

ICOPA XI

The 11th International Conference on Penal Abolition

Dr Uju Agomoh(Nigeria)

Dr Agomoh is the founder and Executive Director of Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA), Secretary-General of the NGO Coalition on Penal Reform and Director of the African Transformative Justice Project (ATJP). Her work includes training, information provision, research, assessment, documentation and provision of support services to prisoners, ex-prisoners, torture victims and their families. She has undertaken prison assessment visits to over 100 prisons in Nigeria and also in prisons in South Africa, Gambia and Rwanda. Her work has facilitated the training of over 5000 prison officers in good prison practice and international human rights standards in Ghana and Nigeria and she established the first victim-offender mediation scheme in Ghana, Gambia and Nigeria. Dr Agomoh is the Special Rapporteur on Police, Prison and other Centers of Detention for the Nigerian Human Rights Commission and is also a member of numerous international committees including ICOPA.

Patmalar Ambikapathy

Patmalar is a barrister and was appointed as Tasmania's first Children's Commissioner in 2000. In early 2000, she was also appointed to the East Timor Human Rights investigation team in Victoria and also as amicus curiae for the Children's Court. Patmalar is a Human Rights Consultant for Children and has published and presented papers and keynote speeches nationally and internationally on the rights of children and young people. She is a committed advocate for children and young people's rights in Tasmania and was the National Children's Lawyer of the year in 1999.

Kat Armstrong

Kat works with the prisoners' advocacy group, Justice Action, on various criminal justice issues. Kat concentrates mainly on issues relating to women in prison, particularly mentoring for women, before, during and after prison. Kat has served several prison sentences in various Australian women's prisons; most recently being released from a NSW jail on 8 February 2003, after serving 3 and half years. She is half way through a law degree with Southern Cross University in NSW. Kat is the first woman ex-prisoner to be accepted as a member of the Women's Advisory Committee for the NSW Department of Corrective Services. She works as Accounts Manager for the funding body of Justice Action, a graphic design & printing company, Breakout Design & Print.

Greg Barns

Greg is a barrister and writer. He is a former senior political adviser to a range of Liberal Premiers and ministers. Greg was disendorsed by the Liberal Party in Tasmania in 2002 for speaking out on refugees rights and left the Liberal Party to join the Australian Democrats. Greg has written extensively in the area of human rights and criminal justice both on Australia and overseas. He has a weekly column in the Hobart Mercury and a fortnightly column in the South China Morning Post. He is a regular contributor to The Age, The Australian, The Advertiser and the Courier-Mail. He also writes for the Canadian Daily, the Globe and Mail and for the online e-daily. Greg has written two books: *What's Wrong with the Liberal Party?* (2003) and *Selling the Australian Government* (2005). He is a member of the Tasmanian Independent Bar and specializes in human rights and criminal law and is a founder of the national human rights group, Rights Australia.

Jean Claude Bernheim (Canada)

Jean Claude is a criminologist and Professor at the University of Ottawa. From 1976 to 1990 he was coordinator of the Canadian Prisoners' Rights Committee of which he is now President and was secretary of the International Federation of Human Rights League (Paris, France) from 1979 to 1995. Jean has been involved in teaching criminology at both Montreal and Ottawa Universities since 1989 and has published nine books, the most recent of which were *The Scandal of commandits : a State crime* (2004) and *Psychological Harassment in Ministry of National Defence: Derosby's case* (2005).

Tiffany Bodiam

Tiffany is a doctoral student with Charles Sturt University in NSW and her area of research is prisoners' release. Her interest and awareness in this issue began with her volunteer work with a support group for prisoners and their families. Over the past five years, her research has examined the needs and concerns of released men and women, informed by both support workers and released prisoners. Her work includes issues of surveillance, addiction and loss of identity and moves beyond ideas of recidivism, revocation and policy driven concerns to engage with the multiple and interwoven obstacles to 'successful' release.

Antoinette Braybrook

Antoinette is the CEO of the Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service in Victoria. She is an Aboriginal woman who was born in Victoria on Wurundjeri country but her grandfather and mother's line is through the Kuku Yalangi people of North Queensland. Antoinette graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from Deakin University in 2000 and was admitted as a Legal Practitioner in Victoria in 2004. Most recently, Antoinette has been working with Aboriginal women in prison to identify and secure funding to establish an organization to advocate for the rights of women in the criminal justice system in Victoria.

