



# Better, Not Bitter: Living on Purpose in the Pursuit of Racial Justice

## Yusef Salaam

Award-winning author and criminal justice reform advocate. Member of "The Exonerated Five." Board member, The Innocence Project, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University.

## Reuben Jonathan Miller, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. Author, *Halfway Home: Race, Punishment and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration*.

**Thursday, May 20, 2021, 7:00 PM Central**

[www.bit.ly/SalaamFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/SalaamFANWebinar)

**PLUS: After-Hours Event!**

Purchase a copy of *Better, Not Bitter* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall to receive a link to an interactive "After-Hours" event hosted by Mr. Salaam. Details on the webinar registration page.

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with

**Baker Demonstration School, Catherine Cook School, Compass Health Center, Countryside Day School, Evanston Scholars, Evanston Township High School D202, Foundation 65, Fusion Academy, Latin School of Chicago, Loyola Academy, New Trier High School D203, New Trier Parents' Association, Pope John XXIII School, Regina Dominican High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Sacred Heart Schools, the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University, Stevenson High School D125, Wintrust Bank, and Youth and Opportunity United (Y.O.U.)**

This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+ [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: YUSEF SALAAM**

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**Thursday, May 20, 2021, 7:00-8:00 PM, Better, Not Bitter: Living on Purpose in the Pursuit of Racial Justice, a FAN webinar featuring Yusef Salaam, in conversation with Reuben Jonathan Miller, Ph.D.**

**REGISTER:** [www.bit.ly/SalaamFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/SalaamFANWebinar).

**BONUS AFTER-HOURS EVENT:** Attendees who purchase a copy of *Better, Not Bitter* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall are invited to attend an AFTER-HOURS event hosted by Dr. Salaam that will start immediately after the webinar. Details on the webinar registration page.

No one's life is the sum of the worst things that happened to them, and during **Yusef Salaam's** seven years of wrongful incarceration as one of the Central Park Five, he grew from child to man, and gained a deepened spiritual perspective on life. He learned that we're all "born on purpose, with a purpose." He channeled his energy and pain into something positive, not just for himself but for other marginalized people and communities.

***Better, Not Bitter: Living on Purpose in the Pursuit of Racial Justice*** is the first time that one of the now Exonerated Five is telling his individual story, in his own words. Dr. Salaam writes his narrative: growing up Black in central Harlem in the '80s, being raised by a strong, fierce mother and grandmother, his years of incarceration, his reentry, and exoneration. He connects these stories to lessons and principles he learned that gave him the power to survive through the worst of life's experiences. He inspires readers to accept their own path, to understand their own sense of purpose. With his intimate personal insights, Dr. Salaam unpacks the systems built and designed for profit and the oppression of Black and Brown people.

In 1997, Dr. Salaam left prison as an adult to a world he didn't fully recognize or understand. In 2002, the sentences for the Central Park Five were overturned, and all Five were exonerated for the crime they didn't commit. Dr. Salaam now travels the world as an inspirational speaker, describing the effects of incarceration and the devastating impact of disenfranchisement. He is an advocate and educator on issues of mass incarceration, police brutality and misconduct, press ethics and bias, race and law, and the disparities in the criminal justice system, especially for men of color.

Dr. Salaam will be in conversation with **Reuben Jonathan Miller, Ph.D.**, assistant professor at the University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. His research examines life at the intersections of race, poverty, crime control, and social welfare policy. His new book, ***Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration***, is based on 15 years of research and practice with currently and formerly incarcerated men, women, their families, partners, and friends.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available later on our website and YouTube channel.

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