

## **GHIAA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

Thank you for joining us for this truly important work on changing policy that impacts our communities. The 2021 Connecticut Legislative Session is underway. This toolkit will give you the information needed to help fight for justice.

### **Housing: Repealing Welfare Liens**

GHIAA is working to repeal the State's current Welfare Liens legislation. The state places a lien on the recipient's assets and demands repayment when the person:

1. Sells or refinances a home;
2. Receives a legal settlement (for example, for personal injury);
3. Receives any inheritance;
4. Dies and attempts to leave any inheritance to heirs.

*Find fact sheets by [clicking here.](#)*

### **Criminal Justice: Clean Slate (w/CONNECT)**

Support Senate [Bill 403](#) (2019-2020 session)

GHIAA is working to enact Clean Slate legislation that would prevent a criminal record from becoming a life sentence.

1. Automatic erasure of misdemeanors 7 years after the date of conviction;
2. Automatic 'provisional erasure' of Class C, D, & E felonies 12 years after the date of conviction;
3. 'Provisional erasure' allows law enforcement only to still see a criminal record;
4. If no new crimes are committed or criminal cases opened during 2 years of 'provisional erasure,' full erasure takes place automatically;
5. Individuals can petition for erasure sooner if they have shorter sentences (3 years after completion of sentence for misdemeanors and 5 years after completion of sentence for C, D, & E felonies);
6. Sex crimes and domestic/family violence crimes excluded;
7. Juvenile records prior to 2012 'raise the age law' erased automatically back to 1999, prior to 1999 erased by petition;
8. Requires annual training for the Board of Pardons and Paroles on the collateral consequences of a criminal record and requires that the Board indicate a specific, substantive reason in writing when denying applications for a pardon.

Join with GHIAA to call on Governor Ned Lamont to declare racism as a public health crisis as an important first step in the movement to advance racial equity and justice.

*Find fact sheets by [clicking here.](#)*

### **Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis**

1. Declaring racism a public health crisis in Connecticut
2. Establishing a racial and economic justice agenda
3. Creating an advisory team\*
4. Committing to prioritize this work in the 2021 legislative session

*Find fact sheets by [clicking here.](#)*

## CAMPAIGN STORIES

Please watch these compelling videos on the GHIAA issue slate. You will find powerful stories of residents and leaders facing immense challenges head-on in partnership with one another.

- [Welfare Liens video](#)
- [Clean Slate video](#) and [Personal Testimony video](#) (from our partners in CONECT)
- [Racism as a Public Health Crisis video](#) presented at Nov. 2020 Press Conference

## TAKE ACTION!

The legislative session presents key opportunities for all of our leaders:

1. **ENGAGE:** Email an organizer at [GHIAA@cljct.org](mailto:GHIAA@cljct.org) to setup and/or participate in legislative meetings with your state representative or senator.
2. **SPEAK OUT:** Let your voice be heard! Share your story with lawmakers and ask them to repeal welfare liens, support clean slate, and address racism as a public health crisis. Email us for sample text/guidelines.
3. **ACT:** Work with your core team to identify ways to engage your entire congregation in the above process.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Racism as a Public Health Crisis ([access full proposal here](#))

Clean Slate Support Senate [Bill 403](#)

Find more information about DSS Welfare Liens [here](#)

More information about Welfare Liens in Connecticut [here](#)

PowerPoint Presentation on Welfare Liens [here](#)

PowerPoint Presentation on Clean Slate [here](#)