

Report re Prison Reform Group

Thank you to all Soroptimists who have written re the proposed amendments to the Domestic abuse bill relating to coercion. 12 PFR submitted

I have attached a table with the programme focus reports that have been submitted over the last year. (using Prison Reform, Prison and Justice as the search titles). There appears to be 36 reports in total, 12 of these were petition and writing re the domestic abuse bill.

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/WhatWeDo/Projectsresearch/Women/News>

Please take the time to read the above news briefs and to share them with your clubs.

Katie Swaine Williams and Jenny Earle are both finishing working with the Prison Reform Trust as the Transforming Lives Programme draws to a close. I will be contacting the Prison Reform trust to ask Emily Evison who is staying on, how issues for women are going to be taken forward and how we can help as Soroptimists.

[Transforming Lives research report published](#)

12/08/2020 00:01:00

Since 2015, the Prison Reform Trust's [Transforming Lives programme](#) has aimed to reduce women's imprisonment across the UK. During that time the programme has engaged with over 150 women with lived experience of the criminal justice system. As we prepare to draw the programme to a close this autumn, [research by the National Centre for Social Research \(NatCen\)](#), published today, gives an insight into how women were involved, and the perceived impact of their contribution.

Click 'read more' for the full story

[Read more](#)

However, I do not believe that our work is finished in this area and here are 2 areas we may wish to work on in future and I think it would be good to discuss these.

[PRT comment: Sustainable funding for women's centres](#)

20/10/2020 00:01:00

Commenting on the findings of today's report, [The Case for Sustainable Funding for Women's Centres](#), published by the Women's Budget Group in collaboration with Women in Prison, Nelson Trust, Together Women, Anawim and Brighton Women's Centre, Peter Dawson, director of the Prison Reform Trust said:

"For some time there has been broad agreement on the right policy solutions for women at risk of needless imprisonment. The government itself has signed up to a strategy that

describes most of what needs to be done. But it hasn't turned words into reality. This detailed and immensely practical report removes any last excuse for not doing so. At a time when the money available to build new prisons and employ more prison staff to run them appears to be without limit, this report doesn't just make the case for a very modest investment in women's centres, it describes in detail how to go about it. But time is short—if the government dithers, the organisations it needs to deliver the change it wants may no longer exist."

[Click here](#) to download a copy of the report

[Read more](#)

[New report exposes system failure condemning 6 out of 10 women leaving prison to homelessness](#)

14/10/2020 12:00:00

[A new report](#) from the Safe Homes for Women Leaving Prison initiative exposes a failing system that leaves thousands of women released from UK prisons with just £46, a plastic bag, nowhere to live and the threat of a return to custody if they miss their probation appointment.

The initiative is a unique collaboration of London Prisons Mission, Prison Reform Trust, the Church of St Martins in the Fields and HMP & YOI Bronzefield. It is calling for urgent action by actors across the criminal justice system to combat failings that result in 6 in 10 women released from prison, many of them suffering from multiple vulnerabilities, without access to safe and secure housing.

The Bishop of Gloucester & Anglican Bishop for HM Prisons, The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, has written to the Secretary of State for Justice, Robert Buckland and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick to share the findings of the report and to encourage efforts to improve accommodation support for women leaving prison. You can read a copy of the letter by [clicking here](#).

[Click here](#) to download a copy of the report

[Read more](#)

Plus As we go into a further lockdown across the UK, with restrictions in Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Should we also be asking questions of the Government to ensure that the learning from this report on June is being actioned to ensure the failures are not repeated.

[PRT comment: HMIP report on women's prisons during Covid-19 period](#)

05/06/2020 10:00:00

Commenting on the findings of [today's report by HM Inspectorate of Prisons on women's prisons during the Covid-19 period](#), Katy Swaine Williams, Senior Programme Manager for reducing women's imprisonment at the Prison Reform Trust said:

“This distressing report bears witness to a ‘failure of national planning’ by the government in its response to the threat of the pandemic in prisons, as well as the impact of cumulative failures to deliver on its Female Offender Strategy. Hardly any women have been released from these prisons under the government’s temporary release scheme, despite the fact that most women are imprisoned or remanded for minor non-violent offences. The suspension of family visits and delays in rolling out virtual visits are no doubt contributing to the increased levels of self-harm among the women in the prisons inspected.”

[Read more](#)

I await your thoughts on how we proceed.

Lindsay Green

Vice Chair UKPAC