

ANTHONY RAY HILTON



Anthony Hinton, an innocent black man spent 28 years on death row convicted for two murders he didn't commit. Thankfully the black justice lawyer Bryan Stevenson whom Anthony eventually wrote to, took on his case, but it WAS 16 years before the courts admitted their mistake and by then Anthony was 58 years old.

Anthony wrote an amazing book '[The Sun Does Shine](#)' about his experience on death row where frequently they would watch other prisoners being brought to the electric chair and hear them screaming and crying before dying.

For three years Anthony Hinton had nothing in his head but anger and revenge for those who had put him away, but one day when thinking about his mother, he realised, that he was only hurting himself by isolating himself and giving energy to people who really didn't care. From then on he started to befriend the other prisoners and feeling sorry for the cruel prison guards who were trapped in a horrible system.

Anthony somehow managed the impossible: first of all, getting books into the prison-cells that the prisoners on death-row could take turns reading, and then obtaining permission to meet once a month to discuss the book. He chose books that reflected the situation they were in, about other people who had suffered injustice and discrimination.

Little by little these hard-core criminals, some guilty and some not, discovered compassion and empathy for each other and for the prison guards. Hardened criminals softened up and were sorry for their crimes, exchanging their self-hatred with kindness and understanding for themselves and others.

Finally, in 2015 Anthony got back his freedom and he now speaks up for the abolition of the death penalty, and the inhuman conditions of death row that are cruel and degrading to prisoners and guards, apart from the terrible injustice of hundreds of innocent black prisoners being executed without fair trials.

Describe how Anthony Hinton looked for some of the four basic needs:

- the need for safety and love
- the need for encouragement
- the need for new experiences
- the need for responsibility