Peter Brown

Peter is a long serving Aboriginal prisoner. He is the first Tasmanian prisoner to start and complete an Arts degree while imprisoned. He is currently doing his Honours degree with a thesis focus on prisons. Peter is a talented Aboriginal artist who plans to continue his academic studies to PhD level.

Anthony Bull

Anthony first went to prison in 1983. Through his many prison sentences, he has been involved in prison activism and advocating on behalf of prisoner issues. He began studying an Arts degree in 2002 while he was still incarcerated. Anthony was recently released from prison for the first time in 20 years. He has been a long time critic of correctional systems and will continue to critique and advocate for changes in the criminal justice system as a whole. Anthony plans to complete his tertiary study in social work and work in the area of youth justice.

Bree Carlton

Dr Carlton currently works as a researcher in the School of Political and Social Inquiry in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Monash University in Victoria. Her doctoral thesis, successfully completed in February 2005, critically examined the institutional dynamics of power, resistance, polarization and crisis within the infamous Jika Jika High-Security Unit (1980-1987) at Pentridge Prison in Victoria. Her current research examines the correlation between deaths in custody and conditions in maximum-security and supermax.

Prof David Brown

Professor Brown teaches criminal law and criminal justice at the University of NSW, Sydney, Australia. He has been active in criminal justice movements, issues and debates for three decades and is a regular media commentator. He has published widely in the field with over 100 articles and chapters in books and conference proceedings. He has co-authored or co-edited *The Prison Struggle* (1982); *The Judgments of Lionel Murphy* (1986); *Death in the Hands of the State* (1988); *Criminal Laws* in three editions (1990); (1996); (2001); *Rethinking Law and Order* (1998); *Prisoners as Citizens* (2002); and *The New Punitiveness* (2005).

Vicki Chartrand (Canada)

Vicki, coming from Canada, is currently an international doctoral student in the Sociology department at Macquarie University, Australia. While living in Canada, she convened a course on penal abolition and worked alongside Kim Pate at the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies. She has been a prisoner advocate within a variety of contexts. Vicki was also a tree planter for 4 summers.

Brett Collins

Brett is a criminal justice activist who works as a spokesperson for Justice Action and the Prisoners Action Group. He stands astride both the prison and academic experiences having spent almost ten years in NSW prisons and obtaining a postgraduate diploma in Criminology from Sydney University Law School and an arts degree in economics and law.

In 1971, Brett was sentenced to seventeen years in prison and of his ten year sentence, spent long periods in segregation units classified as an intractable prisoner and troublemaker. Over the past thirty years, Brett has worked with the justice system and represented prisoners' interests nationally and internationally, including as the National Coordinator of International Prison Watch - a consultant organisation to the UN. Brett is currently the managing director of Breakout Design & Print.

Jim Consedine (New Zealand)

Jim was a Catholic prison chaplain for 23 years and has been the National Coordinator of the Restorative Justice Network in New Zealand for the past 13 years. He has authored three books mainly on spirituality, coping at the coalface, and prisons and alternatives. Jim is now retired.

Rodney Crosswell

Rodney has spent most of his adult life in and out of prison. He first went to prison at 15 for bicycle theft and has now been out of prison for over 2 years. He is currently working with Youth Justice as a mentor to young people who are on probation orders or have persistently come into contact with the criminal justice system. Rodney is an activist with a strong commitment to changing the current Tasmanian prison system and is part of an informal support network for ex-prisoners, prisoner's and prisoner's families.

Caroline Dean

Caroline worked in the Tasmanian prison system for three years, developing and implementing projects and providing prisoner and family support. She was a volunteer tertiary tutor to prisoner students for four years and has been an advocate and support person for prisoners and their families over the last decade. For the past 2 years, she has been active in fighting to change the Tasmanian prison system and remains committed to raising community awareness on prison-related issues. She is currently completing a Master's degree in Corrections and Criminology.

David Denborough

David works as a writer, community worker and singer-song writer for Dulwich Centre Publications in Adelaide, South Australia. In 2005, David founded the Preventing Prisoner Rape Project which has recently produced 'The Prisoner Rape Support Package', addressing sexual assault in men's prisons (www.dulwichcentre.com.au). A package for women prisoners is currently being developed. David has edited four books, including: *Beyond the Prison: Gathering Dreams of Freedom*. His writing about work with young men in relation to issues of violence has been published here in Australia and in the USA, and his songs in response to current social issues have received airplay throughout Australia and Canada.

