

## Part III of IV: Private prisons in our midst

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I have 1980s babies.

Yeah, those good guys are always on to the latest sayings, the coolest moves and of course, the latest trends. 1980s babies seem to know quite a bit about what's "in" and what's not. And in the most intelligent ways, these babies are not afraid to speak their minds. They can be straight, gay, professional, artistic, political and wealthy; many of them have achieved the status of millionaire in a variety of ways.

That's why I'm baffled as to why so many of these creative children from the 1980s are silently allowing themselves to be ripped off of their adulthood by entering into the prison system. African-American males ages 30-34 have the highest incarceration rate of any race or ethnicity. Some blame rap music, some blame drugs, while even others want to say the media is the culprit. However, when all is said and done, most times it boils down to a combination of personal decisions and menacing laws. Private prisons in America are banking on lobbyist to keep fighting for senseless laws that may seem trivial, but are effective in keeping our 1980s babies (and many, many younger adults) in their prisons allowing them to stay full.

States such as Arizona, Ohio, Illinois – and the biggest banker of all private prisons to date – Louisiana, are raking in big bucks on our babies. None of the private prisons have been proven to benefit anyone except their owners. In fact, the grossly unmonitored private prisons haven't proven much of anything – and don't have to prove anything. Today, I am calling out to our intelligent brood of those born in the 1980s to reach out and stop the feeding of these prisons. Use that trendy way you have of getting everybody's attention, through books, music, dance, movies – whatever. Let them know that we can beat them. We can put prisons in bankruptcy by not joining them.