

## Roxanne Maher

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**From:** Roxanne Maher  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 28, 2026 7:58 AM  
**To:** Town Council Group  
**Subject:** FW: Invitation to Explore the Frederick Douglass Project's Prison Visitation Program

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**From:** Gary St. Vil <[GSVil@ledyardct.org](mailto:GSVil@ledyardct.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2026 7:43 PM  
**To:** Roxanne Maher <[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Invitation to Explore the Frederick Douglass Project's Prison Visitation Program

Hi Roxanne,

Please share with all the Town Councilors. Thank You .

Respectfully,

**Gary A. St. Vil**

Chairman, Ledyard Town Council  
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Ledyard, CT 06339  
(860) 980-0656 | [gsvil@ledyardct.org](mailto:gsvil@ledyardct.org)  
[www.ledyardct.org](http://www.ledyardct.org)

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**From:** Roxanne Maher <[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2026 2:04 PM  
**To:** Gary St. Vil <[GSVil@ledyardct.org](mailto:GSVil@ledyardct.org)>  
**Cc:** Roxanne Maher <[council@ledyardct.org](mailto:council@ledyardct.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Invitation to Explore the Frederick Douglass Project's Prison Visitation Program

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**From:** Alyssa Schmidt <[aschmidt@douglassproject.org](mailto:aschmidt@douglassproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2026 1:48 PM  
**Subject:** Invitation to Explore the Frederick Douglass Project's Prison Visitation Program

Good Afternoon,

I hope you're doing well. I'm reaching out to introduce you to the **Frederick Douglass Project for Justice**, a national organization dedicated to fostering empathy, understanding, and meaningful change through **structured prison visitation programs**.

My name is Alyssa Schmidt, and I serve as an Outreach Specialist for the Frederick Douglass Project for Justice. Our mission is simple yet profound: **to humanize the justice system by creating spaces for open and honest dialogue between incarcerated individuals and members of free society**. Through these encounters, we challenge perceptions, break down barriers, and inspire both personal and systemic change.

Our **Prison Visitation Program** operates across multiple states, offering **powerful, face-to-face conversations** between visitors and those incarcerated. These visits go beyond observation—they are opportunities to **listen, connect, and reflect in** a way that fosters true understanding.

### **What to Expect During a Visit:**

- A **3-hour in-person program** including group discussions and, when possible, a facility tour.
- **Guided conversations** facilitated by our trained staff using proven techniques to encourage respectful and meaningful dialogue.
- A chance to **see the justice system firsthand** and gain a new perspective on those directly impacted by it.

Participants can sign up individually or as part of a group. While we do not provide transportation or funding, we offer guidance through every step of the preparation process, including a **brief orientation and security clearance paperwork**.

We are excited to host upcoming in-person visits across the U.S., including at the **York Correctional Institution, in Connecticut, with our next sessions on Tuesday, March 24th and Tuesday, May 19th**. If you're interested in joining, you can **sign up [here](#)**.

If you are unable to join us in person, we invite you to participate in one of our **Virtual Visits**. These sessions offer the same purpose and outcome as our in-person programs: to challenge perceptions, break down barriers, and inspire both personal and systemic change. The key difference is that virtual visits take place online, allowing you to connect from anywhere. You can sign up for a virtual visit [here](#).

To learn more about our work, please visit our website: [douglassproject.org](http://douglassproject.org). We have also attached a **one-pager** with additional details about our program.

We warmly invite you—and any members of your organization—to participate in this transformative experience. If you'd like to discuss how we can bring this opportunity to your community or arrange a visit for a larger group, we'd be happy to set up a quick call.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to connect and work together toward a more compassionate and just society.

Kind Regards,

Alyssa Schmidt

Outreach Specialist

The Frederick Douglass Project for Justice