Vickie Douglas

Vickie's son, Chris, was on remand at Risdon Prison. On the 4th August 1999 her son was found dead in his cell, hanging from an old heater pipe. He had been the victim of a brutal sexual assault just prior to his death. Chris and Vickie are both founders of Prison Action & Reform, which came about as a direct result of the five deaths in Custody between 4th August 1999 (my son) and the 10th January 2000.

Marc Forget (Canada)

Marc is an educator and facilitator who specializes in transformative learning processes. He is trained as a circle keeper, as a mediator in both community mediation and victim/offender mediation. In the past ten years, Marc has worked in the field of restorative justice, nationally and internationally on research and education initiatives and at the local level with communities establishing restorative alternatives to the current punitive system. For nine years, Marc coordinated Canadian Friends Service Committees criminal justice program (Quaker Committee on Jails & Justice, one of the founders of ICOPA). Marc also facilitates school-based restorative projects in Canada and abroad.

Ian Fraser

Ian was an activist prisoner in the 1970's and is currently an ex-prisoner and a founder/Company Secretary of the Breakout Housing Group established in 1987; a Company set up primarily to provide long term accommodation for ex-prisoners and their family. Breakout operates the only non-funded program to provide secure long-term housing for ex-prisoners and their family in New South Wales. Ian has been a construction worker for the past seventeen years.

Prof Bob Gaucher (Canada)

Bob is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa, Canada, where he has taught for the past 23 years. He has been involved with ICOPA since the Amsterdam, 1985 conference, including conference organizer for ICOPA III (Montreal, 1987) and has served on numerous other conference steering committees. A prisoners' rights advocate, Bob has worked directly with prisoners since the late 1960s, including the Infinity Lifers Group (1984-94) at Collins Bay Penitentiary. Bob is co-founder and Chief Editor of the Journal of Prisoners on Prisons (1988-2006), which

serves as an (international) academic vehicle for prisoners' research and analysis of contemporary criminal justice issues. Past successful involvements include the "abolition of capital punishment" and "achieving prisoners right to vote" in Canada.

Louk Hulsman (The Netherlands)

Louk Hulsman is the Director of the Rasphuys Institute, Dordrecht, The Netherlands and Emeritus Professor in Penal Law and Criminology at Erasmus University, Rotterdam. He has long history of personal involvement in many different areas of criminal justice and in criminal legislation in both national and international arenas. In 1964, he became the first professor of Criminal Law at Erasmus University, Rotterdam and in the late 1970s he developed European common study programs on drug policy and critical criminology. He has served as a Councillor in the Ministry of Justice and represented The Netherlands in the European Committee on Crime Problems of the Council of Europe. In The Netherlands he has served as Chair of the Dutch Probation Services; Chair of the Dutch Association for Penal Reform: The Coornhert Liga; on the advisory board of the Dutch Police Academy; and on the first Dutch Committee on Drug Policy.

Terry Hicks

Terry Hicks was born in Gawler, South Australia in 1945. My interests are Australian Rules Football where I have been working for 35 years as a volunteer with Central Districts Football Club with their Junior system. We led a quiet normal life until 2001 when David was arrested in Afghanistan then things changed rather drastically for us, since then I have been working for the past four years to bring attention to the public on the Australian governments inaction to help a citizen of Australia imprisoned at the American base in Guantanamo Bay Cuba. With the injustices and human rights issues and conditions at GITMO with David and other detainees I will keep up the fight on David's behalf by putting pressure on the Australian Government to have David released back to Australia to face a proper and just court system.

Ray Jackson

Ray, near 65, is part of the stolen generation, having been taken from his Wiradguri mother at the age of two. Since 1987, he has been active in Aboriginal issues having worked within the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Watch Committee from 1987 to 1997 and with the Indigenous Social Justice Association from 4/07 to the present. He is still an official visitor to the NSW gaol system, although restricted to only 1 gaol, the MRRC, and banned for life from all other NSW gaols by the current commissioner.

