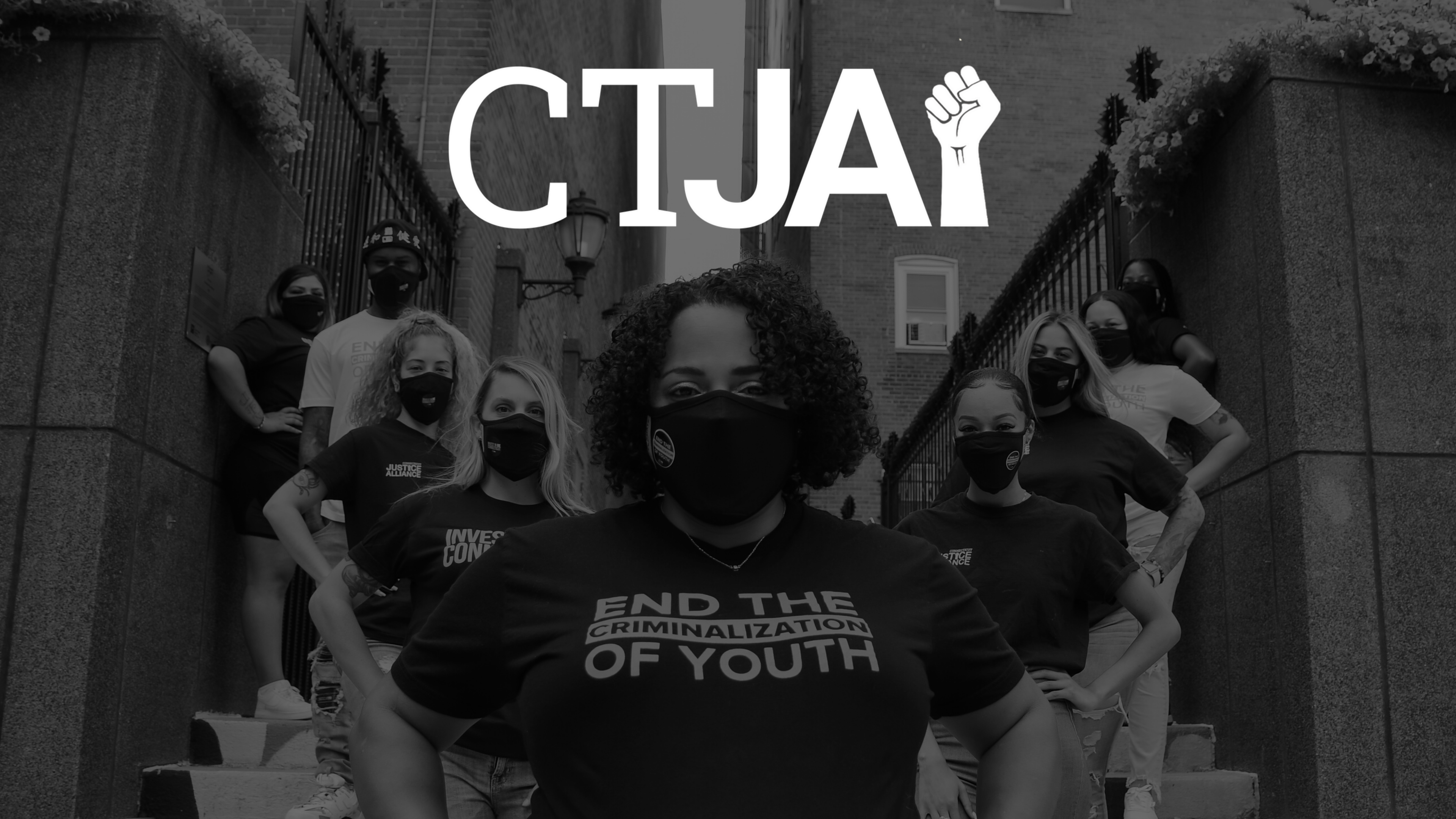


# CTJA



JUSTICE ALLIANCE

INVEST  
CONFESSION

END THE  
CRIMINALIZATION  
OF YOUTH

JUSTICE ALLIANCE

END THE  
CRIMINALIZATION  
OF YOUTH

# MISSION

End the criminalization  
of youth

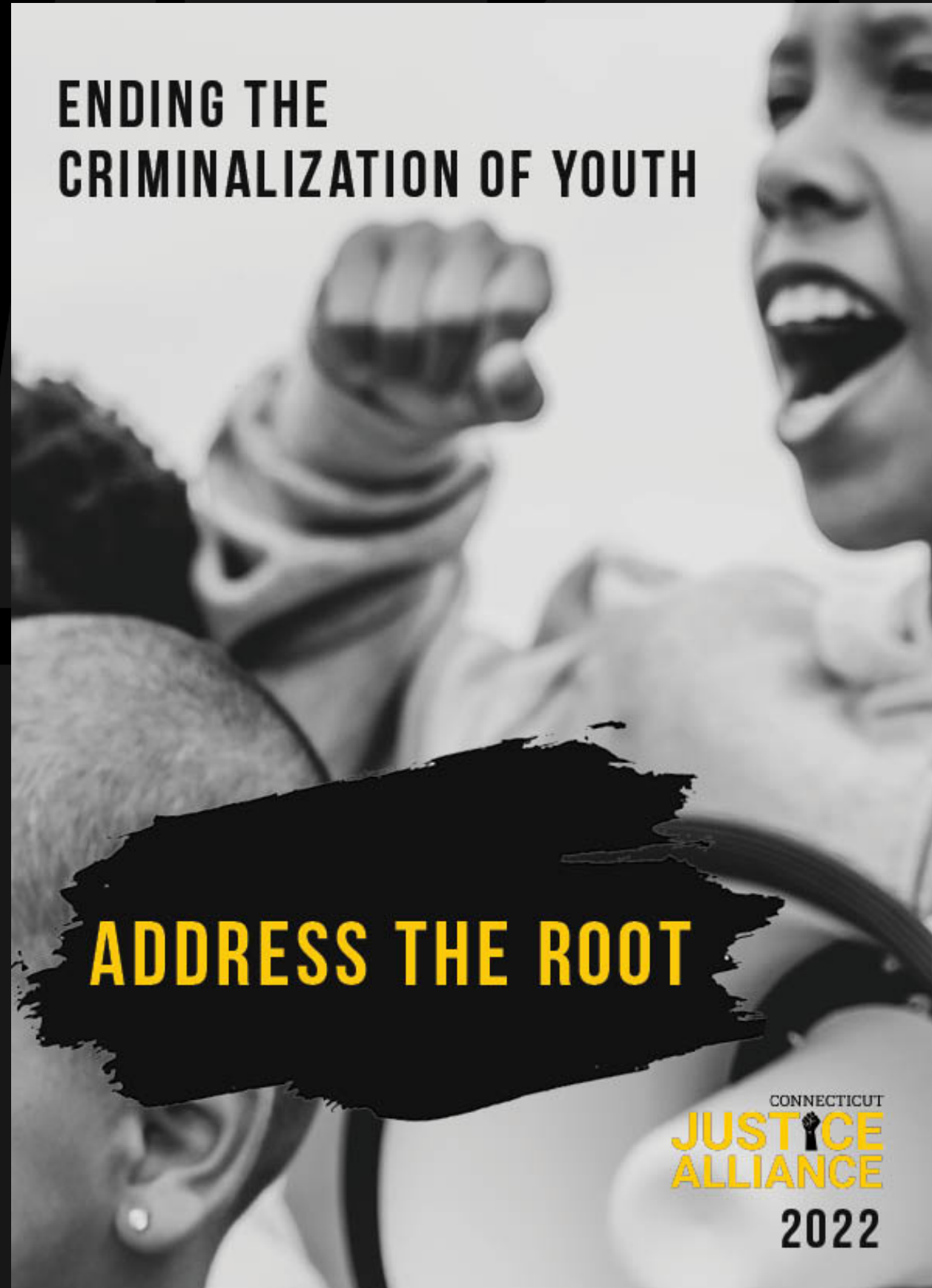
CTJA is led by 3 woman of color and focuses on partnering with young leaders ages 18-25 who have been impacted by our legal system

# Our History

- **Founded in 2001**
- **Our youth-adult partnership began in 2017 with the founding of our Justice Advisors**
- **June 2020: Launched #InvestInMeCT**

**#InvestInMeCT seeks to**  
reduce the number of system-involved youth by  
addressing the root causes of youth  
criminalization

**The goal of the campaign is to**  
build opportunity-rich communities where all  
youth and families can access the resources they  
need to succeed



## #InvestInMeCT Revisited Report

June 20, 2022: *Ending the Criminalization of Youth: Address the Root* was released as a follow up to our first report in 2020



# CTJA's Partnership in Action

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## Advocacy

- Vision Sessions
- OpEds
- Media engagement
- Targeted advocacy
- Partnerships
- Mass messaging
- Press conferences

## Policy

- Heavy involvement in legislative session
- Participate in work groups of all levels
- Legislative Outreach
- Building political engagement in communities

## Organizing

- Building community connections
- Community Vision Sessions
- Support organizing campaigns
- Presentations/Outreach
- Resource pipeline
- Educate/Inform



# WHY ENGAGE YOUTH AND FAMILIES AS PARTNERS?

# Why is this partnership important?

- **Directly impacted perspective**
- Informative policy creation
- **Informs additional areas of impact [cross-system impact]**
- Truly with community, not for community
- **Targets addressing systemic and community gaps with community-based solutions**



# What does an authentic partnership look like?

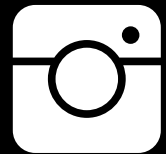
- **Intentionally building relationships**
- Mutual and shared contributions
- **Lots of reflection and transparent conversations**
- NO tokenism
- **Ongoing capacity building**
- Investing in your partnership

**Centering youth and families is giving their experiences and opinions value and power**

# STAY IN TOUCH



@theCTJA



@ctjusticealliance



CT Justice Alliance

CTJA.org

