

# ARC Survival and Resource

## Guide: Compiled Wisdom by and for Trans People, Pregnant People, and Survivors in Prison



*Compiled by the Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice from various sources*

The Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice (ARC) is an inside / outside membership organization that strengthens movements for gender justice across prison walls, fights gender-based violence, and eliminates barriers to political participation for incarcerated survivors and other grassroots advocates.

This guide shares advice from many currently and formerly incarcerated trans, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming people, pregnant people, cis and trans women, and survivors of gender-based violence. We believe the best source of advice is other people who have gone through some of the same things you might be facing. That said, you are always the best person to decide what is right for you. We're not saying we agree with all the advice here or that it will work for you. Those we quote were speaking from their own perspectives in different times, places, and circumstances. A strategy that works for one person may not work for another.

Many thanks to the people we quote below. And many thanks to the organizations that published or otherwise amplified their work, including American Friends Service Committee, Black and Pink, California Coalition for Women Prisoners, Fight 4 Justice, Freedom Overground, Just Detention International, Hearts on a Wire, Marshall Project, Ostara Initiative, Sylvia Rivera Law Project, and Women and Justice Project. Below, we listed these organizations next to the people they published or were affiliated with. The organizations themselves don't necessarily agree with everything people wrote.



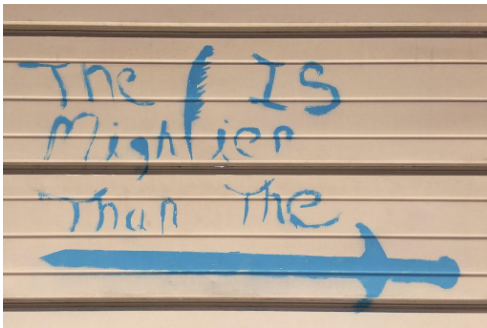
<b>Learn your rights and advocate for yourself and others</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Be relentless in seeking medical care—or in refusing it</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Do what works for you to cope with isolation and strong emotions</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Build community</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Be selective and maintain boundaries in relationships</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Trust your instincts and stay cautious</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Lean on (and fight for) faith</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Educate yourself and prepare for life outside</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Resources</b>	<b>19</b>
National or multistate	19
Florida	23
Georgia	24
New York	25
Pennsylvania	26

## Learn your rights and advocate for yourself and others

I think that a person who goes to prison today, what I would tell them is to know the rights that you have, and be willing to exercise those rights and demand that those rights be respected, even if it means filing something in court or filing an administrative complaint.... I always felt that everything was worth fighting for. And so whether it

affected me or affected my fellow inmate, if I felt that it was worth fighting for, then it was worth fighting for, and no battle was too small or too big. And I think by doing that I actually earned the respect of the other inmates, because of course I fought on their behalf and I fought for things that they were unwilling or unable to take the risk to fight for.

–Dee Deirdre Farmer, Fight 4 Justice



\*\*\*\*

Photo by Design Wallah



We got the perfect chance to upgrade our education in prison, and, in doing so, we upgrade our fighting abilities. One thing the prison system cannot stand and is afraid of is an educated inmate, especially a transgender one. Once you know the rules and regulations and law better than the police, they will steer a wide berth around you and pick an uneducated fool to harass. I know because I see it a lot and the police hate paperwork when it makes sense and uses their own rules against them!

–Isabella Adler, Sylvia Rivera Law Project

\*\*\*\*



Please don't be afraid to speak out. Our voices need to be heard—loudly. We don't need to be bitter. We need to be better about taking a stand against prison rape. #MeToo

–Lisa S., Black and Pink

Photo by Susan Melkisetian

\*\*\*\*

If you are thinking about bringing your own lawsuit on any subject, the first and most important step is filing grievances and appealing them all the way to CORC (CORC only applies in NY, if you are in another state the final appeals step may have a different name). You must then do your research and find any cases that resemble yours.



Find cases that support you and cases against you so that you know what will be coming at you. I allowed DOCCS to bury themselves in their hostile denial letters and then I filed a §1983 lawsuit. Within 7 months the Attorney General notified me they wanted to settle the lawsuit. They knew I did my homework and my research. Along the way I reached out to Prisoner Legal Services and I reached out to pro bono attorneys but, the lack of budget always came up. So little ole Ms. Blast, 40 years old, no high school diploma, no vocational skills, just a passion to win...won! Research the law. It's that simple. You'll be surprised how easy it is to litigate on your own.

