

Listen Out Loud Media SPEAKERS BUREAU

George Chochos

Rev. George Chochos has defied the odds—going from incarceration to earning multiple Ivy League degrees and becoming a national leader in justice reform. A sought-after speaker, public theologian, and policy advocate, George’s journey is a testament to the power of education, resilience, and faith. With over a decade of experience in higher education, nonprofit leadership, and policy reform—including roles as **Senior Program Associate for Vera’s Unlocking Potential Initiative** and **Founding Pivot Program Manager at Georgetown’s McDonough School of Business**—he speaks with unmatched authenticity on leadership, second chances, and systemic change. Through compelling storytelling and data-driven insights, George challenges audiences to rethink justice, leadership, and the future of opportunity. His work has impacted thousands—from incarcerated students seeking education to Fortune 500 executives shaping workplace policies.

Discussion Topics:

- From Jail to Yale: The Power of Second Chances
- Justice Reform and Why It Matters for Business
- Higher Education in Prison: Pathways to Economic & Social Mobility
- Overcoming Adversity & Leading with Purpose
- Telling Your Story for Maximum Impact
- Faith, Justice & Healing: The Moral Case for Reform
- The Art of Coalition & Movement Building

“George entered our juvenile detention center and showed an immediate way out. He captivated our boys’ attention and made them believe that they too can make it to the Ivy Leagues.”

— *Juvenile Detention Center Program Director*

Academic Degrees:

- **PhD Student**—Georgetown University
- **MA in Theological & Religious Studies**—Georgetown University
- **MDiv & STM in Theology**—Yale Divinity School
- **MPS in Urban Ministry**—New York Theological Seminary
- **BA in Social Studies**—Bard College (Bard Prison Initiative)

Awards:

- **Wolcott Calkins Prize** for Excellence in Public Speaking & **Charles S. Mersick Prize** for Effective Public Address Especially in Preaching (Yale Divinity School)
- **Patrick Healy Fellow** for Theological and Religious Studies (Georgetown University)



George Chochos

Executive Director, Bethesda Mission | Public Theologian
Justice Reform Advocate | Transformational Speaker

Notable Achievements:

- **Testified before Congress** on the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act (2015)
- **Advised policymakers** on criminal justice reform, including the **First Step Act (2020)**
- **Expanded access to education** for incarcerated students through policy work at Vera and Georgetown

Recent Speaking Engagements:

- **Guest Lecturer:** Wharton School, Harvard, Howard Divinity School
- **Keynotes:** JPMorgan Chase, Morehead-Cain Foundation, Virginia Tech
- **Featured Panelist:** National conferences on higher education in prison, reentry, and justice reform

How to Book George Chochos:

- **Contact:** info@listenoutloudmedia.com
- **Additional Information:** listenoutloudmedia.com
- **Travels From:** Pennsylvania