# **ISIS TESOUTCES**

We feature resources in this section that are available at the Isis resource centre. If you are interested in buying copies, please contact the publisher directly. For more information about how to contact the publisher, e-mail us at <library@isiswomen.org>.

# BOOKS



Remembering the Darkness: Women in Soviet Prisons

Edited and Translated by Veronica Shapovalov

he 20 memoirs and letters by Russian women are from the archives of Memorial (St. the Petersburg), an organisation formed in 1991 to investigate political repression in the Soviet Union. Comprising the stories of women from all classes and backgrounds, Remembering the Darkness covers the entire span of the Gulag's existence from the 1920s to the 1980s, including the littleknown periods of political repression of the 1960s and 1980s. The memoirs portray the direct experiences of a wide range of women incarcerated in Soviet prisons and camps. It also provides a portrait of how women led everyday life in prison and in the camps, the strategies of accommodation and resistance they employed, and the challenges they faced when they re-entered Soviet society. Although readers will hear the voices of women who were in excruciating physical and emotional pain, they will also find remarkable testimonies to the agency and resilience of women who struggled against incredible odds.

Written by women from all stations in life and from drastically different backgrounds, Remembering the Darkness reconstructs not only the world of the Gulag but also its meaning for society at large. The documents excerpted here point to areas of Soviet history and culture that have yet to be fully investigated at the same time that they illuminate women's experiences of friendship, work, hope, inspiration, loss and terror. All the works selected are united by their authors' sense of group and individual identity. To varying degrees, they all associate their experiences with events and people beyond their personal knowledge and immediate surroundings, thus expanding the traditional perspective of women's writing. This book will appeal to scholars and students of Soviet history and literature, as well as general readers interested in women's history.

Published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, Maryland 20706. Website:<http://www. rowmanlittlefield.com>, August 2001, 384 p. Paperback, ISBN: 0742511464



#### Couldn't Keep It to Myself: Testimonies from Our Imprisoned Sisters

By Wally Lamb, Carolyn Adams Goodwin, with Women of the York Correctional Institution

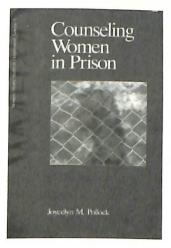
or the past several years, Lamb has taught writing to a group of women prisoners at York Correctional Institution. At first mistrustful of Lamb, one another, and the writing process, over time, the women let down their guard, picked up their pens, and discovered their voices. In this collection, the women of York Correctional Institution describe in their own words how they were imprisoned by abuse, rejection, and their own self-destructive impulses long before they entered the criminal justice system.

In his introduction, Lamb describes the journey of expression and self-awareness the women took through their writing, and shares how they challenged him as a teacher and as a fellow author. In "Hair Chronicles," Tabatha Rowley tells her life history through her past hairstyles -outer signals to the world each time she reinvented herself-until she eventually came to prize her own selfworth. Brenda Medina admits in "Hell, and How I Got Here" that she continued to rebel in prison until her parents' abiding love made her realise that her misbehaviour was hurting them and herself deeply. In "Faith, Power, and Pants," Bonnie Foreshaw describes how faith has carried her through trials in life and in prison, and has allowed her to understand her past actions, to look toward the future, and to believe that she will once again taste home cooking.

# **ISIS resources**

The eleven selections in Couldn't Keep It to Myself cover the range one might expect from writings out of a women's prisontales of broken homes, poverty, violence, teenage pregnancy, race and gender bias. and, of course, crime and punishment. But these are also stories of hope, humour and triumph in the face of despair. Their stories unlocked the writers' creativity and with this, the process of healing.

Published by HarperCollins Publishers Inc. 10 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10022. January 2003, 368 p. Hardcover, ISBN: 006053429X.



## Counseling Women in Prison

By Joycelyn M. Pollock

n Counseling Women in Prison, Joycelyn M. Pollock focuses on women offenders in prison and raises issues related to counselling them. She presents an overview of

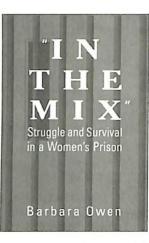
women's prisons, and then focuses on the clinical anproaches. It touches on some sociological and organisational issues relevant to counsellors working with female offenders, and provides the correctional professional or one planning to enter the field some understanding of criminological theory, the nature of the prison environment, familiarity with selected prison programmes. and background characteristics of the female offender. Covering a range of issues through a variety of treatment applications, Counseling Women in Prison is the ideal resource for institutional counsellors, correctional officers, psvchologists, and psychiatrists that provide either individual or group counselling to female offenders.

Published by SAGE Publications. 2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks, California 91320. Email: <order@sagepub.com>. August 1999, 229 p. (Women's mental health and development; vol. 3). Hardcover, ISBN: 0803973306

#### In the Mix: Struggle and Survival in a Women's Prison

### By Barbara Owen

he first book-length treatment of the nature of prison culture among women in thirty years, *In* the Mix describes the prison culture in a large California prison from the point of view of the women themselves.