Debbie Kilroy

(OAM, former prisoner; BSocWk; Psychotherapist; LLB candidate; Masters in Forensic Mental Health candidate; Community and Government Telstra Business Women of the Year 2003; National Human Rights Medal 2004) Deb Kilroy Director of Sisters Inside, a community organisation which exists to advocates for the human rights of women in the Criminal Justice System. In less than a decade, Ms Kilroy has

successfully built Sisters Inside into a thriving multi-service, community based organisation, which provides services to young people and women in and from prison throughout Australia. And, staying true to her values and as always, walking her talk, Ms Kilroy employs former prisoners, and the management of Sisters Inside is directed by a team comprised of women who are still currently imprisoned, augmented by a select few former politicians, lawyers, academic, and other professionals. Ms Kilroy has structured the organisation so as to ensure that the decision making within Sisters Inside rests with those who are most likely to experience the discrimination and human rights violations. Sisters Inside was established to eradicate such injustices, in ways that are defined and determined by women who are in or from prison themselves. In addition, approximately twenty-five percent of the staff and steering committee of Sisters Inside are Indigenous Australian women.

Gwynn MacCarrick

Gwynn is an international lawyer at the Law Faculty of the University of Tasmania, who will submit a doctoral thesis in International Criminal Law at the end of this month. She was former Defence Counsel with the United Nations Public Defenders Unit in East Timor. Gwynn has also worked with the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, on the *Dokmanovic* and *Alexsovski* trial teams. She has taken up field posting with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, working as a Refugee Lawyer in (1)Bosnia Herzegovina and (2)on the boarder between East and West Timor. In her domestic legal practice, she has worked as a criminal defence lawyer with Australian Legal Aid, in Hobart. Gwynn has worked with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission as a State Discrimination Lawyer and has also worked with the Aboriginal Legal Services in Tasmania, as well as with the Kamilaroi people of New South Wales where she worked as a criminal defence lawyer appearing in the remote magistrate and district courts. Gwynn holds a Bachelor of Arts (with Honours in International Politics) and a Law Degree from the University of Tasmania, an International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance from Fordham University New York, and has been awarded the University Foundation Graduate Award for leadership and professional achievement for her work in defence of Human Rights.

Pat Magill (New Zealand)

Pat was born in Napier, 1926 and is a carpet retailer by trade. During the 50s, Pat joined a local newly formed group, "Friendly Neighbours" while president of Napier YMCA, reporting on youth issues, particularly Maori youth who were often denied many resources and provided little insight into the effects of colonization, urbanization and into Maori history. Pat was appointed community justice of the peace and was able to employ community workers to provide Maori youth of Napier recreation programs through the YMCA. Pat also participated in a Napier Pilot City Trust program that had a government mandate to improve the quality of city life and reduce violence from bi cultural perspectives. Pat has attended ICOPA conferences in Auckland, Toronto and Nigeria and maintains meaningful contacts with the many community trailblazers. Pat advocates for programs that keep

fellow human beings as part of our community and not within a failing negative prison experience.

Mick Marlow

Mick Marlow is a current long serving prisoner in the Tasmanian prison system. Prior to this sentence, he had been to prison several times for short laggings. He has been a prisoner yard representative and is a long time prisoner advocate and critic of the Tasmanian prison system. He spent the last three years in segregation and solitary isolation.

Joane Martel (Canada)

Joane Martel is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta in Canada. Her research interests center on the Sociology of Criminal law, on punishment regimes as well as on the place of women in normative systems, mainly within the Criminal justice process. Previous to her academic career, she worked in various agencies of the criminal justice apparatus such as probation, the judicial, and group homes for young offenders. She has had several years of experience as a member of the Program Advisory Committee at the federal Institution for Women, and as a member of the Citizens' Advisory Committee at the federal Maximum Security Institution for men in Alberta, Canada. Joane Martel has published *Le suicide assisté: héraut des moralités changeantes* (University of Ottawa Press, 2002), *Solitude and Cold Storage : Women's Journeys of Endurance in Segregation* (1999) as well as several articles in scholarly journals. She is currently working on identity formation among incarcerated women.

Roseleen Macaulay

Rose's partner Thomas Holmes was a diagnosed schizophrenic. On the 10th September 1999...he was arrested and taken to Risdon Prison Hospital where he was placed on a suicide watch with shoelaces still in his shoes. On the 17th September 1999 he was found hanging by his shoelaces.

Craig Minogue

Craig Minogue has survived in prison since 1986, his release date is in 2016. Completing a BA Hons in 2005, he is now a PhD student researching ethical ontology and the Other at LaTrobe University. Craig is a social justice advocate who assists his fellow prisoners with equitable access to the courts, information about the law and educational programs. He has peer reviewed publications on literature, criminal law, human rights and prison issues.

