



Justice Matters for Women: TIME FOR ACTION!

Wednesday 20th May, 2015

Human Rights Action Centre, Amnesty International, 25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA

Following our call to action to 'Empower women, resist injustice and transform lives', Women in Prison and the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies are hosting a one day event to **build collective action for challenging criminal justice failure and promoting social justice alternatives.**

This event will seek to:

- Initiate the **gathering of policies and practices that may better respond to women without resort to criminal justice interventions**, drawing on attendees' experience and expertise.
- Continue to **grow a committed coalition of people** who support fundamental change in the approach to women and criminal justice.

10.00 – 10.30	Arrivals & registration (tea & coffee)
SESSION 1: Setting the context	
10.30 – 11.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>From criminal justice to social justice: making the case</i> Rachel Halford, Director, Women in Prison • <i>Empower women, resist injustice, transform lives</i> Rebecca Roberts, Senior Associate, Centre for Crime and Justice Studies
SESSION 2: Building a movement for change	
11.00 – 11.30	<p>GUEST SPEAKER: Betty Makoni Chief Executive Officer, Girl Child Network World Wide. Hear her inspirational story behind building a girls' empowerment movement, her work as a human rights activist against gender based violence and her belief in the power of campaigning.</p>
11.30 – 11.40	BREAK
SESSION 3: Justice matters for women	
11.40 – 12.40	<p>Chair, Sara Hyde</p> <p><i>Empowering women, resisting injustice and transforming lives</i> Speakers from User Voice Women's Service User Council in London: Responding to women. What needs to change?</p> <p>Discussion groups: Motivation, responding to women, what needs to change?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we respond to women better without resort to criminal justice interventions? • What motivates you? Why do you do what you do? <p><i>Feedback</i></p>
12.40 – 1.15	LUNCH

SESSION 4: WORKSHOPS – Inspiring, organising and tools for bringing about change					
1.15 – 1.55 2.00 – 2.40	Each workshop 40 minutes with 5 mins switch over				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><i>Craftivism:</i> Sarah Corbett, founder of the Craftivist Collective.</td> <td><i>Consensus decision-making:</i> Rhizome</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Growing a grassroots movement</i> Sisters Uncut</td> <td><i>Protest and demonstration</i> Gemma Lousley, Women for Refugee Women</td> </tr> </table>	<i>Craftivism:</i> Sarah Corbett, founder of the Craftivist Collective.	<i>Consensus decision-making:</i> Rhizome	<i>Growing a grassroots movement</i> Sisters Uncut	<i>Protest and demonstration</i> Gemma Lousley, Women for Refugee Women
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2.40 – 3.10	BREAK (Tea & Coffee)				
SESSION 5: Turning our knowledge, experience and commitment into action					
3.10 – 4.15	<p>Chair, Charlotte Weinberg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising for change: (20mins) Dr Sarah Lamble, Birkbeck University • Moving forward – from commitment to collective action (20mins) Deb Coles, Co-director, Inquest • Discussion groups: NEXT STEPS – BUILDING A MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE. Building a plan of action <p>Final roundup</p>				
4.15	Conference closes.				

If you are tweeting please use the hashtag: #justicematters4women

A call to action

The harms women face are widespread yet consistently ignored. Many criminal justice interventions and support services serve to replicate and reinforce unequal gender relations rather than tackle the root causes of harm. Women facing criminalisation and gender based violence are repeatedly failed by society.

We need to think about and develop social interventions that get to the root of these problems. We are calling on others to work with us to challenge structural inequality and eradicate punishment and control in women's lives. We want to start talking about and acting in ways to:

EMPOWER women.
RESIST injustice.
TRANSFORM lives.

Ways we may begin to address this include:

- Offering support instead of control and punishment.
- Resisting the labels of 'offenders' or 'victims' in day to day work.
- Prioritising women's needs rather than criminal justice objectives.
- Speaking out against the harms that women face.
- Working for greater equality and justice for women.

Equality benefits everyone. By speaking together in greater numbers our voices will be stronger.

Help to build a collective confidence and critical mass for change.

We would like to thank the Swan Mountain Trust for supporting this conference.

Speaker & Workshop Information

10.30 – 11.00 Session One: Setting the context

Rachel Halford

Rachel Halford has been Director at Women in Prison since 2010. She has a background in social work and joined Women in Prison in 2006 as the Resettlement Services Manager. With more than 20 years experience of working with women in the voluntary sector, Rachel is committed to campaigning for the improvement of the rights, life options and treatment of marginalised women, particularly for those affected by the criminal justice system.



Rebecca Roberts

Rebecca Roberts is Senior Policy Associate at the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies and is leading on the Justice Matters for Women work at the Centre. She is also a steering group member of the Reclaim Justice Network. Rebecca's interests include reform sector strategies, penal abolitionism, social harm, feminism, racism and criminal justice, and the Justice Matters project. @reberrama

**CENTRE FOR CRIME
AND JUSTICE STUDIES**

11.00 – 11.30 Session Two: Building a movement for change

Betty Makoni

Betty Makoni is Founder and CEO of Girl Child Network Worldwide, an international charity that was founded in her native Zimbabwe to empower and educate girls. She is also a UK gender based violence expert, and was named a CNN Hero in 2009. Betty is probably one of the most honoured and awarded African woman in the world with 40 local, regional and global awards for innovation, commitment and passion for her work to protect over 300,000 girls in Zimbabwe.

@betty_makoni



11.30 – 12.30 Session Three: Justice matters for women

User Voice Women's Service User Council London

User Voice is a charity founded in 2009 by Mark Thomson, someone who has had direct experience of being sanctioned by the criminal justice system. The charity aims to improve rehabilitation through collaboration between service users and service providers in the criminal justice system. User Voice is user led, being majority staffed and led by people who have experienced the criminal justice system.

