

WEB RESOURCES

1. Prison Activist Resource Centre (PARC)

Prison Activist Resource Centre (PARC) is committed to exposing and challenging the institutionalised racism of the criminal injustice system and to promoting anti-racism among its individual members. The centre's main aims are:

- To expose the myths that sustain widespread injustices in prisons and in the communities most affected by mass imprisonment.
- To inspire people to take positive action against the mass-incarceration system and for prisoners' human and civil rights.
- To provide practical support to activists in penal reform.

PARC provides support for educators, activists, prisoners, and prisoners' families, including network-building to develop action plans and materials that expose human rights violations. The site features:

- *The Resource Directory for Educators and Activists on the Crisis in Prisons*, which includes a directory of organisations and bibliography and is updated twice yearly;
- Newsletter page;
- Fact Sheet page, which includes downloadable fact sheets that can be used as educational tools for outreach and awareness raising on a variety of prison issues; and
- PARC's Internship Program to learn new skills and gain work experience while working for human rights and social justice.

Website: <<http://www.prisonactivist.org>>

Language: English, Spanish

Address: PARC, P.O. Box 339, Berkeley CA 94701, USA

Tel: (1-510) 893 4648

Fax: (1-510) 893 4607

E-mail: <parc@prisonactivist.org>

2. Women Coping in Prison

Women Coping in Prison Project is designed to explore both the subjective and objective parameters of women's experiences while living in a prison environment. Specifically, it seeks to determine:

- The patterns of victimisation that predate the period of incarceration;
- The extent and nature of violence occurring within a maximum security women's prison;
- Patterns of adjustment and prison preferences demonstrated by the women over time while incarcerated;

- Relational patterns and familial stress related to incarceration;
- Axis I and Axis II symptomatology as it relates to adaptation patterns and recidivism.

The inmates participate in three structured interviews and complete multiple measures every two months a year. These procedures reveal a snapshot of inmate psychological functioning and adjustment while allowing for an assessment of consistency and change in relational, psychological and personality domains. The project represents a collaboration of faculty and students from the University of Virginia with the professional staff and inmates of the Fluvanna Correctional Center. The National Institute of Justice funds the project.

The website provides information on current research work, facts and figures on incarcerated women in the US, a reference list for books, journals and reports, links and downloadable documents.

Website: <<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/prisonstudy/home.html>>

Language: English

Address: Women Coping in Prison Study, Institute for Law, Psychiatry and Public Policy, P.O. Box 800660, 1107 West Main Street, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. 22908, USA

3. JusticeAction

JusticeAction is a community-based organisation that serves a watchdog function, overlooking the prison and criminal justice systems of New South Wales to hold the government and politicians accountable for their duty of care. Members include criminal justice and prison reform activists that seek to uncover and expose police and penal abuse, misconduct and corruption, and to promote reform and meaningful change. It provides prisoner and defendant support and handle cases and complaints.

With over 100 cases active at any one time, JusticeAction facilitates lawyers' representation and agitates for investigations by government, media and independent oversight agencies. It also promotes policies and initiates campaigns to uphold viable non-custodial alternatives to imprisonment and law and order policies that criminalise the inequities in New South Wales and

the global community in general. The group collaborates with the NSW Criminal Justice Coalition, National Network of Community-Based Justice Activists and the International Conference on Penal Abolition, among others.

JusticeAction believes that meaningful change depends upon community responsibility and free access to and exchange of information as the basis for understanding and action. It relies on community support and declines any funding that could compromise their work in a wide range of areas.

Website: <<http://www.justiceaction.org.au/>>
Language: English
Address: 65 Bellevue Street, Glebe NSW, Australia 2037
Tel: (61-2) 9660 9111
Fax: (61-2) 9660 9100
Email: <justiceaction@justiceaction.org.au>

4. California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP)

The California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) stands for the abolition of a prison system, which it believes succeeds only in the punishment, control, profit and the warehousing of human beings, the majority of whom are people of colour and poor. It seeks to raise public consciousness about the cruel conditions of women in prison and advocates for positive change.

