

## Voices of Black Experience: Inspiring Us to Resist the New Jim Crow

In February 2017, UUCMC hosted a forum to learn about some of the injustices of the prison industrial complex and how we could help. These distinguished guests shared their stories with us. Click on the links below to learn more about them.



Topeka K. Sam is the founder of [The Ladies of Hope Ministries \(LOHM\)](#), a program of The Eleanor Moody-Shepherd (EMSRC) Resource Center for Women in Ministry @ New York Theological Seminary (NYTS). She is pursuing her Certificate in Christian Ministry at New York Theological Seminary and A Justice-In-Education Scholar at Columbia University. the founder of The Ladies of Hope Ministries (LOHM) The LOHM – whose mission is to help disenfranchised and marginalized women transition back into society through education, empowerment, spiritual development. Ms. Sam is also a member of The National Council of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls also known as “The Council”.



Paula McGhie, mother of one of the [Bronx 120](#); in her own words: “I am Paula McGhie-Clarke, former Board of Education employee and home owner in city of New York. At fifty-three years old, my life took a sudden and unexpected turn, when on April 27, 2016, my household came under siege and a reign of terror by more than a dozen FBI agents and NYPD officers. They bombarded and stormed my home, kept my family and hostage in our home as they rummaged every room searching for my son. We are not released until they seized my son from his father's home later that morning. Since then my life has been dedicated to join in the resistance against mass incarceration, to advocate for prisoners everywhere and the protection of their human rights that's guaranteed under the Constitution and to challenge a justice system that favors one race and disfavors another.”



dequi kioni-sadiki is a Black feminist, educator for Liberation, artist, human rights activist, poet, wife, Mother and Grandmother. She is chair of the *Malcolm X Commemoration Committee*, a member of the New York City chapter of the [Jericho Movement for Amnesty Recognition of U.S. Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War \(PP/POWs\)](#), co-coordinator of the *Sekou Odinga Defense Committee*, named for her husband and former Black Panther Party/Black Liberation Army POW, and former member of the *Black Panther Collective*. déqui is a graduate of the City University of New York, Medgar Evers College with a B.S. in Public Administration and a master's in Urban Affairs from Queens College, and co-host/co-producer of a weekly public affairs show, *Where We Live*, on listener-sponsored WBAI-NY radio that focuses on political/mass imprisonment, the families and survivors of police terror and murder, repressive legislation, Puerto Rico and other grassroots issues. déqui is a firm believer that we are the ones we been waiting for to stop the tidal wave of state violence, injustice, oppression and terror crushing the lives of poor and working-class people around the globe.