

What can you do to get fair and equal treatment for Connecticut children?

1. Stay connected/Learn more

Visit the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance's website: www.ctjja.org for all the information contained in this forum and more. Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/ctjja. Follow us on Twitter @ctjja. Join our email list.

2. Spread the word

Host a forum like this one. We've got a toolkit to make it simple.

Start a book or film club or discussion group. See reading/viewing list.

Share Color of Justice resources on social media. Be sure to sign the email list so that you are updated when new resources come out.

Send a letter to the editor. We've got templates to get you started.

3. Get involved in your community

A memorandum of agreement can ensure police aren't responsible for discipline. Police and educators can get free training to reduce arrests.

Does it have a Juvenile Review Board? JRBs help kids facing minor charges to make restitution and get the help they need to succeed.

The School-Based Diversion Initiative offers a free toolkit to help schools manage mental health problems without involving law enforcement.

<http://www.chdi.org/publication-detail.php?id=138>

How about a contract with Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services to make sure that arrest is not the default response to a mental health crisis? This service gives schools instant access to mental health professionals.

Attend your local LIST (Local Interagency Service Team) meetings. You'll meet professionals who work with at-risk youth in your community.

4. Advocate statewide

Statewide actions can reduce the number of minority kids entering the juvenile justice system. These include requiring every town to have a memorandum of agreement defining the police role in schools. We also need to expand and safeguard funding for mental health, diversion services and restorative justice. Sign up for our listserv to keep up-to-date on these issues.

Lots of resources to make action easy are available on our project website: www.ctjja.org/colorofjustice

