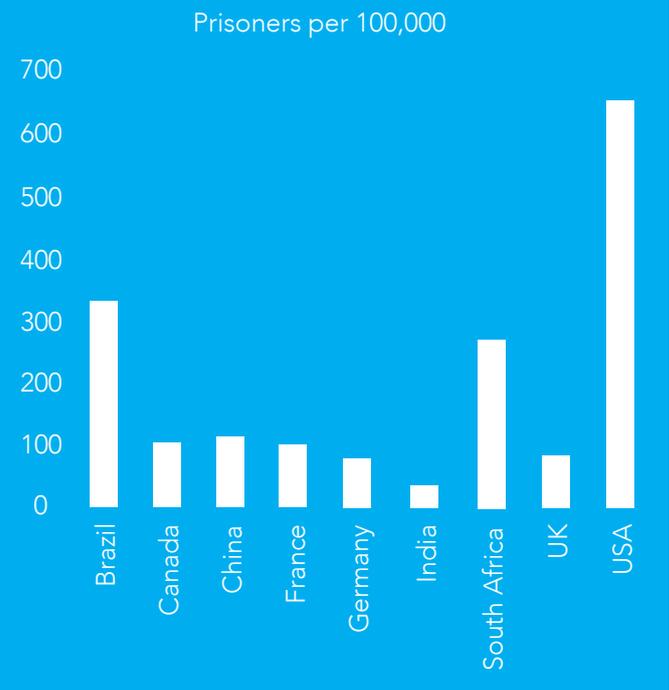
Justice reform is at a pivotal moment in the US. Progress can be accelerated by tapping into expertise and experiences from outside the US. Fair Trials is committed to bringing a global and comparative perspective to the criminal justice reform movement.

There is widespread and bi-partisan recognition that the justice system is failing to live up to American principles of equality, liberty, and justice. Over-incarceration is rife, racial discrimination entrenched, and the lives of at least a quarter of Americans are blighted by criminal convictions, entrenching poverty and limiting social mobility. In response, however, there is unparalleled energy, bi-partisan engagement and investment in reform, and a hunger to find solutions to the US criminal justice crisis.

Solutions need to address complex local realities, but justice systems around the world are facing many of the same challenges and have developed an array of responses to them. Comparative experience offers a vast resource of ideas and innovations, which have been tried and tested in other countries over many years. Fair Trials is bringing the benefit of this experience to the US.

We will start by expanding the conversation on plea bargaining reform, early access to counsel, and pre-trial detention – all areas where we have worked extensively in Europe. We are also eager to help US reformers to access global expertise on other key criminal justice challenges.

### The US is a global outlier on criminal justice



Source: World Prison Brief, [www.prisonstudies.org](http://www.prisonstudies.org)

No organization in the US is currently focused in a sustained way on learning from international experience in the criminal justice space. A few researchers do include ad hoc comparative research and visits in their work, but it is quite rare and involves a heavy lift. Our work will give a wider range of US reformers access to an international perspective on criminal justice reform and will tap into our existing knowledge and contacts.

We want to fuel fresh thinking and support innovative practice in the US by:

- Providing a viewpoint that challenges deeply-held preconceptions about how criminal justice systems work;
- Offering new solutions to entrenched problems that have not been tried in the US;
- Providing an insight into how interventions may operate in practice; and
- Helping build a more persuasive case for reform.

# About Fair Trials

Originally founded in the UK, and historically working across Europe, Fair Trials has extended its mission to the US in response to demand for our expertise to support the movement for change in America. In 2018 we founded a 501(c)(3) based in Washington DC – Fair Trials Americas.

Our vision is bold – a world where everyone’s right to a fair trial is respected – but our approach is strategic and pragmatic.

Fair Trials doesn’t aspire to be a large non-profit competing with local movements. Instead, we exist to help the best local reformers to achieve practical changes that fix failing justice systems. By working in partnership with local actors and accessing our networks, we are able to achieve impact through our small, responsive, and expert global team.

Working in partnership with reformers across Europe we have:

- Secured binding legal reforms that apply across Europe, requiring access to a lawyer and legal aid in the police station, written Miranda rights statements, early discovery and protections for child defendants;
- Developed programs with local reformers to support legal reform and innovative practices; and
- Coordinated novel multi-country research on key issues in criminal justice, including on the overuse of pre-trial detention and plea bargaining.

We are bringing lessons learned from Europe – both established good practice and new innovations in procedural protections – to assist US reformers at state, local and national levels in shifting paradigms away from failed punitive and carceral practices. We know that a better way is possible – and we can show you how.

To learn more about Fair Trials current work and future plans in the US, please contact:

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“Fair Trials brings a unique and valuable contribution to the US criminal justice reform movement. Its networks and comparative expertise from around the world offer proof there is a better way to do justice.”

**Rick Jones**  
Executive Director  
Neighborhood Defender Service

“Justice leaders in the US need to challenge past paradigms and look outside our borders for new thinking. Fair Trials brings an invaluable wealth of knowledge about proven innovations in Europe to US criminal justice reform; FJP and the elected prosecutors we work with have greatly benefited from their insights on an array of topics including plea bargaining, access to counsel, and alternatives to incarceration.”

**Miriam Aroni Krinsky**  
Founder and Executive Director  
Fair and Just Prosecution