—Synthia-China Blast, Sylvia Rivera Law Project

## Be relentless in seeking medical care—or in refusing it

When I was incarcerated, I was in a female's facility in South Georgia. And there were other trans guys there. And it was so crazy because we didn't have access to anything. They denied us hormones. We couldn't get boxers, like it was a lot of stuff that was just denied. So we fought for it and fought for it and fought for it. And during that time, Ashley

Diamond had just won her case. And that following day or following week, I was stuffed onto a van in the early morning to go see a doctor, the endocrinologist, and they got me started. But it was so many guys that did not even know this. Like the basic rights that they had. I was able to get a support group started in the prison for the guys. And once I gave the guys that information, a lot of them wanted to get started. And I helped the few that did and then they just kind of passed it along. And I love that because it got to a point to where the guys were just like, you know what, if this can happen for you, I know it can happen for me and I don't have to be scared to say, “Hey, this is what I need.”

—Ky Peterson, Freedom Overground



Photo by Shaun Dawson



\*\*\*\*

The wisest thing I did was to file a civil action for denial of medical care which I won in 2002. The second wisest thing I did was to change my voice by reading aloud to myself, the best practice there is, and plenty of time to get the pitch just right.

–Anonymous 2, Survivors Manual from American Friends Service Committee

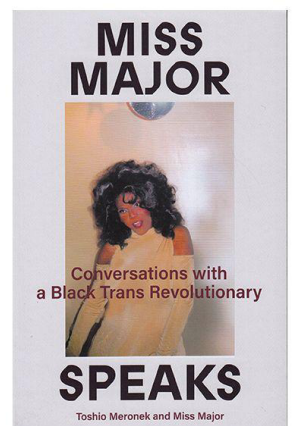
\*\*\*\*

I had a very bad infection, like a yeast infection, and I kept telling them ‘something is wrong, something is wrong’ and I didn't mean to be, you know, graphic but women, feminine things they go through like that, stuff like that, and, I kept telling them. I said “I need to go to the nurse, I need to go to the nurse.” I went on with this for about a month before they finally decided to get me to the nurse so I could receive treatment.

-Natalie, from the Prison Birth Storytelling Project, from the Ostara Initiative

\*\*\*\*

What I did was learn the things you have to say to get out of there (psychiatric hospital), and to stay safe. A lot of the gurls, before Bellevue even happened to me, would sit and we would talk together in groups about psychiatrists or doctors or nurses, and go down the line and tell each other what this doctor, or that nurse, needed to hear so we could get ourselves out of that situation. Maybe you were lucky and your doctor had one-half of one-seventh of a conscience, so you play off that: “Living with these feelings inside me, it’s so hard to deal with.” Whether or not it was really that hard for you. Once you told the people there, you’d get the





sigh of sympathy. "Oh, you poor dear." You learned what you needed to do and say to keep yourself safe and get out of that situation.

–Miss Major, from *Miss Major Speaks: Conversations with a Black Trans Revolutionary* by Toshio Meronek and Miss Major

\*\*\*\*

As a survivor of long-term childhood sexual abuse, part of the trauma I've learned has come to impact my life is having panic attacks during or as a result of gynecological exams. My first exam at CCWF, when I was first processed in, was a total nightmare, and subsequently I've refused every exam offered to me. I've had to navigate various



forms of manipulation, coercion, condescension, etc. from medical personnel in this prison; during our (still ongoing) lockdowns for Covid, I have been both called into the nurse's line and visited at my cell door regarding exams I never requested no less than 5 times. It moved beyond feeling disrespectful to feeling predatory. Every time, I reiterated the extent of my trauma and my choice to continue to refuse gyno exams from CDCR, I signed so many medical refusals that twice I didn't have to since it was so close to my previous signed refusal. No one seemed to take note of why I continue to refuse, to the extent that when a nurse came to my cell door to "educate" me about what an exam entails and why it's important (like I don't know), my response was met with the offer to have a woman exam me instead of a man. Anyone who knows anything about me knows that my long-term sexual abuse was at the hands of a woman, my mother, and that I find it offensive to assume only men are capable of such assault. This ongoing conduct only furthers my resolve to not consent to such exams while in prison.

