



California DNA Database: Impacts on Communities of Color

California has the world's third largest criminal DNA forensic database with over a million DNA profiles. In January 2009, this database expanded to include people who are arrested for a felony offense, regardless of whether they are ever charged or convicted. Also in January 2009, the federal government started collecting DNA from persons arrested or non-U.S. persons detained under federal authority. These policies have many implications for communities of color.

It's important to acknowledge that DNA testing has exonerated more than 200 wrongfully convicted people, mostly people of color through efforts like the *Innocence Project*. However, ever-expanding uses of DNA forensic databases can also lead to an exacerbation of racial profiling, an overrepresentation of people of color in the database, increased surveillance, and violations of individual and family privacy.

The expansion of DNA forensic databases has been alarmingly under the radar for most of us, and yet it raises troubling issues for communities of color. How can we ensure that a criminal justice system that already disproportionately criminalizes people of color will not use DNA databases to further disadvantage communities of color and immigrant communities?

Generations Ahead along with our **Los Angeles cosponsors:** Families to Amend California's Three –Strikes, Labor/Community Strategy Center, South Asian Network, Youth Justice Coalition and our **Bay Area cosponsors:** ACLU Northern California, Californians for Justice, California Coalition for Women Prisoners, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Muslim Advocates, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights invite you to a briefing and discussion to:

- Learn more about DNA databases and their expanding reach and use in California
- Consider the social justice implications for communities of color and immigrant communities
- Explore what criminal justice/racial justice organizers and advocates can do.

Please join us on **Thursday, April 23, 2009 from 1PM- 4PM** at the **Chuco's Justice Center** located at 1137 E. Redondo Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90302. For more information or to participate, please contact Truc T. Nguyen, at 510.832.0852 ext 304 or email tnghuyen@generations-ahead.org.

We look forward to seeing you at the table for this important discussion.

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Generations Ahead works with organizations around the country to expand the public debate and promote policies on genetic technologies that protect human rights and affirm our shared humanity.