



## **California DNA Database: Impacts to Communities of Color**

California already has the world's third largest criminal DNA database with over one million DNA profiles. As of January 1, this database will expand to include people who are arrested for a felony offense, regardless of whether they are ever charged or convicted. In addition, on January 9, the federal government started collecting DNA from persons arrested or non-U.S. persons detained under federal authority. These policies bring about many implications for communities of color.

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 criminal 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.

Expanding uses of DNA criminal databases have been alarmingly under the radar for most of us, and yet they raise troubling issues for our communities. How do we balance protecting our communities with emerging uses of this technology?

We need to 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 **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 and our **Los Angeles cosponsors**: Families to Amend California's Three -Strikes, Labor/Community Strategy Center, South Asian Network, Youth Justice Coalition invite you to a briefing and discussion to:

- Learn more about DNA databases and their expanding uses 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 **Wednesday, April 29, 2009 from 1PM- 4PM** at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights located at 344 40<sup>th</sup> St., Oakland, CA 94609. For more information or to participate, please contact Truc T. Nguyen, at 510.832.0852 ext 304 or email [tnguyen@generations-ahead.org](mailto:tnguyen@generations-ahead.org).

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

Generations Ahead, 1404 Franklin St, Suite 240 Oakland, CA 94612, (T) 510.832.085  
[www.generations-ahead.org](http://www.generations-ahead.org)