–Laura Purviance, *The Fire Inside*, California Coalition for Women Prisoners

Photo by Charlotte Cooper



## Do what works for you to cope with isolation and strong emotions

One thing about control units is that, since their goal is to dehumanize, to destroy one's personality, each individual kind of needs to design her/his own program for survival, based in her/his identity and sense of what makes each of us human. How one person

expresses and controls rage is not necessarily right for another. For example, for some people, keeping busy is important; for others, maybe stillness and inward thought is important. What resources, internal and external, each prisoner has available make a big difference, too. (One reason why activist groups are so important!)

–Laura Whitehorn, Survivors Manual from American Friends Service Committee



Photo by John Gillespie

\*\*\*\*

I never seen the sky, or felt the warmth of the sun, or a breeze pass me by, the trees and grass or a rain drop. I never knew how painful it could be to be denied nature itself. I had a small narrow window which does not open, but all I could see was brick walls and nothing more. I remember from those brick walls was a small plant growing from within the cracks of the brick; that was my only part of nature that gave me hope. As the wind would blow against the leaves of this plant, I would actually close my eyes and pretend this very wind was blowing against my face. And then one day I could not stand it and I so desperately needed to feel real air, so I started to scrape the seal from the window with my fingertips. I was determined to make an opening. For three months every day I scraped and scraped [until] my fingers bled, but I managed to make a very small opening. I only



had room to place one side of my nose against this opening at a time and I would take such a deep breath where I finally was able to inhale a very small amount of air, but it was all I needed in order to survive this mental abuse I was being put through for no apparent reasons.

--Judith Vasquez, Survivors Manual from American Friends Service Committee



Photo by Teddeady



Photo by Vivobarefoot

I developed a routine of reading and calisthenics and letter writing to keep sane.

--Anonymous, from Survivors Manual, from American Friends Service Committee

\*\*\*\*

I woke in the morning feeling sad and unwanted and looked out my window and saw a sea of pink and blue in the clouds as far as I could see. It looked beautiful. In that moment, I thought to myself– if the world is so beautiful and I'm a part of that, then I am one in the same (BEAUTIFUL), which means we are all beautiful. So never let yourself doubt or anyone else tell you otherwise. If you stand tall no one





can break your will, that's yours alone. As long as you truly believe in what you are doing, nobody can ever take that from you. We are all special, never forget that.

–Kaylyn Alvarado, Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice



Kamil Porembiński

I know the despair and the feeling of loneliness that threatens to crush our souls but precious hearts, you are not alone. We are the image of what humanity seeks to have. The joy and freedom and courage to be “us.” So I encourage you to continue being brave, beautiful and unique. Let our love light this world.

–Shadow, Hearts on a Wire

It [being in solitary] was a rough time, but I’ve told some of the gurls, “I know you aren’t going to understand this being so young, but you can be in the deepest, darkest fuckin’ hole, and something can make you smile, or laugh.” And the thing is to appreciate those things. And as horrible and as tragic as that time was, something small would light you up. Like, one day getting a chance to see all except for one of the brothers. They had to walk past my cell to take a shower, and usually the guard would make me stand up and face the wall. This time the guard wasn’t paying attention, and [one of the brothers] came over and patted my hand,



and he said, “You have such pretty hands.” I said, “I think so too. It’s my best feature.”

-Miss Major, –Miss Major, from Miss Major Speaks: Conversations with a Black Trans Revolutionary by Toshio Meronek and Miss Major

\*\*\*\*

I can’t erase nor change being and becoming a victim of rape, but I can, now, fight to change that others do not become victims as well. I realize that I am a wonderful person and it is not my fault what other people’s sicknesses are and were. And it’s not your fault either.

-Latavia, Just Detention International

## Build community

The relationships and bonds women create with each other, and the love we have and nurture despite it all, create light. We were the light inside of prison, and women continue to be that light inside.

-Miyhosi Benton, Women and Justice Project

The only support that I was given was from other inmates that had gone through my experience. To me, those women were very, very important to get me through what I had to go through as a pregnant woman in prison.