The CCWP advocates for changes in prison conditions such as grossly inadequate health care, rampant sexual abuse and security housing (solitary confinement). It promotes the leadership of, and gives voice to, women prisoners, former prisoners and their families. It also works for the release of battered women and prisoners of the drug war and fights for mother-infant programmes and alternatives to incarceration. Its activities include:

- Organising visits to women's prisons around the state to involve the prisoners in the work of CCWP and offer them friendship and support
- Publishing *The Fire Inside*, a quarterly newsletter that gives women prisoners a chance to express themselves through writing and artwork and includes articles about the prison-industrial complex. It comes out five times a year.
- Organising annual protests at the gates of the largest women's prisons in the world to remind the women inmates that they are not forgotten and remind the California Department of Corrections of the community's demand for change.
- Advocating for women prisoners through vigils and protests, legislative action, legal procedures, letter writing campaigns, phone banking, media publicity, direct action

and using other creative methods, in coalition with other groups.

- Educating people by speaking at classes, conferences and rallies, and holding an annual educational event in March as part of Women's History Month. Materials are prepared and distributed to community groups as outreach work.

The group also supports political prisoners (women who are in prison because of their political activities against injustice).

Website: <<http://womenprisoners.org/>>
Address: California Coalition for Women Prisoners, 1540 Market Street, Suite 490, San Francisco, California 94102, USA
Tel: (1-415) 255-7036 ext. 4
E-mail: <info@womenprisoners.org>

5. Australian Institute of Criminology: Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) is the national focus for the study of crime and criminal justice in Australia and for the dissemination of criminal justice information. The Institute draws on information supplied by a wide variety of sources and its policy advice is objective and independent. The website features conferences/seminars, publications, and reports and papers. AIC offers important information on the following:

- Annual Correctional Statistics from 1993-2001 (correctional statistics for Asia and the Pacific), and
- World Prison Brief (a comprehensive online database of information on the prison systems of over 200 countries)

World Prison Population List and *World Prison Brief Statistics* were last modified on 29 November 2002.

Information available includes: the prison population of each country; the imprisonment rate of each country; statistics reflecting the numbers of unsentenced prisoners, juveniles and women in prison; a database of contacts for penal agencies worldwide; an annual list detailing the number of prisoners in some 180 independent countries and dependent territories. The list shows the differences in the level of imprisonment across the world and makes possible an estimate of the total world prison population.

Website: <<http://www.aic.gov.au/>>
Language: English
Address: 74 Leichhardt Street, Griffith ACT, Australia, GPO Box 2944, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
E-mail: <webmaster@aic.gov.au>

6. Joint Effort

Joint Effort is an all-women prison abolitionist group involved in solidarity work with women prisoners at the Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women (BCCW). Joint Effort started as a subcommittee of the BC Federation of Women and has been volunteering at the women's prison since 1980. The group consists of women volunteers working to create contacts between women in prison and various community organisations outside the prison.

Joint Effort works within the framework of an abolitionist perspective. It views the prison system as state violence and holds that prison serves only to maintain existing power and class relationships within the capitalist framework.

The group's work consists of organising discussion groups, various workshops and music, theatre and sports events. It conducts weekly visits to prisons to create space where women from "inside" and "outside" can communicate around issues of mutual interest, where respect and confidentiality are practised and where a woman can speak her mind and be supported.

Joint Effort is also involved in providing public information about the situation of women in prison as well as lobbying the government on various issues. It collaborates with the Inmate's Committee and the Native Sisterhood.

Website: <<http://www.prisonjustice.ca/prisonjustice/organizations/jointeffort.html>>

Language: English

Address: Joint Effort, P.O. Box 78005, 2606 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V5W 5W1, Canada

Tel: (60-4) 682 3269 ext. 3019

E-mail: <j_effort@hotmail.com>

7. Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch has conducted specialised prison research and campaigns for prisoners' rights since 1987 to focus international attention on prison conditions worldwide. It believes a government's claim to respect for human rights should be assessed not only by the political freedoms it allows but also by how it treats its prisoners, including those not held for political reasons.

