



Marilynn Winn

Co-Founder / Executive Director
Women on the Rise

Marilynn Winn is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Women on the Rise. She has been organizing for abolitionist reforms to the criminal legal system in Georgia for the past decade, soon after her own release from prison. Ms. Winn has gained national attention for her work to ban the box on employment applications in Georgia and her vision to close the Atlanta City Detention Center, replacing it with a Center for Wellness and Freedom.

She received the first Lilly Ledbetter Award from 9to5 Georgia in 2013, was recognized by President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Roselynn Carter for her work to end employment discrimination in 2014, received the Inspire Award from First Step Staffing, and received the Champion for Change Award in 2019. She was a JustLeadership USA 2016 Fellow and is a current fellow with the Center for Civic Innovation.

Ms. Winn served as the Co-Chair of the Reimaging Atlanta City Detention Center (ACDC) Taskforce alongside the City of Atlanta in 2019 after co-leading efforts to move the Mayor to sign legislation to close and repurpose the city jail, reallocating millions of dollars back into communities most harmed by the jail's operation.

Ms. Winn is also the co-founder of a small women's re-entry organization, Reverse the Cycle of Incarceration. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Southern Center for Human Rights and First Step Staffing. She previously served as the Board Chair for 9to5 National Association of Working Women.

Instrumental in President Obama issuing an Executive Order to Ban the Box on federal employment applications, Ms. Winn was a nominee to the United States of Women Summit at White House in 2016. She also served as a Justice Votes Presidential Townhall delegate in 2020 and later was invited to participate in conversation with members of the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force on Criminal Justice Reform. Ms. Winn lives in Atlanta, GA with her rottweiler, Sassy.