-Sarah, from the Prison Birth Storytelling Project, from the Ostara Initiative

\*\*\*\*

And they also had a group. It was [for] if you were pregnant or you had just given birth. We were sitting in this room and we would just talk about our birthing experience. They would also provide a little class on what to do, what could be done during labor. It was basically a mixture of when labor begins and then

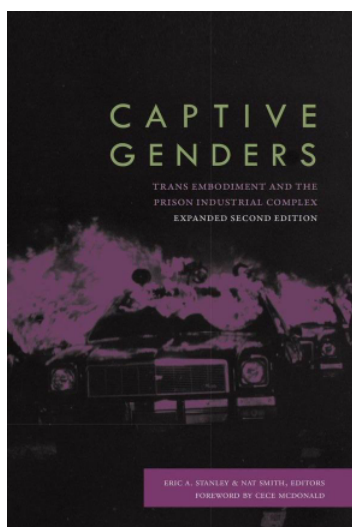


postpartum. I was in this group, just to be a part of something, just to help deal with, and also cope with my postpartum depression.

-Natalie, from the Prison Birth Storytelling Project, from the Ostara Initiative

\*\*\*\*

In the beginning, I was scared—I was a trans woman surrounded by so many men, but they were really inviting and sincere. They wanted to know who I was as a person, as a trans woman, and they wanted to



know my struggles as a trans woman. This surprised me because the media portrays people in prison as angry, evil, and deceiving. For me it was the opposite—those behaviors came from the staff more than they did from the other inmates....I would explain things like capitalism, sexism, transphobia, and the prison industrial complex using analogies from my life...Building these relationships with other inmates was really deep for me, because it's easy to believe the lies the media says about people in prison....A lot of people in prison are political warriors who stood up for our freedom.

—Cece McDonald, from *Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex* (Eric A. Stanley & Nat Smith, ed.)

\*\*\*\*

Number one is DON'T get involved in the petty nit-picking and back stabbing with other girls. Always remember police are trained to separate, divide, and conquer us. If they cause strife and distrust amongst us to fight amongst ourselves, they win, so don't feed into it...

Many people get into serious trouble due to one thing: their mouth. Watch what you say and who you say it too. And if you hear a word you don't know, by all means don't use it!



–Isabella Adler, Sylvia Rivera Law Project

\*\*\*\*

Try to maintain a respectful stance with inmates and staff alike because staff control who stays and who leaves (administrative confinement). Even though other inmates are in your situation, it's best to be respectful to them because you could very well create a situation with another inmate that will follow you for years unresolved.... Don't gossip or spread rumors as this will only keep you in constant conflict.

–Anonymous, Survivors Manual from American Friends Service Committee

\*\*\*\*

We need to be unified as one body supporting each other, by helping one another positively without disrespecting each other. My message is to be kind to one another, help one another, and support each other. Together we will shine as bright as the sun and as beautiful as the rainbow.

–Ms. Rona Sugar Love, Sylvia Rivera Law Project

\*\*\*\*

If you start off wrong in jail or prison, things can go wrong for you for a really long time. I found in my own personal experience that being open and honest is probably the best route. It prevents the impression among other people that you're trying to hide, that you're trying to deceive, that you're an unknown. People in prison don't like unknown quantities. They like to know who you are, where you stand, whether you're a threat or not. So in my experience, my advice for somebody just coming into this system would be to be honest with people...



Photo by Color Blind Picaso



Find community inside if possible. Us girls have to stick together and look out for one another. Also look for outside community. This can include contacting organizations like Black & Pink, LAGAI, TGIJP, and the Prisoner Correspondence Project and 1) subscribing to their newsletter, 2) requesting a resource guide. These newsletters can make a person feel less alone and give them an outlet for self-expression....

I think you have to evaluate what the impact of your actions will be on the people around you and how they will react to what you do. Sometimes, even when you're trying to do something that will benefit people, it will inadvertently be interpreted as a problem. For the most part, if it's not affecting anyone but me, I have no problem fighting for it. If I feel like it's something that might bother or affect other people, I really have to consider whether it's something that I need to go through.

–Rayne Vyllette, Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice

\*\*\*\*



Be patient, support your transgender LGBTQ2+ community. Get involved with LGBTQ2+ organizations.

–Miley Fletcher, Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice

\*\*\*\*

Photo by Organic Boi

For the younger gurls one thing I'd hope to tell them is: What's required is you've got to be consistent. You must be. And when you're mentoring the gurls, and you're going to be somewhere at two o'clock, then you be there at two o'clock. You don't show up ten minutes later. And be ever present, you know, in case there's a time when they really need you.

–Miss Major, from Miss Major Speaks: Conversations with a Black Trans Revolutionary by Toshio Meronek and Miss Major



## Be selective and maintain boundaries in relationships

The relationship worked cause I thought real love exist in prison. She taught me to love again, even though she got released and went on with her life I needed that. The challenge was staying and not getting moved.