Based on the group's research and experience, a number of democratic countries that rarely focus on human rights scrutiny are guilty of serious human rights violations within their prisons. Although cases of prison massacres, dramatic protests, and violent guard abuse earn occasional news

headlines, the deplorable daily living conditions of the great majority of the world's prisoners pass unnoticed. As a result, little progress is made in rectifying the abuses routinely inflicted in prisons and other places of detention. Working in conjunction with numerous local partners, Human Rights Watch monitors conditions of detention around the world, pressuring governments to bring their treatment of prisoners into compliance with basic human rights standards.

According to World Report 2002 prisoner numbers continued to rise in countries all over the world, resulting in severe overcrowding of prisons and other detention facilities. Even where legislation permitted alternatives to incarceration as a criminal sanction, authorities in most countries neglected them in preference to confinement. Many countries, moreover, foster public ignorance of prison inadequacies by denying human rights groups, journalists and observers access to their penal facilities. The site provides information on prison conditions, prison abuses, human rights protections for prisoners, and related issues:

- What human rights violations are commonly inflicted on prisoners?
- What human rights protections cover prisoners?
- What is the United Nations doing about abuses against prisoners?
- What other groups are working to protect prisoners from abuse?
- Prison information arranged by region and by issue
- Human Rights Watch prison reports

Website: <<http://www.hrw.org/prisons/>>

Language: English, Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch and others

E-mail: <webadmin@hrw.org>

Addresses:

350 Fifth Avenue, 34/F

New York, NY 10118-3299, USA

Tel: (1-212) 290 4700

Fax: (1-212) 736 1300

E-mail: <hrwnyc@hrw.org>

1630 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 500

Washington, DC 20009, USA

Tel: (1-202) 612 4321

Fax: (1-202) 612 4333

E-mail: <hrwdc@hrw.org>

11500 W. Olympic Boulevard, Suite 441

Los Angeles, CA 90064, USA

Tel: (1-310) 477 5540

Fax: (1-310) 477 4622

E-mail: <hrwla@hrw.org>

312 Sutter Street, Suite 407
San Francisco CA 94108, USA
Tel: (1-415) 362 3250
Fax: (1-415) 3623255
E-mail: <hrwsf@hrw.org>

2/F, 2-12 Pentonville Road
London N1 9HF, UK
Tel: (44-20) 7713 1995
Fax: (44-20) 7713 1800
E-mail: hrwuk@hrw.org

Rue Van Campenhout 15,
1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: (32-2) 732 2009
Fax: (32-2) 732 0471
E-mail: hrwatcheu@skynet.be

8 rue des Vieux-Grenadiers
1205 Geneva
Tel: (41-22) 320 55 90
Fax: (41-22) 320 55 11
E-mail: hrwgva@hrw.org

8. The South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre (SAHRDC)

The South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre (SAHRDC) is a network of individuals across the region established to investigate, document and disseminate information about human rights treaties and conventions, human rights education, refugees, media freedom, prison reform, political imprisonment, torture, summary executions, disappearances and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. SAHRDC has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The SAHRDC Resource Centre collects information on human rights, specifically the violations of civil and political rights. The subject areas of its holdings are: human rights education; arrest, detention and disappearances; refugees and asylum; torture, capital punishment and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; freedom of the media; custodial deaths; extra-judicial killings. The information collated includes international instruments, national legislation, court documents, affidavits, data questionnaires, reports, leaflets, letters, and clippings from media reports and books.

Based in New Delhi, SAHRDC is a small office with little resources. There are seven staff working regularly, besides a core of volunteers (lawyers, medical practitioners,

journalists, computer programmers and other resource persons). It has an internship programme that attracts students and scholars from universities in India and abroad.

Website: <<http://www.hri.ca/partners/sahrdc/index.htm>>
Address: B-6/6 Safdarjung Enclave Extension, New Delhi 110 029, India
Tel: (91-11) 6191120, 6192717 and 6192706
Fax: (91-11) 6191120
E-mail: <hrdc_online@hotmail.com>

9. Sisters Inside Inc.

Sisters Inside Inc. is an independent community organisation advocating for the human rights of women in the criminal justice system in Queensland, and addressing gaps in the services available to them. It works alongside women in prison in determine the best way to fulfil these roles. The services offered are designed to address current gaps in services to women in prison—individual advocacy, brokerage, programmes, activities, workshops, referral, crisis support, counselling and group work.

