

THE FUTURE IS HERS

It's time for prison reform in the US, featuring Elizabeth Swavola

As a program manager at the Vera Institute of Justice, attorney Elizabeth Swavola advocates for criminal justice reform in the US. This video transcript is part of the *Future Is Hers* multimedia series, celebrating innovators, risk-takers, and change makers, supported by the Ford Foundation, who have impacted the lives of women and girls around the globe.

Transcript begins.

[on-screen text: Elizabeth Swavola, Program Manager, Vera Institute of Justice]

[A tall white woman with shoulder-length brown hair, wearing a black dress with a floral print, addresses the camera.]

ELIZABETH SWAVOLA: You can learn a lot about a society by how they treat their most vulnerable. And that really strikes me about the United States is how we push people down instead of lifting them up. In a business community, if something wasn't working you would fix it. But we seem to be stuck in this paradigm of, "This is the way we've always done it." And it's not working. And it's breaking up families. It's hurting individuals. It's incumbent upon all of us to help lift each other up.

[on-screen graphic: Ford Foundation logo]

End of transcript.