-Anonymous, Black and Pink



Photo by Sebastian Raskop

Remember that guys hate rejection. There are ways to tell someone you're not interested that doesn't hurt his pride so much. If you're too harsh in your tone, he may be concerned about how others think and will try to show off for their behalf. It's best to remain single but if you must, be cautious of 'getting with' more than one guy. You're playing a dangerous game when you toy with someone's emotions.

-Anonymous, Survivors Manual from American Friends Service Committee

\*\*\*\*

Another way [of getting in trouble] is 'screwing around' with too many men. My personal advice: don't 'mess around' at all. But if you feel you 'must' then be with only one man at a time.

-Isabella Adler, Sylvia Rivera Law Project

\*\*\*\*

Men respect loyalty. A secret in prison will take you very far. Learn to keep your conquests to yourself. You never know when you'll need an ally.

-Vee XoXo, Black and Pink



Photo by Ali Eminov

[After a partner got abusive] I got stronger and I refused to be her doormat. I kept myself away from her until I knew I could stand up for myself to her.

-Anonymous 2, Black and Pink

\*\*\*\*

[After a partner got abusive] Verbally broke it off, then had myself moved to the other side of the yard so as to ensure lack of contact, surround myself with those I felt safe with.

-Anonymous 3, Black and Pink

## Trust your instincts and stay cautious

Be mindful of 1) who you are alone with, and 2) areas not on camera. Trust your instinct about who has motives that may be unsafe for you. Don't assume any area, including the restroom, is safe if off camera. Be reasonably suspicious of unsolicited "gifts."

–Rayne Vyllette, Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice

\*\*\*\*



Be careful of guards and staff—they're not to be trusted. Watch out for transgender chasers—don't date them or trust them.

--Miley Fletcher, Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice



\*\*\*\*

Don't go into debt. If you don't have it, Photo by Paolo Margari consider going without it or if the risk is worth it!

—Anonymous, Survivors Manual from American Friends Service Committee

\*\*\*\*

Find another girl (or one that knows the ropes) and get under her wing. If you're harassed in the yard or gym, tell a girl who is respected by the other inmates to talk to them, to stop bothering you. If no one is around like that, tell them to leave you alone and walk away and stand up for yourself and they'll get bored and bother someone else...

NEVER put your personal safety in the hands of another inmate. Finding a husband only provides an appearance of protection. If someone truly wants you for sex or to hurt you, they'll take out your husband first then you may have a worse situation on your hands. So remember this 'jewel:' no one is responsible for you or your safety but yourself. Stay diligent and proactive with regards to staying safe....

Your safety is your number one priority. If you feel unsafe and don't want to openly tell staff, put a note (called a 'kite') in an envelope with the nightly mail. State that you feel unsafe and need to move. If you do this, you'll most likely be on a callout to mental health the following morning and they can work with you to move you to a different block or dorm. While you can normally ask to be moved, this will not happen unless there is a specific issue, such as your personal safety.





You have a good chance at going to Protective Custody (PC) and then a new jail if your personal safety is an issue. In the event you got to move for personal safety and don't want to be in PC, state that you're depressed or suicidal; if anything like that's stated, you'll be 'off the count' ASAP and put into a one to one cell, you'll have a smock and no property and you'll be constantly watched. But the upside is it's absolutely guaranteed to get you out of 'gen pop' and locked up fast. You DON'T have to carry out hurting yourself. Just simply stating it, they are obligated to move you somewhere safe for you and others. Downside is being locked up. But always remember, your health and safety come first and going home in one piece should be your number one goal. [Editor's Note: Ms. Adler was writing from NYS prisons in 2016, before the HALT Act was passed. Current practices, especially with respect to PC, may vary.]

–Isabella Adler, Sylvia Rivera Law Project

## Lean on (and fight for) faith



I brought this case because the prison system basically only wanted to recognize “mainstream religions.” I set out to not only practice Santeria but to be recognized as a priestess of my Crown Orisha Oshun. Because of my lawsuit, I am allowed Santeria oils directly from a Botanica. I am allowed crushed eggshell powder, the five Sacred Stones of my Orisha, Spiritual floor and bath waters, ritual waters, cowrie shells, etc. With the Blast v. Fischer settlement, DOCCS is on notice on what items are necessary to

Photo by Steve Guttman NYC practice Santeria within a prison context.