The group pays particular attention to the expressed needs of women in prison. Its role as broker includes ensuring the flow of information from women in prison, collecting their stories and supporting them in their complaints of human rights violations. Sisters Inside also seeks to support the women in their transition from prison to the wider community.

Website: <<http://www.sistersinside.com.au/nav.htm>>
Language: English
Address: P.O. Box 3407 South Brisbane, Queensland, Australia 4101
Tel: (61-7) 3844 5066
Fax: (61-7) 3844 2788
E-mail: <admin@sistersinside.com.au>

10. Moscow Center for Prison Reform

Moscow Center for Prison Reform (MCPR) is a non-governmental organisation founded in 1988 to promote fair, effective and humane system of criminal justice and punishment. MCPR was founded by former political prisoners with the support of Andrei Sakharov, who cooperated with the group until his death.

MCPR considers it its task to call the attention of mass media, society and government to the disastrous situation of the penitentiary system. It is engaged in policy reform, in exposing human rights violations, monitoring legal reform, the establishment of a system of public

accountability over law enforcement bodies, restoration of trusteeship traditions over penitentiary institutions; and public education.

The centre has produced books, brochures, booklets, leaflets and posters, and audio and video reports for mass media. Together with other non-governmental organisations, it has organised publicity campaigns for the support of reform bills in which thousands of people from different Russian regions took part.

In addition, it airs a weekly radio program Oblaka ("Clouds"), which has been broadcast on "Russian Radio" station since 1992 and is devoted to the problems of prisoners. The programme plays an important role in the centre's educational work and according to surveys, 25 percent of adults in Russia listen to this.

Website: <<http://www.prison.org/english/index.htm>>
 Language: Russian, English
 Address: Room 24, House 4, Luchnikov Lane, Moscow, 101000, Russia
 Tel: (7-95) 206 8684
 Fax: (7-95) 206 814
 E-mail: <mcprinf@glasnet.ru>

11. Penal Reform International

Penal Reform International (PRI) is an international non-governmental organisation with more than 500 members in five continents and over 80 countries. Established in London in November 1989, PRI develops programmes on a regional basis, assisting non-governmental organisations and individuals to establish projects in their countries and promoting the exchange of information and good practice between countries with related conditions. PRI has Consultative Status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and the Council of Europe, and Observer Status with the African Commission on Human Rights.

Two new PRI offices were recently opened, one in Moscow and another in Warsaw, to deal with issues of penal reform in East and Central Europe and Central Asia.

Website: <<http://www.penalreform.org/>>
 Languages: French, English, Spanish, Pyccknn

PRI Moscow
 Address: P.O. Box 62, Sergeev, Moscow 125047, Russian Federation
 Tel/Fax: (7-95) 250 8608
 E-mail: <primosc@orc.ru>

PRI Warsaw
 Address: 2/30 Falata Street, 02-534 Warsaw, Poland
 Tel/Fax: (48-22) 490 025
 E-mail: <priwars@it.com.pl>

FRENCH WEBSITES:

12. Women's Prisons in Europe (Prisons de femmes en Europe)

This site features an anonymous report on the conditions of women's detention in sixteen countries of Europe written in July 2001. The print edition, entitled "Women's Prisons in Europe (Prisons de femmes en Europe)," can be ordered from Dagorno (110F).

Throughout their work, the initiators of the report were animated by one objective: reliable and precise information in order to make public the conditions of detention of the women in Europe. The information gathered was a product of collaboration of the national sections of an international observatory of prisons and human rights organisations. A questionnaire on the conditions of detention of the women sent to more than 350 participants was used to collect the data disseminated. The information is organised by country and topic. Thematic indexes available per country, although these indices are not cross-referenced between countries.

The site is available only in French. The authors can be contacted through the publishers.

