The National Week of Action Against Incarcerating Youth is a fully-volunteer project organized by hundreds of groups and individuals around the United States. We are looking for groups and individuals around the United States to organize events.

The juvenile justice system targets four youth group for incarceration; they are the following, in no specific order: (1) Youth of Color, (2) Youth with Disabilities, (3) Economically Disadvantaged Youth, and (4) LGBTQIA Youth.

GOALS: Another world is possible, and it begins with community-based programs and alternatives such as rehabilitation, therapy, counseling, job readiness workshops, tutoring, more community programs and centers, and transformative and restorative justice programs in the community and in schools to address conflicts. Incarceration is not the solution, but the problem. Once youth are involved in the juvenile justice system, it is hard for them to get out of it. Please support youth and their futures and demand that no more youth are incarcerated no matter the crime/harm they have committed. Incarceration does nothing to address the needs of the youth who have committed the harm.

PROBLEM: The three step oppressive punishment process targeting young people is:

1. **Criminalization of Youth** is the stigmatization of youth through laws and norms that are based on their behavior, dress, socializing, identity, and community they live in.

2. **Policing of Youth** is the surveillance and social controlling of youth by law enforcement and those in disciplinary roles.

3. **Punitive Discipline of Youth** is the punishment of youth which includes detention, out of school suspension, incarceration, home arrest, and probation.

These three steps need to be eliminated in the juvenile justice system, which is the prison part of the school to prison pipeline.

TACTICS: The events can take any form the group or individual wishes, such as a candlelight vigil, spoken-word mic night, protest, rally, teach-in, workshop, lecture, panel, banner drop over a bridge, walkout, conference, dinner, lunch, lobby day, dance, street theater, movie night, press conference, potluck, sit-in, parade, or pamphletting.

The days of May 17 and May 19 were chosen for four reasons:

1. because they are close to the time when students are getting out of school for the summer, which is the time when there is the most amount of youth violence and youth incarceration;

2. because May 19 is the birthday of Malcolm X, a U.S. civil rights and Black liberation leader. Malcolm X once told his favorite teacher that he had a dream to be a lawyer, his teacher replied that was "no[t] a realistic goal for a [n-word]". This caused Malcolm X leaving school and entering the street life of selling drugs, gambling, and pimping. His childhood life is a perfect example of the school to prison pipeline. The National Week holds to Malcolm X's statement: "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today".

3. because May 17 is the anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education, which ended segregation legally, but segregation still exists today systematically and socially; and

4. because it acts as a bookend to the other National Week of Action. The other is organized by Dignity in Schools' National Week of Action Against School Pushout, which is at the beginning of the school year.