

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON COVID-19 AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Loretta Lynch and Alberto Gonzales

Former U.S. Attorneys General

Co-Chairs, National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice

Moderated by Thomas Abt

Senior Fellow, Council on Criminal Justice

Director, National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice



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About the Council

- Launched in July 2019
- Invitational membership organization and think tank, serving as a center of gravity for policy and leadership in the criminal justice field
- Advances understanding of the criminal justice policy choices facing the nation through nonpartisan research and consensus-based task forces

About the Commission

- Launched in July 2020 and will conclude most of its work by the end of the year
- Led by former Attorneys General Loretta Lynch and Alberto Gonzales, along with a diverse set of leaders from policing, courts, corrections, community-based organizations, academia and public health

Evidence to Action

Interim Recommendations

- Released in October 2020
- 33 action steps for leaders in the field to take, right now, to stop the spread of COVID-19

Final Recommendations

- To be released December 2020
- Focused on broader, systemic reforms to improve readiness, effectiveness and fairness

Commission Members



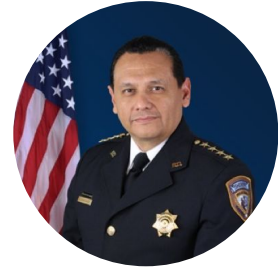
Charlie Beck
Former Chief, LAPD



Chief Adrian Diaz
Seattle Police Department



Hon. Alberto Gonzales
Dean, Belmont University College
of Law



Sheriff Ed Gonzalez
Harris County, Texas (Houston)



Mayor Eric Johnson
Dallas, Texas



Tom Inglesby
Johns Hopkins University



Hon. Loretta Lynch
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison

Commission Members



Desmond Meade
Florida Rights Restoration Coalition



Hon. Tina Nadeau
New Hampshire Superior Court



Melissa Nelson
Florida's 4th Judicial Circuit



Colette Peters
Oregon Department of Corrections



Pastor Michael McBride
Director, LIVE FREE



Steven Raphael
Professor, UC Berkeley



Jo-Ann Wallace
National Legal Aid & Defender Assn.

Mission

1. **Assess the impact** of COVID-19 on the justice system and justice-involved populations
2. **Recommend immediate actions** to reduce the spread of the pandemic
3. **Develop a policy agenda** to improve the readiness, effectiveness, and fairness of the justice system in a post-pandemic world

Key Principles

The Commission offered 4 guiding principles for policymakers

1. Preserve public health in addition to maintaining public safety
2. Get the facts – identify and rely on authoritative sources of scientific information
3. Be proactive – precautions and responses should meet or better yet exceed those recommended to the public at large
4. Increase equity and inclusion by improving outcomes for disproportionately impacted groups

Recommending Action

The Commission made 7 cross-cutting recommendations for action

1. Go beyond CDC guidance to stop exponential growth
2. Communicate transparently about COVID-19 response plans, policies, and data
3. Adopt universal masking requirements for all staff and impacted populations when indoors and in close contact with others
4. Widely and frequently test staff and justice-involved populations for COVID-19 using the most reliable methods available
5. Limit contact, maximize distance, and reduce density
6. Allocate resources strategically
7. Actively engage and consider impacted communities in all decision-making

Recommendations: Corrections

The Commission made 6 recommendations for the Corrections sector

1. Prevent COVID-19 infections from entering facilities
2. Control COVID-19 infections within facilities
3. Prevent COVID-19 infections from reentering communities
4. Prevent COVID-19 infections in community supervision
5. Protect rights, dignity, and well-being
6. Execute a communications plan

Coronavirus Cases and U.S. Jail Population

