Written by Sharon Brooks, founder, Peace of Hope
Monday, 10 September 2012 08:04

Back in the day when I was in grammar school, there were not many other races in my classroom; mostly my own fellow African-American classmates.

Today, for my minor daughter, that is not true. She has friends from Mexico, Asia, Africa and other parts of the world. They are cool with each other and it's a family thing. Like our President, Barak Obama, who recently stated that one of his reasons for deciding that marriage for all is fair, was made in part because of the friendships his minor daughters have formed in school; I understand this influence.

This same kind of influence gives me the reason I need to talk about the severe unfairness of incarceration of those considered illegal immigrants who are being railroaded into private prisons. It is a fact that more than half of the private prisons in America, are excessively wealthy due to the mass detention of those considered illegal aliens to this country.

One specific private prison company, Correctional Corporations of America (CCA), went from near bankruptcy to extreme wealth in a little more than 10 years due to increased detention of immigrants into its private prisons. This is big business. In Florida, the senate president, Miller Haridopolos (R), fought long and hard to privatize more than two dozen prisons in the state. His effort was defeated by the Democratic vote coupled with nine Republicans who agreed with the unfairness. A win by the senator would have meant 14,000 inmates would have been moved from state prisons to private prisons where monitoring and accountability is minimal at best. In addition, 3,500 state workers would also have been out of work.

Other states are also looking to cash in on the "benefits" of private prisons, and aside from the obvious suspects to be incarcerated (African-Americans, Latinos), it is those who are immigrants to this country that are being targeted. So the net broadens. Who's next; me, you, my daughter, her friends, Minnesota?