



A New Way of Life Reentry Project (ANWOL) is a grassroots, nonprofit organization founded in 1998 by Susan Burton. After Susan's five-year old son was accidentally hit and killed by a car, Susan numbed her grief through alcohol and drugs. She was not offered help to address her pain. As a result, she became enmeshed in the criminal justice system for nearly two decades before finding freedom and sobriety in 1997. She has since made it her life's mission to help others adversely affected by the problems of incarceration and addiction by providing them with support and resources. Susan has earned numerous awards and honors for her work. In 2010, she was named a *CNN Top Ten Hero* and received the prestigious *Citizen Activist Award* from the *Harvard Kennedy School of Government*. She is a recipient of both the *Encore Purpose Prize* (2012) and the *James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award* (2014). In 2015, on the 50th Anniversary of Selma and the Voting Rights Act, Susan Burton was named by the *Los Angeles Times* as one of eighteen new civil rights leaders in the nation. In 2019, she received an honorary doctorate from California State University, Riverside.

Released in 2017, Susan's memoir, [Becoming Ms. Burton](#), received a 2018 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in the category of Biography/Autobiography. *Becoming Ms. Burton* is also the recipient of the inaugural Goddard Riverside Stephan Russo Book Prize for Social Justice.



Mission: A New Way of Life advances multi-dimensional solutions to the effects of incarceration.

- We provide housing and support to formerly incarcerated women for successful community reentry, family reunification and individual healing.
- We work to restore the civil rights of formerly incarcerated people.
- We empower, organize and mobilize formerly incarcerated people as advocates for social change and personal transformation.

Vision: We envision a world where every person can make decisions for their own life, one in which they are accountable for those decisions and are valued as a contributing member of the community.

Impact: To date, with reentry services provided for less than one-third the cost of incarceration, more than 1,200 women and children have found safety and support in our nine safe homes. Over 400 women have been reunited with their children. Since its inception in 2007, our legal department has provided pro bono services for more than 3,000 formerly incarcerated/convicted individuals. Those services have helped enhance job opportunities by expunging criminal records and offering access to occupational licenses. As a result of our leadership building activities, hundreds more have been educated and empowered to speak in advocacy around issues that directly affect their lives.

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