

## **Discussion Questions for Netflix's Film 13<sup>TH</sup>: From Slave to Criminal with One Amendment**

(Courtesy of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights)

Civil rights advocates are screening the Netflix film the 13TH to raise awareness of criminal justice reform in communities nationwide. We highly recommend streaming this film in your community and hosting a conversation afterward. You may also consider bringing an outside expert to lead your group in this discussion. Here are suggested discussion questions:

1. What are your initial reactions after watching the film?
2. The film discusses the power of the media in shaping people's opinions and actions. For example, the use of the term 'super predator' in mass media resulted in an identity shift among people of color. Do you agree that media has a strong influence over the actions and opinions of society? What are some examples you can think of from today?
3. What was the most surprising thing you learned from the film?
4. Did the film change any of your ideas about the prison system in America? Affirm any ideas you already had? If so, in what way?
5. Title cards in the film show the steep increase of the prison population from the mid to late 90s until today. What was your reaction to these numbers?
6. "You can tell the story of white leadership in American and never mention the FBI one time, but you can't tell the story of black leadership - not one - without having to deal with the full weight of the criminal justice system," — do you agree or disagree?
7. The film brings about broad ideas about race relations and criminal justice in this country. How can you connect these themes to a personal experience?
8. Do you feel you have advantages or disadvantages based on your race, gender, sexual orientation economic status or any other factors? How so? How have they impacted your life?
9. In a recent interview, Ava DuVernay says, "There's good work to be done with folks simply re-assessing their own personal views. Whether you go out and start a petition, or have some kind of formal dissent, or whether you change your own mind about the way that you are processing this stuff and behaving, all of that is good work. My hope is that the film affects folks on some level. I don't have a preference as to how." What has the film inspired you to do?