

Solidarity Letter for Krystal Clark

The United People of Color Caucus (TUPOCC) of the National Lawyers Guild stands in unwavering solidarity with Krystal Clark. As Chair of TUPOCC, I write with the weight of our collective mission — to unite, uplift, and defend communities of color against systems of oppression that continue to harm and exploit our people.

Krystal Clark has been incarcerated at Michigan's only women's prison, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, for more than a decade. Since at least 2019, she and other incarcerated women have been raising the alarm about toxic black mold and other environmental hazards in the facility. Mold drips from ceilings, spreads across showers, and blows through air vents, creating conditions that are not only degrading but life-threatening.

For Krystal, these conditions have led to devastating health consequences. She has endured chronic respiratory infections, asthma attacks, skin rashes, hives, dizziness, and debilitating headaches. Mold spores have lodged in her ears and sinuses, causing painful ear infections, facial swelling, and even partial facial paralysis. Doctors have documented allergies and fungal infections like aspergillosis, yet prison officials have repeatedly delayed or denied her access to proper medical treatment.

Instead of care, Krystal has faced retaliation for speaking out — losing access to basic hygiene items and being punished for filing grievances. In 2019, Krystal and other women filed a class-action lawsuit against the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC), arguing that these conditions constitute cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment.

In recent rulings, a federal judge agreed that the allegations are serious enough to proceed, rejecting MDOC's attempt to shield itself with qualified immunity. The court noted the overwhelming evidence that officials knew of the dangers yet failed to act, exposing women like Krystal to irreversible harm.

Today, Krystal's health is in crisis. She is seeking clemency and immediate medical intervention to prevent permanent damage. Her story is not just about individual neglect — it reveals a systemic pattern of racialized, gendered, and economic violence inside Michigan's prisons, where Black women and poor women are disproportionately subjected to state-sanctioned neglect and abuse.

Krystal's struggle is not an isolated case; it is part of a long legacy of racial, gendered, and economic violence embedded in the U.S. legal system. Her story underscores how the courts, prisons, and so-called systems of "justice" perpetuate the same inequities our caucus was created to resist. TUPOCC recognizes that true justice cannot be achieved

without centering the lived experiences of people like Krystal, who are too often silenced or criminalized when they seek dignity, safety, and freedom.

The Alabama Manifesto calls on us to hold institutions accountable and to transform the very culture of our legal spaces. Today, that means lifting up Krystal Clark's voice, challenging the systems that endanger her, and demanding freedom and healing in place of punishment and oppression.

We are working with Krystal's family, Reproductive Justice organizations, Black Led organizations, clergy, local Michigan organizers, and those who have been impacted by this issue to sound the alarm. We call on all members of the National Lawyers Guild, our allies, and our communities to join us in this struggle: share Krystal's story, amplify her voice, and take action to ensure her safety and liberation. We will be reaching out in the coming weeks for ways that you can engage, until then please see the following:

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Check out the Linktree/Fighting For Krystal Clark:

<https://linktr.ee/fightingforkrystalclark>

Please sign the petition to the governor of Michigan:

<https://www.change.org/HoldMDOCAccountable>.

In radical love and solidarity,

Justice Gatson (she/they)

Chair, The United People of Color Caucus (TUPOCC) National Lawyers Guild

