



### **PRISONS AND JAILS**

Stop building new prisons and jails and close others down. Re-direct the \$57 billion<sup>1</sup> spent on jails and prisons to quality education, housing, job training, daycare and health care.

### **ALTERNATIVES TO JAIL<sup>2</sup>**

*Citation Programs* – Give tickets to those committing misdemeanor or low-level crimes without booking them through the arrest process.

*Improve Release Procedures for the Pretrial and Sentenced Populations* – These improvements decrease jail populations by ensuring that people are moving through the system in a timely fashion.

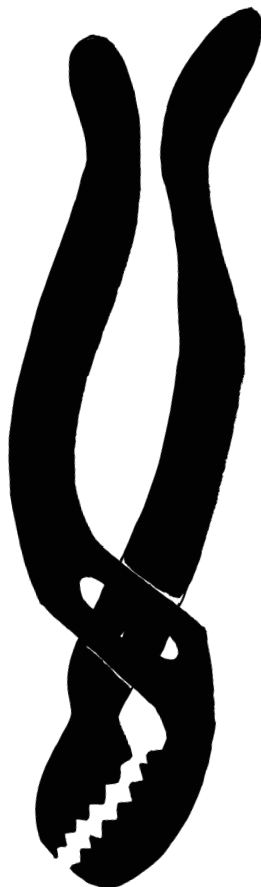
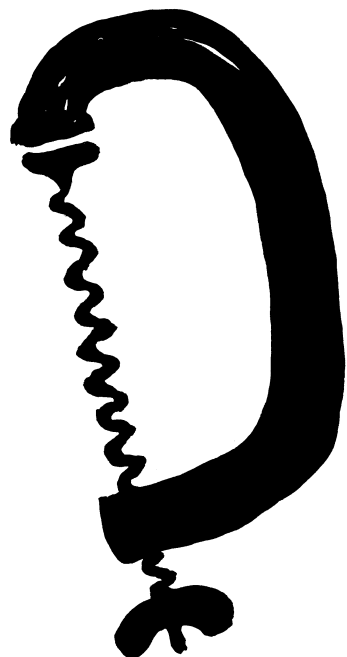
*Pre-Trial Diversion* – Pretrial services programs can help alleviate jail crowding by releasing people who are incarcerated before trial.

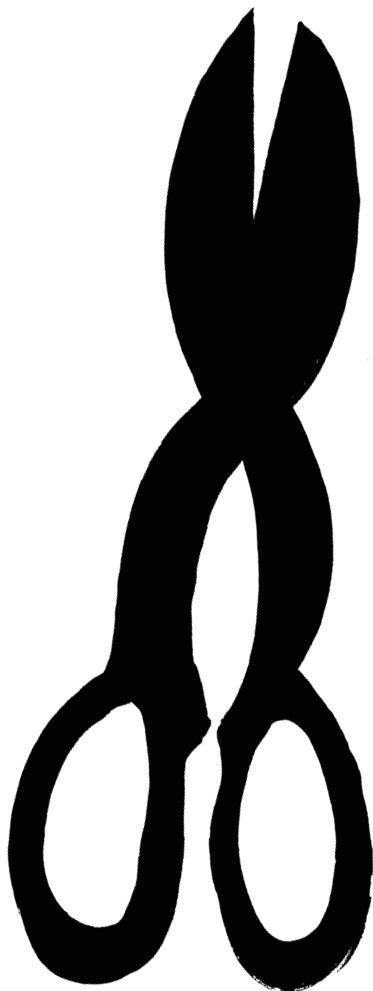
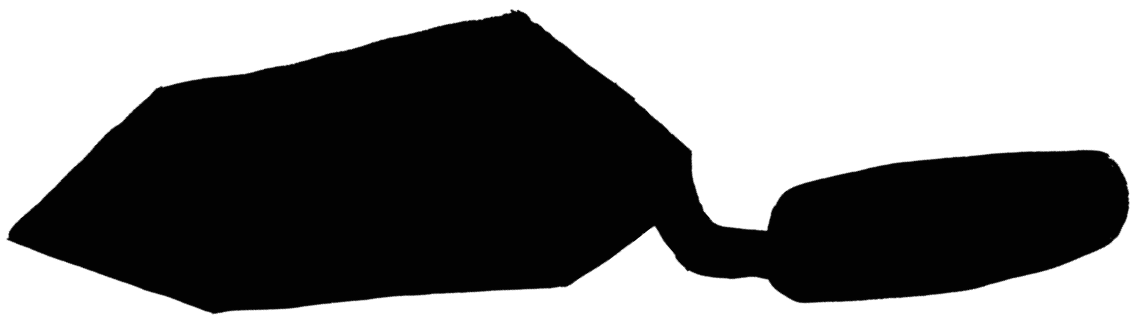
*Bail Reform* – National studies show most people being held pretrial cannot post a money bond or bail.

*Specialty Courts* – Drug courts, domestic violence courts and mental health courts and other specialty courts were developed to provide individuals involved with the criminal justice system with treatment.

*Alternatives to Incarceration in Jail* – In response to increased jail populations, probation agencies need to work with other criminal justice agencies to develop alternative programs.

*Probation and Parole* – Missed appointments with a parole officer, breaking curfew or a failed drug test should not be the reason to send someone back to prison. Instead, treatment should be offered through diversion programs.