–Synthia-China Blast, Sylvia Rivera Law Project



The only thing that I had to lean on was my faith because I just had to believe that God would protect me and my situation and my daughter, and make sure that we would all end together and that we would all be safe.

- Sarah, from the Prison Birth Storytelling Project, from the Ostara Initiative

\*\*\*\*

The surprisingest fact of all is that God is within us, as does the idea he will us his all. And if we pray to him, he will render us his all so that we can go on getting the more commodities to explain our faith. So do right, do lovingly, and be generous where you can.

–Ramona A., Black and Pink



Photo by Rising Thermals

## Educate yourself and prepare for life outside

Also if you have no GED or job skills, you should get them in prison, that way you will have a better shot at staying out and not coming back...If need be, find a sister to teach you to read and write and learn to comprehend what you read.

–Isabella Adler, Sylvia Rivera Law Project

\*\*\*\*



Find things to do to spend your time productively such as writing songs, poems, reading. Focus on a goal; build a time table of when you'd like to be released or your custody reduced. Remain misconduct free.

–Anonymous, Survivors Manual from American Friends Service Committee

Once you are able to exercise those rights, take care of yourself, take care of the programs that are available to you to get whatever you need with regard to education, with regard to counseling, to outline what life will be for you after prison.

- Dee Deirdre Farmer, Fight 4 Justice



Photo by quite peculiar

\*\*\*\*

At first, I was apprehensive about transitioning. I had heard there were health risks associated with HRT, and I didn't know if I would ever be able to afford surgery. I didn't feel like I had enough information, so I put it off for a while. Even the doctors they sent me to didn't have a lot of information, since they were used to dealing with male-to-female. So I learned everything I could from books. A chaplain gave me the book "Becoming a Visible Man" by trans activist Jamison Green. It was like a sacred text for me. I remember highlighting the whole thing. It was the first time I had read someone's story that sounded like mine. I felt connected to the world in a way I never had before, connected to another human being, someone who could fully understand me. Finally.

–Ethan Ybabes, as told to Page Dukes in the Marshall Project



## Resources

### National or multistate

Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice

P.O. Box 180198, Brooklyn, NY 11218

Membership-based organization supporting advocacy by and for incarcerated cis and trans women and femmes, as well as other trans, nonbinary, Two Spirit, and gender nonconforming people. Works in PA, NY, GA, and FL.

American Friends Service Committee

1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Human rights organization that publishes the Survivors Manual: Surviving In Solitary, A manual written by and for people living in control units.

Black and Pink

6223 Maple St #4600, Omaha, NE 68104

Offers a pen pal program and newsletter to LGBTQ+ people and people living with HIV.

California Coalition for Women Prisoners

4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 9460

Publishes the newsletter *The Fire Inside*, which is free for people in prison.



Center for Constitutional Rights

666 Broadway, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10012

Litigates for justice and liberation. Only takes a small number of cases, but has taken prisoners' rights cases.

Fight 4 Justice Project

212 H. Street, NW, Suite 8975, Washington, DC 20001

Supports LGBTQ+ people and people with terminal illness advocating for safer housing placements, access to healthcare or compassionate release.

HEARD

P.O. Box 1160, Washington, D.C. 20013

202-436-9278 (videophone, ASL)

Advocacy and commissary support for deaf and disabled incarcerated people.

Just Detention International

3250 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1630

Los Angeles, CA 90010

Policy advocacy organization. Publishes Hope for Healing: Information for Survivors of Sexual Assault in Detention.

LAGAI

3543 18th St. #26, San Francisco, CA 94110

Publishes Ultraviolet, a radical queer newsletter that comes out a few times a year.



### LGBT Books to Prisoners

c/o Social Justice Center Incubator

1202 Williamson St., Suite 1, Madison, WI 53703

Request a book by genre. Sends books to LGBT people in prison throughout the US.

### Masjid al-Rabia

637 S Dearborn St, Chicago, IL 60605

Offers spiritual support, religious supplies, and advocacy to incarcerated LGBTQ+ Muslims.

### POZ

157 Columbus Ave., Ste. 525, New York, NY 10023-6082

Magazine with health news, personal stories, and more. People living with HIV who cannot afford a subscription can get one for free.

### Pregnancy Justice

575 8th Ave., Suite 700, New York, NY 10018

212-255-9252

Criminal defense in cases with criminal charges related to pregnancy outcomes.

