

MARYLAND YOUTH JUSTICE COALITION

August 2026 Newsletter



Welcome to the August 2026 MYJC newsletter! Each month we assemble all the latest need-to-know news about MYJC and what's happening for youth across Maryland. Please share your community events, local news, needs, and actions with us by emailing gail@advancemaryland.org. Feel free also to forward this newsletter with your network and encourage them to sign up to receive their own copy [here](#).

Did you miss our previous newsletters? Find all of our newsletters [here](#).

Not yet a member of MYJC? Email sergio@advancemaryland.org today to join.

HIGHLIGHTS

As a follow-up to the retreat and part of MYJC's ongoing strategy to broaden our spokesperson bench, **we joined with The Sentencing Project to provide virtual media 101 training for coalition members.** Thank you to everyone who attended!

We're continuing to make space for our coalition members to introduce themselves and share the work they're doing to advance the missions of MYJC. At our last full coalition meeting, we heard from Youth As Resources (YAR) on their ongoing School Police Accountability work across Baltimore City. You can find their report [here](#). **Want to introduce yourself or have something you want to share with the coalition?** Email sergio@advancemaryland.org.

AHEAD

Join our biweekly meetings! If you do not yet have a calendar invite to our meetings but would like to attend, please reach out to sergio@advancemaryland.org.

Be sure to attend our September 14th meeting, where we will be joined by representatives from the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to present on the implementation of the Youth

Charging Reform Act (YCRA). We also have four active workgroups (Research & Documentation, Legislative Prep, Comms/Rapid Response, Youth & Community Engagement). If you are interested in plugging in to a specific workgroup, email sergio@advancemaryland.org.

Youth Charging Reform Act needs our continued support! MYJC has already begun proactive defense of the YCRA. We know there has already been some misleading information about the YCRA in recent media, and we expect much more, especially after October 1st. We invite everyone to participate in public education efforts, including print/tv media outreach and social media. MYJC has a rapid response workgroup for those who are able to participate in ongoing and rapid communications work - email alice@advancemaryland.org to join. We also invite all of our partners to amplify our social media posts.

Check out and follow our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Bluesky](#)!

IN THE NEWS

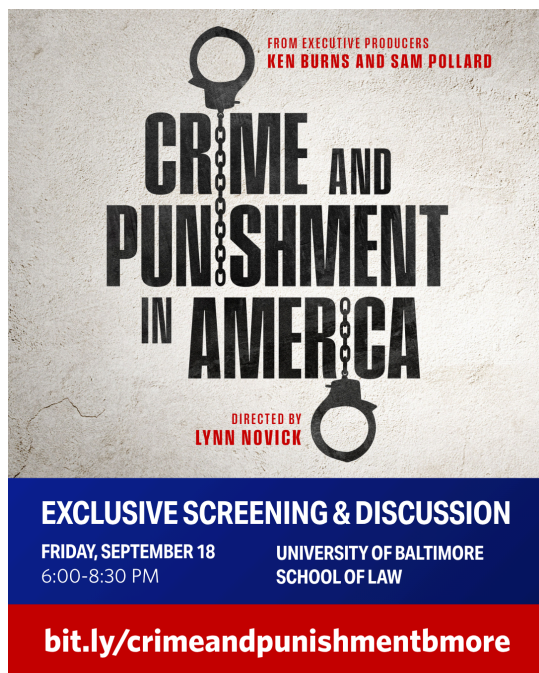
Commission to assess tragedy of Black youth at former reform school holds first meeting.

The commission's goal is to "provide a complete and public accounting of the children who died and were buried on the grounds" of the reform school, located on land between the current Cheltenham Youth Detention Center and the manicured Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery along Route 301. [Read the summary of their first meeting in Maryland Matters](#) (August 5, 2026), and [get the recap from the Washington Post](#) (August 6, 2026).

The Juvenile Justice Vibe Shift. This spring, Maryland raised the age at which most teenagers can automatically be charged as adults to 16. Weeks later, Mississippi went in the opposite direction, lowering the age to 13 for some offenses. Same legislative session, two different answers to a deceptively simple question: When does a child become an adult in the eyes of the law? [Check out this analysis from the R Street Institute.](#) (August 4, 2026)

Baltimore teens ask city leaders to listen to them on juvenile crime. As Baltimore leaders continue debating how to respond to youth crime, a group of local teenagers on Friday said one perspective has largely been missing from the conversation: theirs. The teens, who spent five weeks studying Maryland's juvenile justice system before writing and performing an original production about incarceration, trauma and resilience, said adults should listen to young people before changing laws or deciding how children are punished. [Read about their performance and hear from these teens in this Baltimore Sun article.](#) (August 1, 2026)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Crime and Punishment in America: Baltimore Screening & Discussion

Friday, September 18, 6-8:30PM
University of Baltimore School of Law
[Register here](https://bit.ly/crimeandpunishmentbmore)



Crime and Punishment in America: Silver Spring Screening & Discussion

Monday, October 12, 5:30-8:30PM
Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza
[Register here](https://bit.ly/crimeandpunishmentmoco)

Join us for an EXCLUSIVE screening and discussion of Crime and Punishment in America. With regional leaders and Maryland Public Television, learn from our past to envision a better future and understanding of what true justice can and should look like in our country. [Find more information on the documentary here.](#) [Click here to register for the Baltimore screening](#), or [here to register for the screening in Silver Spring.](#)

Have an upcoming event you want us to highlight in the next newsletter?

Email gail@advancemaryland.org.

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Paid for by the Advance Maryland Education Fund

c/o Progress Now Education
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