



Bristol Justice Network

*A local network campaigning for the reform
of the criminal justice system*

There are fourteen HM prisons in the south west of England, five of which are located in the Bristol area. These include prisons in Bristol, Gloucester, Shepton Mallet, Eastwood Park (women's prison) and Leyhill (Wotton-under-Edge). In addition, there is a young offenders' institution and a secure unit for young people, both in South Gloucestershire.

The way our prison system is run - and the human and financial cost of the criminal justice system - is a cause for concern for many people in this country. In Bristol, these concerns led to a number of people from different backgrounds joining together to set up the Bristol Justice Network in 2000 and since that time, we have been meeting together on a monthly basis.

We see Bristol Justice Network as having two main aims:

1. To campaign for new approaches and humane and effective alternatives to prison.

Bristol Justice Network and local Quakers supported the setting up of a pilot Restorative Justice Project which ran from 2003-2004, based at HMP Bristol (Horfield). This project was forced to close due to lack of funding. However, since then, further funding has been secured for three years and a second Restorative Justice Project is now up and running (Horfield prison), which is managed by Bristol Mediation.

2. To work with other organisations and individuals striving to create a more humane and just criminal justice system. To date, our work has focused on:

- ❖ the plight of women in prison, and the unrecognised impact of imprisonment on children (see *The Corston Report*, which can be accessed on <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/corston-report/>)
- ❖ the neglect and discrimination experienced by women involved in street work in the 'sex industry'
- ❖ prisoners' rights particularly in relation to their physical and mental health
- ❖ promoting the setting up of visitors' centres to ensure prisoners have the opportunity to remain in contact with their family and friends whilst in prison
- ❖ prisoners' needs on leaving prison (e.g. housing and resettlement)

If you are interested in our work, please feel free to join us. Over the coming year (2008-09), Bristol Justice Network will be meeting every month at **Friends Meeting House, 126 Hampton Road, Redland, Bristol BS6 6JE**. If you would like further information, please contact:

Kerren Davey
(0117) 972 0025

Pamela Trevithick
(0117) 973 4672

Jane Grubb
(0117) 974 2736