1995

Correspondence: 1995 Task Force on Women in Prison

American Society of Criminology Division on Women and Crime.

Evelyn Gilbert

Karlene Faith

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November 27, 1995

Professor Christine Rasche
Sociology and Criminal Justice
University of North Florida
4567 St. Johns Bluff Road
Jacksonville, FL 32216

Dear Chris:

RE: DWC Committee Report(s)

I have enclosed a report from the Outreach Committee, as well as a report from the Women and Prison Task Force.

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

Sincerely,

Evelyn Gilbert, PhD

Enclosure

xc: Nicole Rafter
    Lynne Goodstein
MEMORANDUM

Date: November 27, 1995

From: Karlene Faith
Chiar, Women in Prison Task Force

To: Division of Women and Crime

RE: 1995 Annual Report

This year the Task Force (myself, Evelyn Gilbert, Zelma Henriques, Joan Crowiey, Becky Tatum) engaged in activities supporting the Decarceration resolution. These activities were suggested by Joan Petersilia when she chaired the ASC Policy Committee.

- At the 1995 Annual Meeting task force members conducted a roundtable, "Women in Prison--Is it Time for Decarceration", on Saturday, November 18. The session was well attended and sparked lively discussion among attendees.

- The resolution passed by the Division at the Phoenix meetings was announced in the (Fall 1995) Division News.

- The resolution was read at the ASC Business meeting on Thursday, November 16. The resolution was then to be presented to the ASC Executive Board (Saturday, November 18) at which time it would be assigned to the ASC Policy Committee. The Policy Committee must report back to the ASC Executive Board. If the report out of the Policy Committee is favorable, the resolution shall be sent to the membership for a vote.

- A proposal for a special issue of the American Journal of Criminal Justice focusing on women and incarceration was submitted to Chair Goodstein (see Attachment).

- Evelyn Gilbert has agreed to take over as Chair of the Task Force.

Respectfully submitted,

Karlene Faith
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Chair, Women in Prison Task Force

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Karlene Faith
AJCJ SPECIAL ISSUE PROPOSAL
submitted by
Task Force on Women in Prison

The Division on Women and Crime continues its advocacy for a national policy of alternative sentencing for women in prison. The centerpiece of this advocacy is a Decarceration resolution. The resolution seeks to improve the quality of life for women serving time and to limit carceral alternatives to violent offenders. 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 STRONGLY 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.

The proposed articles for a special journal issue will focus on the status and experience of women incarcerated for violent and nonviolent crimes both in the U.S. and internationally.

I. Research-based
   A. Criminal Justice System response
      1. violent crimes
      2. nonviolent crimes
      3. family violence
   B. Crime prevention/reduction
      1. carceral alternatives
      2. non-carceral alternatives
         a. nonviolent crimes
         b. domestic violence
   C. Family issues

II. Theoretical Issues
   A. Criminal etiology
   B. Criminalization of gender
   C. Legalization of institutional sexism
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