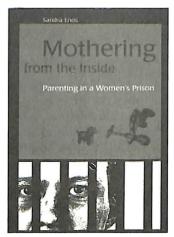
The book provides a wealth of information on how female inmates deal with incarceration and how their responses differ from those of male inmates.

The author draws on three years of participantobservation, in-depth interviews, and surveys of women confined in the largest women's prison in the world. Common themes such as the impact of substance use, limited economic opportunity, patriarchy and survival thread through her description of daily life in prison that emphasises the gendered nature of its social organisation. She paints a complete, textured picture of life in women's prison. In the Mix is a must-read for those interested in criminology, criminal justice and women in prison.

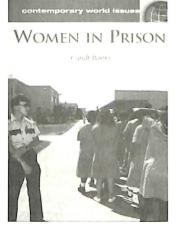
Published by State University of New York Press. 90 State Street, Suite 700, Albany, NY 12207. February 1998, 219 p. Paperback, ISBN: 079143608X

#### Mothering from the Inside: Parenting in a Women's Prison By Sandra Enos

he majority of female prison inmates are also mothers of children under age 18. The study reveals how inmate mothers find places for their children to live, manage relationships with caregivers, demonstrate their fitness as mothers, and negotiate rights to their children under challenging circumstances. It analyses issues such as understanding how inmate mothers construct motherhood and do mothering while incarcerated, how living arrangements for children are determined, and



how relationships between mothers and their children are cultivated. Special attention is given to the impact of race, ethnicity, and marginality on women in prison as the development of the women's motherhood careers is traced. *Mothering from the Inside* is a result of participant observation and



intensive interviews conducted over a three-year period.

Published by State University of New York Press. 90 State Street, Suite 700, Albany, NY 12207. February 2001, 176 p. Paperback, ISBN: 0791448509

#### Women in Prison: A Reference Handbook By Cyndi Banks

concise survey of the treatment of jailed women in America since the early 1800s, their unique problems, the effect on their families, and the state of prisons today, Women in Prison focuses on women in the prison system. It answers questions such as: How did women come to he sent to prison? How were they treated in prisons and reformatories? What kinds of offences do women commit that end in their incarceration? How do women experience imprisonment? How do they cope with life in prison on a daily basis?

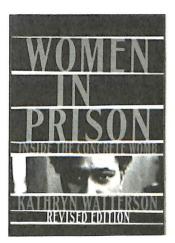
This book offers an authoritative introductory essay; chronology of events. legislation, and movements: biographies of activists, advocates, and legislators; tables and figures; directory organisations and of agencies: annotated lists of print and non-print resources including websites; glossary; and a comprehensive subject index about criminal justice.

Published by A B C-CLIO, Incorporated. 130 Cremona Drive, P.O. Box 1911, Santa Barbara, California 93116-1911. March 2003, 227 p. Hardcover, ISBN: 1576079295

# Women in Prison: Inside the Concrete Womb

By Kathryn Watterson, Foreword by Meda Chesney-Lind

look at women in prison, Inside the Concrete Womb describes in detail the inhumane psychological conditions in which most incarcerated people have to



live. Through interviews with nearly a thousand inmates and prison officials, the author exposes the shockingly inequitable and ineffective wasteland of imprisonment. The book gives an accurate and detailed description of prisons and brings brought to light the penal system as it affects women.

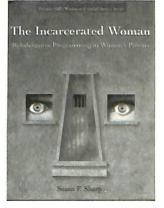
Inside the Concrete Womb hopes to challenge the rapidly emerging correctional industrial complex, telling stories that break the stereotypes of women offenders and present them as real human beings.

Published by Northeastern University Press, Boston, Massachusetts 02115. December 1996, 402 p. Paperback, ISBN: 1555532381

### The Incarcerated Woman: Rehabilative Programming in Women's Prisons

By Susan F. Sharp and Roslyn Muraskin

omen convicted of crimes are typically perceived as moral offenders, while men are believed to be asserting their masculinity. The disparate treatment of male and female prisoners is no more than the result of stereotyped thinking. The reality is that women face an unequal system of criminal justice, and a general lack of understanding of what is needed to bring the female offender back into the community. The research findings gathered in The Incarcerated Woman indicate that women may still be the forgotten offenders, but that this should not be allowed to continue. The woman offender should be treated fairly, and not simply because she is a woman, but because she is entitled to decent treatment. Women's unequal treatment constitutes a serious violation of human rights.



The Incarcerated Woman consists of twelve chapters that examine in depth the special needs of women prisoners in the United States, as well as the programmes available to meet those needs. It discusses the problems and issues and provides suggestions for the future.

Published by Pearson Education, Inc. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 17458. March 2002, 189 p. Paperback, ISBN: 0130940674