



WOMEN IN PRISON CONFERENCE “BREAKS THE SILENCE” ON EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTLAND, Ore. – The Women in Prison Conference returns to Portland this November to shed light on the experiences of women in Oregon’s criminal justice system. The number of women imprisoned in our state has grown much faster than that of men over the last ten years¹. Women and their families also experience unique challenges as a result of incarceration.

The conference is organized by Oregon Justice Resource Center, a Portland-based nonprofit that provides legal services to underserved communities and advocates for reform of the criminal justice system. It takes place Saturday, November 7 at Lewis & Clark Law School. Tickets for the event have already sold out.

Attendees will examine women’s journeys through the criminal justice system beginning with a keynote speech from the Rev. Dr. Emily Brault, Chaplain at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville, Oregon. Other topics include intimate partner violence and the defense of battered women, the experiences of transgender inmates, and the challenges women encounter when returning to the community after a period of incarceration.

Oregon Justice Resource Center’s Women in Prison Project Director, Julia Yoshimoto, says:

“To name only a couple of challenges affecting women in prison: a majority of the women have experienced some form of abuse and trauma in their lifetimes and many have young children in their care at the time of their incarceration. Women need support that addresses their specific needs in order to properly prepare for life after prison. By bringing together lawyers, social workers, counselors, corrections staff, and others at the conference, we hope to increase understanding of the incarceration of women and its impact as well as start a conversation about needed reforms.”

Adds Yoshimoto:

“We’re particularly glad to have joining us several women who are currently incarcerated at Coffee Creek to share their experiences. We’re grateful to the women and to the Department of Corrections and Coffee Creek Correctional Facility for helping us to make this happen.”

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For more information or interviews, contact Alice Lundell, Director of Communication, Oregon Justice Resource Center, at 503-563-3356 or alice@ojrc.org.

Tickets for the conference have sold out but we have reserved space for media. Please notify Alice Lundell if you want to arrange to attend all or part of the day.

The conference website with full details of the schedule is at: <http://ojrc.info/wipconference/>.

¹ Between 2005 and 2015, the number of women incarcerated in Oregon increased by 35%. The number of men incarcerated grew by 13% over the same period. [Source: Oregon DOC](#).