

asha bandele is an award-winning journalist and the *New York Times* best-selling author of several works of non-fiction, fiction and poetry. A prison abolitionist, asha built a grants program designed to resource organizations fighting to end the drug war and mass incarceration; serves as a key communications and policy strategist on campaigns that work to reduce jail and prison populations and writes and edits holistic healing curriculum for young people who have been harmed the US punishment system and poverty. She is the proud mother of two, a beautiful stepson, Aundre, who was murdered in 2015 and Nisa Yasmine, a brilliant scholar, activist, dancer and member of Columbia University's Class of 2022.