Website: <<http://prisons.de.femmes.free.fr/index.html>>

13. La Famille Bannister (Les Administrateurs) "The International Bannister Foundation"

The International Bannister Foundation was set up in memory of Alan Jeffrey Bannister who was sentenced to death by manual Lethal Injection in Missouri on 22 October 1997. A.J., as he was known, was on death row for over 15 years, constantly fighting the American Justice System for a retrial, as most of the evidence in court was circumstantial. A.J. fought not only for himself, but also for other inmates on the injustice of the American judicial system.

The International Bannister Foundation was set up with the written permission of Alan's family. The organisation describes itself as an anti-capital and pro-human rights action and support group. The group seeks to comfort inmates and their families, especially if an execution is imminent.

The site provides directories of affiliated organisations, legal professionals including law offices and legal aid services, and media organisations in the US and Europe and Australia. It also contains excerpts from the Vienna Convention and related international legal instruments against capital punishment, as well as documentation on cases where lethal injection has been applied.

Website: <<http://www.geocities.com/ibfrance2002/>>
Language: French

The International Bannister Foundation Denmark
Website: <<http://www.bannister.dk/>> (Danish chapter)
Language: Danish
Address: Thorshammer 79, DK-7500 Holstebro, Denmark
Tel: (45-97) 407 628
E-mail: <g.m.@bannister.dk>

SPANISH WEBSITES:

14. Accion Andina Bolivia (Andean Action Bolivia)

Accion Andina Bolivia brings together researchers, activists and institutions in the Andean-Amazon region to address social economic, environmental, political, and violence generated by the illegal drug trade, as well as the political armed conflicts perpetuated in the name of combating the drug trade.

A section entitled "Women and Drugs" looks at the criminalisation of women who become part of the illegal drug trade. According to the website, in recent years, more women aged 16 to 40 are becoming involved in the drug trade. The majority, the writers contend, are motivated by economic, family and other related reasons. The section attempts to:

- Introduce a space for discussion on these issues and to look at the political and social functions that criminalise women in drug-related cases;
- Contribute to the creation of public policies and institutions to minimise risks to women by bridging the concerns of jailed women with the government's decision-makers; and
- Contribute data and research to the formulation of projects focused on incarcerated women and other human development initiatives targeting women at risk within the drug trade.

Website: <<http://www.cedib.org/accionandina/proyectos/mujeresydrogas>>
Language: Spanish
E-mail: Gloria Rose Marie de Achá, <rosemari@albatros.cnb.net>

15. Comite de Solidaridad con la Causa Arabe (Arab Cause Solidarity Committee)

The website of Comite de Solidaridad con la Causa Arabe, a group that looks at the human rights situation of Arabs, includes a section on Palestinian women political prisoners as reported by a Palestinian human rights group called LAW. The section focuses on the issues of female prisoners in Israeli prisons, particularly a prison in Ramale where 24 female prisoners are kept. The women, who are mostly under 18 years of age, are being mistreated by guards, sexually harassed, and deprived of their most basic rights in prison. The report cites the need for medical care, especially for women who have been beaten and tortured, as critical. LAW appeals to the Israeli authorities to address the needs and concerns of these women prisoners.

Website: <<http://www.nodo50.org/csca/palestina/law>>
Language: Spanish

16. Madres Que Matan: preguntas y contextos, Beatriz Kalinsky

Mothers who kill is a website looking at the phenomena of women who kill in Argentine society. The author, Beatriz Kalinsky, presents a paper that addresses the multiple issues that come to play when a woman kills her children or spouse. In Argentine society, she points out, a woman who kills her children is often viewed as a 'monster' and the news are sensationalised. The public anger such reportage stirs makes it virtually impossible, she adds, for the accused to get an impartial hearing.

The paper presents women who kill from a social perspective, i.e., that the woman is as much a victim as her victims. Ms. Kalinsky identifies various areas of dynamics that should be understood to put into context the phenomena of why mothers can be driven to kill.

Website: <http://www.norpatagonia.com/cereid/madres_que_matan.htm>
Language: Spanish
Address: Calle Calama E255, Cochabamba, Bolivia
Tel: (591-4) 4257 839
Fax: (591-4) 425 2401
E-mail: <cedib@cedib.org>

