

## October 21, 2024 – Ken and Alia: Prison Stories of Pain, Transformation and Hope



Ken Hartman and his daughter Alia Ruiz-Hartman will share their experiences with the California prison system and beyond. Ken was incarcerated for 38 years. Alia will tell us what it was like growing up with her father being in prison. Ken will talk about raising his daughter while living in prison. They will also talk about their adjustment after Ken's release.

Since his release Ken has visited countries in Northern Europe where they have a system of incarceration and reentry that is far more humane and effective than the systems employed in the US. Ken will help us understand what it was like being incarcerated in a US prison and describe for us how different it would have been if he was incarcerated in a country like Norway or Finland.

**Kenneth E. Hartman** (born December 28, 1960) is an American writer and prison activist. In 1980, Hartman was convicted of murder at the age of 19 for beating a homeless man to death in a Long Beach park, and he was sentenced to life in prison without parole. While in prison, Hartman became known as a prisoner-rights advocate, and on April 15, 2017, Hartman was one of two prisoners to have their lifetime sentences commuted by Governor Jerry Brown. Hartman was released from prison in December 2017.



**Alia Ruiz-Hartman** (born December, 1995) is a criminal justice reform activist, working as the Senior Development Manager for Root & Rebound in Oakland, CA. Alia's work has been deeply personal—she knows what it is like to be separated by incarceration. Her father, Ken, served 38 years of a life-without-parole sentence that Gov. Jerry Brown later commuted. He was released from prison in 2017, just six days shy of Alia's 22nd birthday. Alia holds a deep belief in the wisdom of currently and formerly incarcerated people and is proud to advocate for a world where individuals reentering society have the right to receive the support they need to lead stable, fulfilling lives.

