

Imprisonment & Reproductive Justice

Rachel Roth, APHA 2013

This handout supplements the presentation “Imprisoned Women and Sterilization: Enduring Legal and Ethical Concerns” by Rachel Roth and Sara Ainsworth. It includes academic, NGO, and activist resources, and a list organizations; * denotes online availability. (Additional research can be found via academic databases.) You can contact me for further information at rachel.roth [at] earthlink.net

Prison Medical Abuse, Sterilization Abuse

Justice Now (Oakland, CA), testimony to the United Nations and to the state of California, video testimony by formerly imprisoned people, op-eds and law review articles (jnow.org).*

Corey Johnson, ongoing series on coercive sterilization in California State prisons for women (Center for Investigative Reporting, 2013).*

Allen M. Hornblum, *Acres of Skin: Human Experiments at Holmesburg Prison: A True Story of Abuse and Exploitation in the Name of Medical Science* (Routledge, 1998).

Institute of Medicine, *Ethical Considerations for Research Involving Prisoners* (National Academies Press, 2006).*

Elaine Tyler May, *Barren in the Promised Land: Childless Americans and the Pursuit of Happiness* (Harvard University Press, 1995), chapter 3.

Dorothy Roberts, *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty* (Pantheon, 1997).

Rickie Solinger, *Pregnancy and Power: A Short History of Reproductive Politics in America* (NYU Press, 2005).

Other Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice Readings

ACLU, *Briefing Paper: The Shackling of Pregnant Women & Girls in U.S. Prisons, Jails & Youth Detention Centers* (Oct. 2012); International Human Rights Clinic-University of Chicago Law School, CLAIM, ACLU, *Shackling of Incarcerated Pregnant Women in the United States* (submitted to the UN Human Rights Committee, Aug. 2013) (both include analysis of statutes, policies, and court decisions).*

ACLU, Break the Chains, and Brennan Center for Justice, *Caught in the Net: The Impact of Drug Policies on Women and Families* (2005).*

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, *Committee Opinion No. 511: Health Care for Pregnant and Postpartum Incarcerated Women and Adolescent Females* (2011).*

American Journal of Public Health, special issue on prisons, vol. 95, no. 10 (2005).

American Public Health Association, *Standards for Health Services in Correctional Institutions* (2003).

Ellen Barry, “Women Prisoners and Health Care: Locked Up and Locked Out,” chapter 11 in Kary Moss, ed., *Man-Made Medicine* (Duke University Press, 1996).

Nell Bernstein, *All Alone in the World: Children of the Incarcerated* (New Press, 2005).

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Brawley v. DOC 712 F.Supp.2d 1208 (Dist. Wash. 2010) (plaintiff in shackling case represented by Sara Ainsworth, then of Legal Voice in Seattle, WA)*

Sunnivie Brydum for the Elephant Circle, *Birth Unchained: A Case-Study of SB 10-193, Ending Shackling of Pregnant Prisoners in Colorado* (2011).*

Marianne Bullock and Vicki Elson, “Douglas Working in Prisons” (2013, at thedoulaguide.blogspot.com).*

Center for Young Women’s Development, “Incarcerated Young Mothers’ Bill of Rights” (2005).*

Nicholas Freudenberg, “Adverse Effects of U.S. Jail and Prison Policies on the Health and Well-Being of Women of Color,” *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 92, no. 12 (2002).

Victoria Law, resistancebehindbars.org (see e.g. post on ASFA reform in WA State).*

Robin Levi and Ayelet Waldman, eds., *Inside this Place, Not of It: Narratives from Women’s Prisons* (McSweeney’s, 2011).

