THE STATE OF WOMEN PRISONERS IN NIGERIA: ASSESSMENT OF PROBLEMS AND OPTIONS

By:

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CONTENT

Introduction
3 Important Questions
Status
Problems
Options
Global Outlook

Proportion of Women in Prison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>3-4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>1.8 - 2.3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FEMALE PRISONERS IN NIGERIA

Total inmate - 777
Convicted - 200
Awaiting Trials - 577
CROSS SECTION OF FEMALE PRISONERS
3 Critical Questions

Who are these women and why are they in prison? (who?)

How are they treated and what kind of system and regime do they confront when they are inside? (how?)

What are the implications of their imprisonment? (what?)
WHO?

Socio-demographic background (Poor homes)
Young adults (18 - 20 years)
Mothers with babies
History of past offending
Present charge/offences
FEMALE PRISONER’S CASE STORY

“I was forced to drink the blood of a dead woman to prove innocent of a murder case.
I was expected to die after 3 days if guilty of the offence. But I did not die, I was then remanded in prison by Police where I had my first baby.
I am still awaiting trial for close to two years”
HOW? TREATMENT OF FEMALE PRISONERS

PRE-TRIAL STAGE
Lock in Same Cell with male in Police Cells
Crowded Cells in Prison
Await Trial for upward of 1-15 years

TRIAL STAGE
Missing Records
Absence of free legal aid for poor inmate

POST TRIAL
Poor Feeding
No Sanitary provisions
CROWDED ROOMS
DELAY TRIALS
Female prisoners and their main worries/pre-occupations

Children, Family, Spouse, Marriage, Sex, Pregnancy, Menopause, Lack of freedom, Education, Lack of Medical Care, Lack of Justice, Missing School and work, Lack of privacy etc
WORRIES
CONCLUSION

Women imprisonment and issue of rehabilitation and resettlement
The importance of cultural perception of what constitute ‘real’ crime
The ‘control’ of women contributes to the criminal labeling of women and the imprisonment of women
REHABILITATION
CONCLUSION CONT'D.

Need for gender sensitivity training for criminal justice agents

Introduction of a gender-sensitive penal system (Addressing the specific needs of women)

Adequate antenatal/post-natal care for women in prison

Adequate sanitary provision for women in prisons

Adequate family visiting centre/children crèche in women facilities