May 2017

Task Force on Decarceration and Resolution for Nonviolent Offenders. 1995-1997

American Society of Criminology Division on Women and Crime.

Evelyn Gilbert
Karlene Faith
Vickie Brewer

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DECARCERATION RESOLUTION

by Evelyn Gilbert

The Task Force on Women in Prison continues its work on the Decarceration resolution. This year's efforts focus on building support for the resolution among the Society membership. To this end, several Division members will conduct a roundtable ("Women in Prison--Is It Time for Decarceration") at the 1995 Boston meetings.

The Task Force asks you to support its efforts by becoming advocates for the objective of the resolution: improve the quality of life for women serving time. One of the things you can do as an advocate for women serving time is to track, monitor, and otherwise support state legislation that addresses the gender-specific issues confronting incarcerated women. The Task Force encourages you to forward copies of such legislation, technical reports, and other documentation to any of its members.

The resolution passed by the Division and submitted to the Executive Board at the Phoenix meetings reads as follows:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASC SUPPORTS ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR NONVIOLENT OFFENDERS.
THE OVERREPRESENTATION OF HISTORICALLY DISENFRANCHISED GROUPS IN NORTH AMERICAN CARCERAL FACILITIES,
THE PERVERSIVE EVIDENCE OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL, PHYSICAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE AMONG PRISONERS,
THE SOCIAL COSTS OF SEPARATING PARENTS FROM THEIR DEPENDENT CHILDREN, AND
DISCRIMINATORY SENTENCING PRACTICES
ALL POINT TO A NEED TO CHALLENGE THE PERPETUATION OF IMPRISONMENT RESPONSES TO NON-VIOLENT ADJUDICATED OFFENDERS.
WE STRONG RECOMMEND THAT COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RESOURCES BE DEVELOPED AND EXPANDED FOR THE EXPLICIT PURPOSES OF
(1) REDUCING THE NUMBERS SENTENCED TO PRISON,
(2) GENERATING MODELS OF DECARCERATION WHICH ADVANCE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL EQUITY, AND
(3) PROVIDING ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TREATMENT.
May 24, 1995

Professor Karlene Faith  
School of Criminology  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, B.C.  CANADA  
V5A 1S6

Dear Karlene:

As a follow-up to my April letter, I want to let you know that I am doing some work on the Decarceration resolution. I have enclosed a copy of the correspondence I am sending to the new editors of the DivisionNews regarding printing the resolution in the next issue.

It occurred to me that one more thing we could do to garner support among the ASC membership for the resolution is to have a special issue of Criminology devoted to "women in prison and incarceration issues." I think special issue request should be formally submitted to the Executive Board of the Division for presentation to the ASC Executive Committee. It seems to me that the Division Board could act on this proposal prior to the annual meeting in Boston; the proposal could be printed in the DivisionNews. At the annual meeting a vote on the proposal could be taken and the proposal submitted to ASC during one of the Business meetings.

I will try to send you a draft of the special issue proposal within 2 weeks. In that way, we can make sure that Lynne gets it in a timely manner. By the way, our roundtable abstract for the annual meetings was accepted. So you see, we are making progress on the resolution.

One other thing we could do at the 1995 annual meeting is to have copies of the resolution available at the DWC Outreach table for distribution. And, we should consider asking each Section to read the resolution at its business meeting and direct inquiries to members of the Task Force.

As of 5/30/95 my new address is: [Redacted]

Sincerely,

Evelyn Gilbert, PhD

xc: Lynne Goodstein

Enclosures
May 26, 1995

Professor Susan Caufield
Department of Sociology
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5189

Dear Susan:

RE: DivisioNews

I have enclosed an item on the activities of the Task Force on Women in Prison that we'd like printed in the next issue of the newsletter.

If I can provide you with additional information, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Gilbert, PhD

Enclosure

xc: Lynne Goodstein
    Karlene Faith
Lynne Goodstein, Ph.D.
Women's Studies program
12-14 Sparks Building
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Lynne,

On behalf of the Women in Prison Task Force I'm sending to you a proposal developed by Evelyn Gilbert for a special women's issue of the American Journal of Criminal Justice. If you agree the proposal has merit, please submit it to the journal. Any correspondence in this regard should be forwarded to Evelyn.

Am I correct in my understanding that Nicole Rafter is coming as the new chair of the Division? I can't think of many women who could step into your shoes, but she is one of them. I trust you'll still be on the scene.

I look forward to seeing you in Boston.

Best wishes,

Karlene

Karlene Faith, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Christine Rasche, Ph.D.
University of North Florida
Department of Criminal Justice
4567 St. Johns Bluff Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

Dear Christine,

First, my best wishes to you (and all of us) for productive Division meetings in Boston. It's good to have you at the helm again.

On behalf of the Division of Women and Crime's Task Force on Women in Prison, I am forwarding to you a copy of the "decarceration resolution." From your position as Chair of the Division, we request that you ask the ASC Secretary to place the resolution on the agenda for a membership vote at the 1995 Business meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in Boston.

Sincerely,

Karlene Faith, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
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Hi, Chris!

Yes. I would still like to see past work that the Decarceration Task Force did; should I get it from Evelyn Gilbert? I know she had said a few months ago that she was willing to re-chair that task force, but I am still willing to do it as well. See in soon.

Vickie

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Oops! I did not realize that you still needed that. Had you been waiting for me to send that to you? I apologise! Well, you just need to stand up and make an honest report at Business Meeting I on Thursday morning, and you can invite suggestions, ideas, etc. ---whether you continue as chair is up to you and the new Division Chair, who I presume will be Nicky Rafter. Thanks. I am looking forward to seeing you in SD!