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Symposium on Juvenile Crime: Policy Proposals on Guns & Violence, Gangs, & Drugs

Drugs

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DRUGS



[©]Eugene Richards

Crack Haze, East New York, 1988 (from Cocaine True, Cocaine Blue).

Odd-colored patches and pieces of cloth of various textures and various hues disconnected are called rags—useless rags. But if we can bind them together by a common thread—that thread called the American dream—then we'll turn these pieces of cloth, these odd-shaped pieces and patches, into a quilt. We'll make it a thing of art, a thing of beauty, and make this a great nation by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, setting the captive free.

So often this struggle to realize the American dream has been led by young people. But those who are to join this mission must be fit soldiers. That's why the behavior of young America is so critical in the struggle. You cannot "set the captive free" if you are a captive of drugs.¹

^{1.} Reverend Jesse Jackson, Keynote Address to the Valparaiso University Law Review Conference on Teenage Violence & Drug Use (Nov. 15, 1996).

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