

Toledoans for Prison Awareness

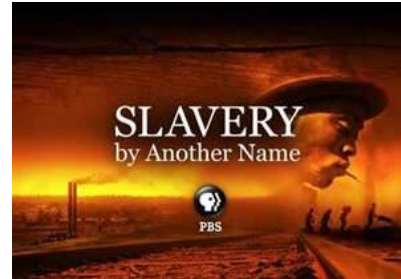
Event Announcement

FILM SCREENING:
Slavery By Another Name (2012)

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

From: 6-8pm

University of Toledo: Room FH1910



Slavery by Another Name is a 90-minute documentary that challenges one of Americans' most cherished assumptions: the belief that slavery in this country ended with the Emancipation Proclamation. The film tells how even as chattel slavery came to an end in the South in 1865, thousands of African Americans were pulled back into forced labor with shocking force and brutality.

Beyond its historical value, this presentation will serve as a leaping off point for a discussion of the striking parallels between the system of Jim Crow described in the film and the current system of mass incarceration as described in "The New Jim Crow" (Michelle Alexander, 2010).

The premise of this presentation: that mass incarceration (including the integral criminal justice system) represents a stunningly comprehensive and well-disguised system of racialized social control that operates in a manner strikingly similar to Jim Crow. Some of these parallels include:

- Denial of right to vote
- Exclusion from juries
- Racially segregated & subordinated existence
- Web of laws, regulations, & informal rules reinforced by social stigma
- Denied access to mainstream society
- Legally denied ability to obtain employment, housing & public benefits

Discussion may include the following relevant strategies in the modern-day criminal justice system:

- The role the War on Drugs has played in creating this system of social control
- Sentencing policies that exacerbate racial disparities in incarceration rates (e.g., discriminatory crack cocaine sentencing laws & guidelines)
- Zero tolerance policies that effectively funnel youth of color from schools to jails
- Media imagery that reinforces the worst negative racial stereotypes

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