

Chaos and Crisis- Can Prison Be Better than This?

A one-day workshop seeking creative approaches towards tackling the prison crisis

Wednesday 17th January 2018

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Programme

9.30-10.30	Coffee & Registration
10.30-11.00	Welcome & Introduction: Dr. Anastasia Chamberlen, Department of Sociology, University of Warwick
11.00-11.20	Expressing the Problem: Prison in the Words of Artists and Former Prisoners Jamal Khan & Jason Smith
11.20-11.45	Coffee Break
11.45-13.00	<p>Panel 1: Public Attitudes, Political Rhetoric & Sentencing</p> <p>Chair: Professor Jackie Hodgson, School of Law, University of Warwick</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloria Morrison, Campaign Coordinator of JENGBA – Joint Enterprise: Not Guilty by Association • Jamal Khan, Artist and former prisoner • Raphael Rowe, Journalist • Jon Collins, Chief Executive, The Magistrates Association • Roger Swindells, Chair, Independent Monitoring Board, HMP Birmingham • Gemma Buckland, Senior Committee Specialist, Justice Committee, Parliament <p>Items for Discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss possible ways for shifting public obsession with tough punishment generally, and particularly the prison. What drives such sentiments in the public domain? 2. Consider strategies to refocus political rhetoric towards a less prison-centric approach. What are the main obstacles to achieving this change?

3. Identify key steps to reducing prisoner numbers immediately and in the long term. What can the courts do to help reduce the prison population? Are the law and the courts' sentencing practice obstacles?

13.00-14.00

Lunch

14.00-15.15

Panel 2: Issues of Diversify, Identity and Attitudes towards Prisoners

Chair: Annetta Bennett, Visiting Research Fellow at the School of Business and Law, UEL

Panellists:

- Michaela Booth, Student & public speaker, former prisoner
- Amanda West, Student, campaigner & former prisoner
- Jason Smith, Poet, playwright & former prisoner
- Annetta Bennett, Visiting Research Fellow at the School of Business and Law at UEL with specialism in prisons and the effects of Imprisonment
- Jessica Southgate, Women's Breakout & Clinks board member
- Dr. David Maguire, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Education in the Criminal Justice System, UCL
- Dr. Omar Khan, Director, Runnymede Trust
- Dr. Victoria Lavis, University of Bradford; Principal Investigator, for project: 'Responding to Diversity in three Yorkshire Prisons'

Items for Discussion:

1. Identify possible steps towards addressing racial discrimination in criminal justice, and reducing the overrepresentation of BAME groups in prison.
2. Why do we see prison as appropriate for women's needs? What do campaigners, academics and activists need to do to make a more compelling case for not using prison, especially for non-violent women?
3. Learning from the lived experiences of imprisonment: how do we handle issues of diversity and difference in criminal justice? Consider issues of age (young and older prisoners), mental health and ability, gender and sexuality, nationality and ethnicity.

15.15-15.30

Coffee Break

15.30-16.45

Panel 3: The Prison Today: Chaos and Crisis

Chair: Charlotte Weinberg, Executive Director, Safe Ground

Panellists:

- Steve Gillan, General Secretary, Prison Officers' Association
- Deborah Coles, Director, Inquest
- Anna Norton, Ph.D Researcher on drugs in prison, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Angela Cairns, CEO, Shannon Trust
- Susan Howard, Governor of HMP & YOI New Hall / Askham Grange
- Faith Spear, Former Chair of Independent Monitoring Board; Reclaim Justice Network and independent criminologist
- Dr. Tammi Walker, Chartered Psychologist and Reader at University of Huddersfield, researching on self-injury

Items for Discussion:

1. Why are English and Welsh prisons in such a state of crisis? Consider long and short-term causes
2. What can we do to address the problem of drugs in prison?

	<p>3. How does prison cause harm? What can we learn from experiences of self-injury and suicide attempts? What are essential strategies for minimising harm and violence in prison?</p> <p>4. Will 'more money' solve the problem?</p>
16.45-17.30	<p>Group Discussion: Recommendations, Collective Conclusions, Final Comments and Ways Forward</p> <p>Discussants: Annetta Bennett, UEL, Anastasia Chamberlen, Department of Sociology, Warwick; Anita Dockley, Howard League; Jackie Hodgson, School of Law, Warwick, Charlotte Weinberg, Safe Ground</p>
17.30	<p>Drinks at the Bar</p>

This event is organised by Anastasia Chamberlen, Sociology Department, University of Warwick, in partnership with Anita Dockley, Research Director, Howard League for Penal Reform, Charlotte Weinberg, Executive Director, Safe Ground and the Warwick Criminal Justice Centre. The workshop is funded by an ESRC Impact Acceleration Account grant.