Melissa Munn (Canada)

Melissa Munn is an activist from Canada. Her main areas of activism are prisoner, Aboriginal and Women's rights. She is currently teaching and working on her PhD at the University of Ottawa.

Brenda Murphy (Northern Ireland)

Brenda is an ex-prisoner, having served two four year periods in prison for Republican activity during the struggle for independence in Ireland from 1969 until the early eighties. This included participation in campaigns, taking place within the prison, for decriminalisation and taking part in a hunger strike in the 1970's in Armagh prison when she was eighteen years of age. While in prison, Brenda drew comfort by writing prolifically. On release from prison, her work was published in various anthologies as short stories. These include "A Female Line" (1982), "Contemporary Stories by Irish Women Writers" (1981), "Children of A Hurt World" (1993), and "No Place for a Dog" (1986). More recently Brenda has become better known for her work as a playwright and has had three plays professionally produced and staged in Belfast, New York and the Republic of Ireland. In 2002 the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) awarded a three year Fellowship in recognition of her work, this included a bursary to enable her to work full time as a writer. Since then Brenda has completed a poetry collection entitled "A Couple of Words in Your Hand". As well as being a playwright, short story writer and poet, Brenda has also been a political activist for many years promoting the rights of women in working class areas of Belfast. She is a mother with two daughters and two grandchildren.

Felix Obi (Nigeria)

Born on the 5th of April 1951, Felix attended Holy Cross School, Lagos from 1957 to 1964; Ika Grammar School, Agbor from 1965 to 1967 when the civil war broke out. There was a lull in his education due to the effect of the civil war for two years and in 1969 returned to school – Pilgrim Baptist Grammar School, Issele Uku. In the course of his working life, Felix attended a series of certificated training courses like immigration training. It was in the course of trying his hand in business that he ran foul of the law culminating in a 13-year imprisonment between 1986 and 1999. In the prison Felix tried to improve himself by acquiring a trade test certificate in painting and decorating and a degree in General Bible Knowledge (GBK 1&2). Since his release by presidential amnesty from prison on the 2nd of September 1999, he has been working with Prisoners Rehabilitation And Welfare Action PRAWA and has, in fact, been described as a rare success story of rehabilitation. Felix is willing to share his experiences at any forum if it will bring about a change in the perception of society about the prison and prisoners.

Ernest Ogbozor (Nigeria)

Ernest Nnamdi Ogbozor is a holder of an MBA degree in International Business Management, Lagos State University (LASU) and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics & Extension Services from the University of Benin, Nigeria. He also holds an OCR Certificate in Integrated Business Technology (IBT) from the Ethnic Minorities Business Service (EMBS) Oxford.

Ernest is a development practitioner and a human rights advocate. For the past eight (8) years, I have been working on micro-enterprise development, agribusiness, human rights and research. Presently, I am the Nigeria Country Director of Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA).

Over the years, he worked extensively with community based organizations in Nigeria, managing and executing self-help community development projects. These projects enable communities including youths-at-risk, ex-prisoners, torture survivors and their families to create wealth for themselves through identifying and establishments of viable businesses. His present work focuses on developing alternative financial models (ex-prisoners trust fund) to enhance rehabilitation and re-integration of ex-prisoners. Ernest's campaign/advocacy activities are geared towards institutionalizing community service as alternatives to imprisonment or incarceration in Nigeria, and is involved with the development of Sustainable Torture Survivors Project (STSP) to enhance rehabilitation and re-integration of torture survivors in Nigeria.

Debra Parkes (Canada)

Debra Parkes teaches in the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba. Her research addresses, in a variety of contexts, the possibilities and challenges of rights litigation by equality-seeking groups. She sits on the board of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, where she is involved in advocating for systemic change to respect the human rights of criminalized women and girls.

Kim Pate (Canada)

Kim Pate is the proud mother of Michael (15) and Madison (7). For the past 14 years, her waged work with the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies has focused on criminalized women and girls. A teacher and a lawyer by training, in her 25+ years of anti-oppression work, she has walked with and advocated for countless marginalized, criminalized, and imprisoned youth, men, and women. In addition, Kim has been a tireless advocate for social justice. Her experience ranges from grassroots organizing to policy development and legislative formulation and reform, at local, regional, national and international levels.

