

Joyce McMillan is a thought leader, advocate, activist, community organizer, and educator. Her mission is to remove systemic barriers in communities of color by bringing awareness to the racial disparities in systems where people of color are disproportionately affected. Joyce believes before change occurs the conversation about systemic oppression that creates poverty, and feeds people of color into systems must happen on all levels consistently. She completed a restorative certificate program at the New School and says change will not happen independently of healing. Her ultimate goal is to abolish systems of harm while creating concrete community resources.



Joyce leads child welfare family engagement and advocacy efforts at Sinergia Inc. Prior, she was the Program Director at Child Welfare Organizing Project (CWOP) where she created a community space, to educate the community about restorative practices to empower, affirm, transform and heal communities of color that have been traumatized by systemic injustices.

Joyce is an active member of The West Harlem Democrats, a board member at Families Together NYS, A board member at Women’s Prison Association (WPA), and Movement for Family Power, Co-chair W134th Community Association, a NYC County Committee Member, a Supreme Court Judicial Delegate and an Advisory Committee member at The Center for New York City Affairs (CNYCA) at The New School, where she also has a visiting fellowship. As a visiting fellow Joyce explores ways to strengthen the parent voice in child welfare and has led a series of public events (speaker series) where panelists discussed not just the problems but suggested solutions. In addition Joyce has a Fellowship with Law4Black Lives where she is exploring what it means to divest in systems while investing in communities. Joyce is a former fellow with The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls where she reimagined communities without system harm. Joyce is the Founder of Parent Legislative Action Network (PLAN) a coalition that won monumental change to New York’s State Central Registry.

Joyce is always willing to be a supporter of and a voice for systemic change by testifying for City Council at City Hall, lecturing and panel discussions at Columbia University, NYU, Hunter College, Montclair University CUNY Law School, Cornell University, Harlem Hospital, New York City affairs at the New School and many other institutions. In addition, she has also appeared in various media interviews with Al Jeezera, NYTimes, ABC Channel 7, Politico, ICPH (Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness), short stories and documentaries etc. Joyce was recently interviewed by Rise magazine, the interview can be found here: <http://www.risemagazine.org/2020/04/scr-reforms/> .