@userviceorg



Followed by discussion groups and activities.

Session Four: Workshops

Inspiring, organising and tools for bringing about change

Workshops will run twice: 1.15 – 1.55 and 2.00 – 2.40

Workshop 1: Sarah Corbett (Craftivism)

Sarah Corbett

Sarah Corbett founded the global Craftivist Collective in 2009 as an alternative to the louder, more aggressive transactional forms of activism. The Craftivist Collective provide craft-based products and services for individuals & organisations to do gentle activism that change our world one stitch at a time. By using the quiet, reflective time it gives us to explore global issues and how they affect the world around us, we can create something beautiful, considered, positive and poignant. Whether it's something the maker keeps to remind them to be a loving global citizen, something that is given to an influential person as a gift to encourage them to use their power for good or a small & beautiful piece of street art to provoke the public to think about important issues & how we can all be the change we wish to see in the world. Before setting up the organisation, she had a professional background working for large international development charities in campaigning and public engagement for 8 years.



www.craftivist-collective.com @Craftivists

Workshop 2: Sisters Uncut (Growing a grassroots movement)

This workshop will focus on mobilising a woman-led movement for social and political change; mission, tactics and outreach (including skill-share)

Sisters Uncut are a woman-only group taking direct action to protest against government cuts to domestic violence services.

Jumanah Younis is a feminist activist and writer living and working in London. She works as an Advice and Outreach worker providing advocacy support to women who have experienced domestic or sexual violence. She also delivers training to professionals on sexual violence and facilitates workshops with young people on abuse, healthy relationships and consent.



Lauren White is a professional fundraiser and an active campaigner, with an emphasis on women's rights. She works as a volunteer, teaching basic skills, such as reading, to vulnerable adults, focussing on those experiencing or having experienced other barriers such as homelessness, prison and drug abuse. She is currently completing coaching training to work further with the same client group, and has a First Class BA (Hons) from Kingston University.

Shanice Octavia McBean is a London based anti-racist, feminist and queer activist.

Zuzi Feltham works as a Young Women's Advocate, supporting those aged 11-18 who have experienced sexual violence. With a Masters degree and a BSc in Forensic Psychology, she has previously worked in the women's prison estate facilitating group sessions and providing one to one support for women experiencing problematic substance use, with a particular focus on how this intersects with experiences of domestic and sexual violence.

@sistersuncut

Workshop 3: Rhizome (Taster session on consensus decision making)

A participatory short introduction to consensus decision making - exploring what it is, what it's not and why and how some activist groups and movements use it. Will involve activity and discussion!

Rhizome are a co-op providing facilitation, mediation, consensus building and training to community activists and organisations across the UK.



Gill Hay is an experienced facilitator, trainer and manager who has worked in the co-operative, voluntary and public sectors. She aims to build confidence and resilience, and challenge self-limiting attitudes and behaviour through individual and team coaching, training, facilitation and conflict resolution.

Hannah Clayton is a trainer and facilitator who has spent the last ten years working in various NGOs in a range of human rights education, training and capacity building posts. Until October 2011 she was Training Manager at Amnesty International UK, running a training programme to support Amnesty activists in their local campaigning. She is passionate about supporting groups to feel more effective and empowered in creating change. @rhizomecoop

Workshop 4: Gemma Lousley (Protest and demonstration)

Gemma Lousley is policy and research co-ordinator at Women for Refugee Women, an organisation challenging the injustices experienced by women who seek asylum in the UK.



Drawing on the experiences of the Set Her Free campaign to end the use of detention for refugee women, this workshop will explore the practicalities of organising a protest and will look at some of the positive outcomes you can hope for.

The Set Her Free campaign was launched by Women for Refugee Women (WRW) at the beginning of 2014. On Saturday 6th June WRW is holding a protest outside Yarl's Wood detention centre, from 12.30-3pm, with speakers including Shami Chakrabarti, director of Liberty; Helena Kennedy, lawyer and member of House of Lords; Richard Fuller MP; Nimko Ali, anti-FGM campaigner; Natalie Bennett, leader of the Green Party; Caroline Criado-Perez, feminist activist; and Zrinka Bralo, refugee campaigner. More information about the protest is at <https://www.facebook.com/events/672659356197107/>. WRW's website is <http://refugeewomen.com/>

@refugee4women

3.10 – 4.15

Session Five: Turning our knowledge, experience and commitment into action

Dr Sarah Lamble

Sarah Lamble is Senior Lecturer in Law at Birkbeck, University of London. Sarah has written extensively on criminal justice issues affecting LGBTQ communities, focussing specifically on issues of violence. Sarah is currently working on a research project which looks at grassroots campaigns in Oakland, New York, Seattle, Philadelphia and Portland, which offer radical alternatives to criminal justice through ideas of 'transformative justice'. Sarah is also a founding member of the Bent Bars Project which supports LGBTQ prisoners in Britain.



Deborah Coles

Deborah Coles is Director of INQUEST, a unique charity that provides expertise on contentious deaths and their investigation with a particular focus on deaths in custody and detention. She leads its policy, legal and strategic work and has considerable expertise in working to prevent the deaths and ill treatment of people in all forms of detention, and for more effective learning and accountability. She was a member of the reference group to *The Corston Report* on women in the criminal justice system, and is the author of publications on women in prison including *Dying On the Inside: Examining Women's Deaths in Prison* (INQUEST 2008). She is a member of the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths In Custody and a trustee of Women in Prison and Clean Break Theatre Company.



@DebatINQUEST

Followed by discussion groups and activities.