Fact Sheet:
Criminal Justice

There shall be one law for you and for the resident stranger; it shall be a law for all the time throughout the ages. You and the stranger shall be alike before the Eternal; the same ritual and the same rule shall apply to you and to the stranger who resides among you. – *Numbers 15:15-16*

Incarceration Trends

- From 1980 to 2008, the number of people incarcerated in America quadrupled-from roughly 500,000 to 2.3 million people.
- Today, the US is 5% of the world's population but has 25% of world prisoners.
- 1 in ever y 31 adults, or 3.2 percent of the population is under some form of correctional control (including people in prison, on parole or under probation supervision.)

Racial Disparities in Incarceration

- African Americans are incarcerated at nearly six times the rate of whites.
- Together, African American and Hispanics comprised 58% of all prisoners in 2008, even though African Americans and Hispanics make up approximately one quarter of the US population.
- One in six black men had been incarcerated as of 2001. If current trends continue, one in three black males born today can expect to spend time in prison.
- 1 in 100 African American women are in prison.
- Nationwide, African-Americans represent 26% of juvenile arrests, 44% of youth who are detained, 46% of the youth who are judicially waived to criminal court, and 58% of the youth admitted to state prisons (Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice).

Check out the website of the Religious Action Center to learn more about the Reform Jewish efforts to ensure criminal justice: http://rac.org/advocacy/issues/issueccj/

Source: NAACP, www.naacp.org