### **FAMILIES<sup>3</sup>**

States should:

Actively encourage kinship care placements

Ensure that child welfare authorities remain in touch with incarcerated parents.

Facilitate visitation between children and incarcerated parents.

Make reunification services available to parents.

Explore alternatives to incarceration that could make child welfare intervention and child removal unnecessary in many cases.

Ensure that incarcerated parents have the opportunity to attend all hearing in their cases.

Provide incarcerated parents with legal services.

### **DRUG POLICY<sup>4</sup>**

Repeal mandatory sentencing laws. See the Glossary for a definition and learn more about the injustices of mandatory sentences by contacting Families against Mandatory Minimums.

### **WOMEN BACK HOME<sup>5</sup>**

Modify restrictive public housing and Section 8 guidelines to allow formerly incarcerated women access to affordable housing.

Lift the ban on welfare (TANF and food stamps) for people with drug felony convictions.

Repeal the ban on student financial aid which was passed as part of the 1998 reauthorization of Higher Education Act of 1965. It keeps anyone convicted of a drug felony from getting college loans.

Make work more possible for people coming out of jails and prisons. Examples include: expunging offenses, sealing records, offering certificates of rehabilitation. Eliminate discrimination by prospective employers.

### **DISENFRACTISEMENT**

All citizens should have the right to vote including those who are incarcerated, on probation and on parole.

### **WORK TO DESTIGMATIZE AND DECRIMINALIZE "SEX WORK."**



## **DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT**

Shift funding priorities from the \$167 billion for law enforcement, courts, prisons and jails to comprehensive women-focused drug and alcohol treatment. From 1997 to 2001 State and local spending for corrections rose 1101%. Spending for education rose 470%. Spending for healthcare and hospitals rose 482%.<sup>6</sup>



## **NEEDLE EXCHANGE**

Encourage and fund needle exchange programs to help stop the spread of Hepatitis C and HIV.

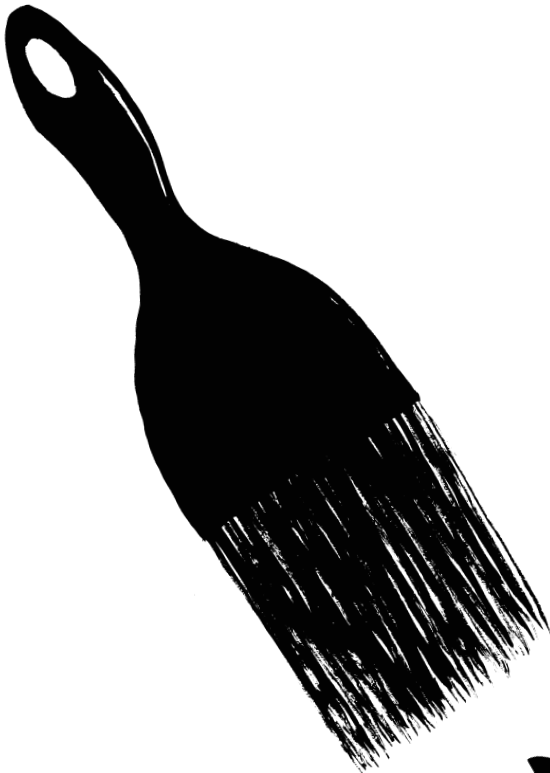
## **PREVENTING AND TREATMENT FOR SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE<sup>7</sup>**

Untreated physical and sexual abuse contributes to mental illness and drug abuse. According to the WPA 12/03 report, "Women with a history of sexual abuse are twice as likely as non-abused women to have injected drugs." Early identification, treatment and prevention of sexual and physical abuse would significantly make the lives of girls and women more productive and positive.

## **INVEST IN QUALITY EDUCATION, JOB TRAINING FOR WORK THAT PAYS A LIVING WAGE, AFFORDABLE SAFE HOUSING, RELIABLE PUBLICLY FUNDED DAY CARE FOR EVERYONE WHO NEEDS IT.**

## **JUSTICE REINVESTMENT/COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT<sup>8</sup>**

Justice reinvestment is the creation of safer and viable communities by communities taking control of justice dollars and reallocating them to finance education, housing, healthcare and jobs.



1. Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin, Justice Expenditure and Employment in the U.S., May 2004; 2. Thanks to Dana Kaplan, National Resource Center on Prisons and Communities, Cincinnati, OH 2/04; 3. Barriers Facing Parents with Criminal Records/ Center for Law and Policy CLASP, 2003. [www.clasp.org](http://www.clasp.org); 4. Families Against Mandatory Minimums, [www.famm.org](http://www.famm.org); 5. Women's Prison Association: Dina Rose, WPA Focus on Women and Justice October 2003, [wpaonline.org](http://wpaonline.org); 6. Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin, Justice Expenditure and Employment in the U.S., May 2004; 7. WPA Focus on Women and Justice 12/03; 8. "Justice Reinvestment" by Susan B. Tucker and Eric Cadora, Ideas for an Open Society, 11/03. [www.soros.org](http://www.soros.org).

**FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON EACH OF THESE AND OTHER ISSUES, VISIT THE REAL COST OF PRISONS WEBSITE AT [WWW.REALCOSTOFPRISONS.ORG](http://WWW.REALCOSTOFPRISONS.ORG).**