Hal Pepinsky (USA)

Hal Pepinsky teaches criminal justice at Indiana University in the United States. Having attended every ICOPA since 1987, he organized the only ICOPA in the United States in his hometown, Bloomington, Indiana, in 1991.

Viviane Saleh-Hanna (Canada)

Viviane Saleh-Hanna is a Doctoral student in the Criminal Justice Department at Indiana University in Bloomington. She has been working with prisoners and oppressed communities both as an academic and as an activist for almost ten years. Initially, her work with prisoners started through a University of Ottawa Student Organization. Viviane has also been involved with the International Conferences on Penal Abolition (ICOPA) and has published on penal abolitionist theory and implications. Prior to starting her PhD, she spent two years in Nigeria working primarily with prisoners in Kirikiri in Lagos. Her time in Nigeria also included work with the Alternatives to Violence Project and the African Transformative Justice Project in Nigeria, Ghana and the Gambia. Through these projects, an understanding of the inter-connectivity between communities and prisons,

crime and oppressions, history and the contemporary was emphasized. Her experiences in academia with critical criminologists, inside the prisons with imprisoned peoples, and in West Africa with poor communities, have shaped her understanding of crime and justice. Viviane's dissertation is on Crime, Resistance and Song; a presentation and assessment of black political perspectives on crime and justice as emerging in political music in West Africa, the Caribbean and North America.

Prof Phil Scraton (Northern Ireland)

Phil Scraton is Professor of Criminology in the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice, School of Law, Queen's University, Belfast. Until recently he was Professor and Director of the Centre for Studies in Crime and Social Justice at Edge Hill University College. He was awarded a Visiting Scholarship to Monash University, Melbourne in 2005. His primary research includes: the regulation and criminalisation of children and young people; controversial deaths and the state; the rights of the bereaved and survivors in the aftermath of disasters; violence and incarceration; the politics of truth and official inquiry; critical analysis and its application. He has written widely in academic journals and edited collections and is on the Editorial Boards of *Statewatch* and *Issues in Crime and Justice* and is author of a variety of books the most recent include: *September 11: An Anthology of Dissent* (Pluto, 2002) and *Hillsborough: The Truth* (Mainstream, 2000). His most recent work includes co-authored research for the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, *The Hurt Inside: The Imprisonment of Women and Girls in Northern Ireland* (NIHRC, 2005) and for the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, *Children's Rights in Northern Ireland* (NICCY, 2005).

Cassandra Shaylor (USA)

Cassandra Shaylor is an attorney and activist based in Oakland, CA, US. She is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of Justice Now, the only abolitionist organization and training center focused on people in women's prisons in the US. She also is a Ph.D. candidate in the History of Consciousness Department at the University of California at Santa Cruz, where she is working under the direction of Professor Angela Y. Davis on a dissertation based on this legal and activist work. She speaks regularly to academic and activist audiences on issues of women in prison, prison abolition, and the intersections of race and sexuality in the prison industrial complex. She was a co-founder of Critical Resistance and currently serves on its National Organizing Board, and she organized with the California Coalition for Women Prisoners in both San Francisco and Santa Cruz.

Charandev Singh

Charandev Singh is the Human Rights and Indigenous Education Advocacy Worker at the Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre located in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne, Australia.

Mike Tamplin

Mike is 55 years young, has been married for a short 31 years and has three adult children (26, 28, and 30). He been involved with God's Squad Christian Motorcycle Club for 9 years and a member for 5 of those years. In the late 1990's, the Attorney-General approached God's Squad to work in Risdon Prison after the deaths of five young men. As a result, through the Melbourne organisation Care & Communication Concern, Mike worked at Risdon Prison for four years as a welfare worker for those aged between 18 – 25 years and who had been charged for the first time.

Chris Wever

Chris Wever has 17 years' experience as a practicing social worker, recently graduating with a Master of Social Work Practice. She has been engaged with narrative counseling, teaching, and conferencing for 13 years, and now shares this passion with colleagues at the Narrative Centre in Hobart. She loves the passion and power of her work and the way it invites her to more consciously position herself in relation to discourse and power, constructing less governed and sometimes sacred spaces – occasionally in the prison and most often outside of it - in which meaningful and beautiful connections can be forged with people and local communities. She finds it exciting to story people's hopes, and dreams, their wisdoms, and the myriad triumphs of everyday experience.