



Metropolitan Congregations United for St. Louis
4501 Westminster Place, 3rd Floor, St. Louis, MO 63108
(314) 367-3484 (314) 367-7121 (fax)

Press Packet

The weekend of May 13-14, 2016 Metropolitan Congregations United will launch the Break the Pipeline campaign a movement that ends the criminalization of youth of color by organizing school, police, and juvenile justice reforms. The Break the Pipeline campaign is thus a multi-system campaign seeking to reduce criminalization of youth of color, develop a coordinated system of care for youth of color, and call for public accountability of those in positions of power driving these institutions. As a society and as a community, we have failed to hold our public officials accountable for the treatment of black lives in this country. We can no longer allow segments of our community to be discriminated against, criminalized, victimized, and subject to unjust treatment by laws, policies, and constitutional violations.

The Facts:

1. Not providing adequate access to lawyers. The St. Louis Family Court doesn't have enough lawyers—it only had one public defender hearing 394 cases in 2014. Additionally, the eligibility standards the Court uses to declare a child eligible for a public defender excludes many needy juveniles. Without adequate representation, juveniles are not protected against self-incrimination, and are not receiving the due process they have a right to. Source: July 31, 2015 DOJ Report on Family Court.

2. Blacks and Hispanics were more likely to experience use of force. For instance, black youth have an overall police contact rate of 1 in 10, but the use of force rate is 1 in 4. Source: Strategies for Youth 2015 Momentum for Change.

3. Currently, Missouri ranks number one in the nation in number of out of school suspensions (UCLA). African-American students comprise 16% of the population, yet receive 40% of the suspensions. This translates to one out of school suspension for every seven African-American students (We Live Here, St. Louis Public Radio). Black boys are 3x more likely to be suspended than white boys. Black girls are 6x more likely to be suspended than white girls

A Sample of Our Demands:

1. SLPS adopt a policy of no out of school suspensions Pre-K thru 12th grade.
2. St. Louis County Police Academy require at least 8 hours of youth policing training.
3. St. Louis County Family Court to provide every juvenile with a lawyer every time.
4. Schools, Police, and Juvenile Courts convene with MCU to implement reforms to break the school to prison pipeline in St. Louis.



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Sample Bulletin Announcement



Do you want to break the school to prison pipeline in St. Louis? Are ready to make a difference in the lives of children across the St. Louis region? Join Metropolitan Congregations United **the weekend of May 13-14, 2016** as we will launch the **Break the Pipeline** campaign a movement that ends the criminalization of youth of color by organizing school, police, and juvenile justice reforms. Contact MCU at 314- 367-3484. Register for the weekend launch events at: <https://www.facebook.com/Metropolitan-Congregations-United>

Share on social media:

Follow @MCUStLouis for updates

Tweet at @ MayorSlay @ChiefSLMPD @SLPS_SUPT

Facebook posts

- We finally won the victory to end suspensions for pre-K through third grade. Let's continue to #BreakThePipeline so no student gets trapped. #BreakthePipelineSTL with @MCU
- Black students make up 17% of students and 70% of suspensions. Why we need to break the Pipeline. #BreakThePipelineSTL May 13-14 Register via <https://t.co/2PLUyMsriu>
- March with us and learn with us, as we launch a campaign to end the School to Prison Pipeline. #BreakThePipelineSTL Register at <http://goo.gl/forms/HXonBexhHm>



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- Also share posts, quotes and pictures from MCU Facebook Page.

Tweets

- For every 7 Black students in MO, 1 out-of-school suspension. Join #BreakThePipelineSTL May 13-14. Register via <https://t.co/2PLUyMsriu>
- Our kids need classrooms, not courtrooms. Join #BreakThePipelineSTL May 13-14 <https://t.co/2PLUyMsriu>
- Stay up to date on the #BreakThePipelineSTL Campaign Launch weekend via <https://www.facebook.com/events/729597923847029/>
- March on Friday 5/13 to Break the Pipeline in MO! Clayton HS 4:30pm #BreakThePipelineSTL
[tweet photo: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1039196879491973&set=pcb.738627442944077&type=3&theater>]
- Which teach-ins will you attend at #BreakThePipelineSTL? Saturday 5/14 Northwest Academy HS
[tweet photo with list of topics: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1039196712825323&set=pcb.738627442944077&type=3&theater>]
- You could also tweet out a quote and use images from the Metropolitan Congregation United Facebook Page.

Chants:

Hey hey ho ho this racist system has to go
Hey hey ho ho this prison pipeline has got to go

School yards not prison yards
Graduation not incarceration

I believe I believe that we will win

What do we want freedom



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When do we want it now

Move injustice get out the way get out

Just get out the way

Move suspensions Just get out the way

Move sro's just get out the way

Move DMC(disproportionate minority confinement) get out the way

Mike Brown means we got to fight back

Fight back fight back fight back

Injustice means we got to fight back

This is what democracy looks like

This is what theology looks like

If Mike don't get it shut it down

If we don't get it shut it down

If God don't get it shut it down

Shut it down Shut it down

Whose streets our streets

Whose courts our courts

Whose schools our schools

Whose police our police

Whose city our city

Whose police our police

Whose daughters our daughters

Whose sons our sons