Julie Kowitz Margolies and Tamar Kraft-Stolar, *When “Free” Means Losing Your Mother: The Collision of Child Welfare and the Incarceration of Women in New York State* (Correctional Association of New York, 2006); Tamar Kraft-Stolar, “A Fair Chance for Families Separated by Prison” (2010 update on successful ASFA reform in NY).*

Eesha Pandit, “Ten Reasons Why Prisons Are Bad for Reproductive Freedom” (2005).*

Political Research Associates, *Defending Justice* (2005) and *Defending Reproductive Justice* (2009), Activist Resource Kits (includes criminalization of reproduction and prison abolition).*

Rachel Roth, “‘She Doesn’t Deserve to be Treated Like This’: Prisons as Sites of Reproductive Injustice” (Center for Women Policy Studies, 2012); “Obstructing Justice: Prisons as Barriers to Medical Care for Pregnant Women,” *UCLA Women’s Law Journal*, vol. 18, no. 1 (2010); “Searching for the State: Who Governs Prisoners’ Reproductive Rights?” *Social Politics*, vol. 11, no. 3 (2004); posts at MomsRising.org.*

Karen Shain, “Prison Nurseries: Are They Good for Mother and Baby?” (2013).*

Jael Silliman and Anannya Bhattacharjee, eds., *Policing the National Body: Race, Gender, and Criminalization* (South End Press, 2002).

Jael Silliman, et al., *Undivided Rights: Women of Color Organize for Reproductive Justice* (South End Press, 2004).

Rickie Solinger, et al., eds., *Interrupted Life: Experiences of Incarcerated Women in the United States* (University of California Press, 2010).

Nancy Stoller, “Space, Place, and Movement as Aspects of Health Care in Three Women’s Prisons,” *Social Science & Medicine*, vol. 56, no. 1 (2003).

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United Nations, *Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders* (a.k.a. Bangkok Rules, adopted in 2010 as a supplement to the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and for Non-Custodial Measures).*

World Health Organization, *Kyiv Declaration on Women's Health in Prison* (adopted by the WHO Regional Office for Europe in 2008).*

Advocacy, Legal Service, and Research Organizations

- A New Way of Life Reentry Project (Los Angeles, CA)
- American Friends Service Committee (local chapters and national office)
- Amnesty International (reports on prison conditions, including shackling, sexual abuse)
- Arkansas Voices for the Children Left Behind (technical assistance)
- Birth Attendants (doulas for those in the Washington State prison for women)
- Birthing Behind Bars (activist site with first-person video testimony, news, petitions)
- Correctional Association of New York, Women in Prison Project (monitoring, research, advocacy)
- Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM)
- Equal Rights Advocates (San Francisco, CA) (see the "Let Her Work" campaign)
- Forward Together (Oakland, CA) (info and tools on reproductive justice)
- Human Rights Watch (reports on prison conditions, access to RH in ICE detention)
- International Centre for Prison Studies (research on women's imprisonment)
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice (fact sheet on the prison system)
- Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (San Francisco, CA)
- Legal Voice (Seattle, WA; works throughout the Northwest on shackling and ASFA reform)
- MOMobile at Riverside (doulas for those in jail and support for caregivers outside, Philly, PA)
- National Advocates for Pregnant Women (New York, national research and legal action)
- National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated (Philly, PA)
- Penal Reform International (research, international standards)
- Power Inside (for women affected by incarceration; Baltimore, MD)
- Prison Birth Project (doulas for those in the Western Massachusetts jail for women)
- Real Cost of Prisons Project (popular education comic books, news updates on Facebook page)
- Sentencing Project (see esp. March 2013 report on changes in women's imprisonment)
- SisterSong: Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective (Atlanta, GA)
- Strong Families (writings, images from campaign against shackling in CA)
- Stop Shackling Pregnant Women in Maryland (follow the campaign on Facebook)
- Texas Jail Project (grassroots monitoring, including conditions for pregnant women)
- United States Bureau of Justice Statistics (the best source for U.S. statistics)
- WORTH (Women on the Rise Telling HerStory, New York)
- Women and Prison: A Site for Resistance (website with interviews, writings)
- Women's Prison Association (service and advocacy in New York; national research)
- Women's Refugee Commission (reports on asylum & immigration detention in the U.S.)
- World Health Organization (program on prisons and health, including women's health)

If you know someone in prison who is being denied prenatal care or access to abortion, you can contact the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project or your local ACLU for help.

If you know someone in prison who is trying to get an abortion and can't afford to pay for one, you can contact the National Network of Abortion Funds for help.