### Prisoner Correspondence Project

QPIRG Concordia c/o Concordia University

1455 de Maisonneuve Ouest, Montreal QC H3G 1M8

Canada

Pen pal program and educational resources for LGBTQ+ prisoners in U.S. and Canada.



### Prison Legal News

P.O. Box 1151, Lake Worth Beach, FL 33460

Subscriptions to 72-page monthly magazine with prisoners rights news and analysis, \$36

Criminal legal news subscriptions, \$48

### Prison Library Project

915-C W. Foothill Blvd, PMB 128, Claremont, CA 91711

Request a book by genre. Sends books to people in prisons (not jails) throughout the U.S.

### Rights Behind Bars

416 Florida Avenue NW, #26152, Washington, DC 20001

(202) 455-4399

Legal representation in select prison conditions cases, including those about hepatitis C treatment, disability accommodations, and solitary.

### Sero Project

P.O. Box 1233, Milford, PA 18337

info@seroproject.com

Does policy work to end HIV criminalization.

### TGI Justice Project

370 Turk St #370, San Francisco, CA 94102

Reentry support and leadership development for Black trans people.



Transgender Law Center  
P.O. Box 70976, Oakland, CA 94612-0976  
510-380-8229

Free resources for trans people in prison, including relevant policies, sample legal documents, and guides, both general and state- or agency-specific.

Tranzmission

PO Box 1874, Asheville, NC 28802

Books, zines, resources, and information for LGBTQ+ people and people in women's prisons throughout the U.S.

True Leap Press

Zine Distro, PO Box 6045, Concord CA 94524

Write to request their current catalog of zines. Heavy focus on politics.

Workers World

121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001

212-627-2994, [WWP@Workers.org](mailto:WWP@Workers.org)

Newspaper of the Workers World Party, a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party.

## Florida

Florida Institutional Law Project

Florida Legal Services, PO Box 533986

Orlando, FL 32853

Legal services for people in Florida prisons.





LGBT Freedom Fund

1730 S Federal Hwy #311

Delray Beach, FL 33483

Bail support for LGBTQ+ pre-trial detainees in South Florida and those in immigration detention nationwide.

Florida Prisoner Solidarity

P.O. Box 358439, Gainesville, FL 32635

Organizing and support for people incarcerated in Florida.

Florida Justice Center

2598 E Sunrise Blvd, Suite 2104

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Legal services for low-income people in Florida.

## Georgia

Freedom Overground

70 Kathryn Dr, Marietta, GA 30066

Supports trans people in prison or coming home.

Women on the Rise

1001 Virginia Ave , Hapeville, GA 30354

Organizing campaigns with formerly incarcerated women, and occasional bail assistance.



ACLU of Georgia

P.O. Box 570738, Atlanta, GA 30357

Litigates select cases about civil rights and civil liberties.

RestoreHER

3435 Roosevelt Hwy, Unit 141, Red Oak, GA 30272

Services such as housing for women.

## New York

F2L

F2L: Relief Fund, P.O. 143, New York, NY 10034

Provides commissary support to LGBTQ+ people incarcerated in New York.

Survived and Punished NY

PO Box 182, 350 Canal Street Ste. 2A

New York, NY 10013

Organizes defense campaigns for criminalized survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Survivor Justice Project

c/o Kate Mogulescu, Brooklyn Law School

250 Joralemon St., Brooklyn, NY 11201

Supports people seeking sentencing or resentencing under the New York Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act.



### Sylvia Rivera Law Project

147 W 24th St, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10011

Provides advocacy and assistance with name changes and conditions of confinement issues for trans people incarcerated in NY.

### Women and Justice Project

P.O. Box 720807, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Organizes to advance the leadership and build the power of cis and trans women who are currently and formerly incarcerated.

## Pennsylvania

### Hearts on a Wire

1315 Spruce Street

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Inside/outside advocacy organization addressing needs of trans people in PA prisons.

### Let's Get Free: Women and Trans Defense Committee,

460 Melwood Ave #300

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Newsletter, legislative advocacy, and commutation campaigns for women and trans people in prison in PA.

### I'mFREE

1175 Marlkness Road, #2021

Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Training and support for women leaving prison in the Philadelphia area.



Abolitionist Law Project

PO Box 8654, Pittsburgh, PA, 15221

Litigation and advocacy against criminal punishment systems in Pennsylvania.