

Trans/Gender Variant in Prison Committee

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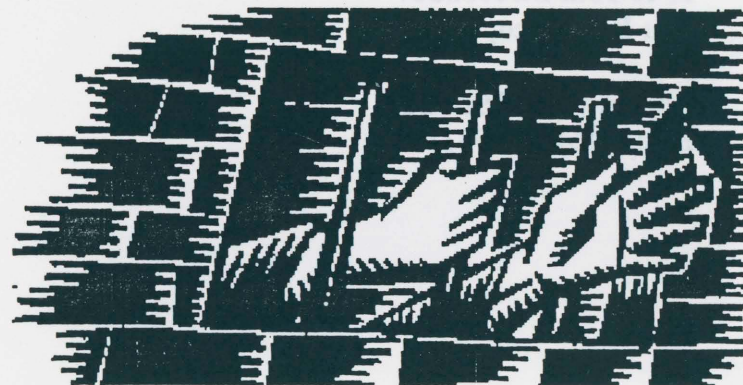
A California Prison Focus committee

While no one has it easy in prison, transgender and gender variant prisoners often experience double jeopardy when it comes to surviving in prison. Prison administrators deny they exist, the medical staff are usually uncaring and sometimes sadistic, the custody staff routinely harass them, and they are sometimes the victims of sexual assault by both the staff

Some examples of the abuses we've seen are:

- Male-To-Female prisoners arbitrarily denied hormone therapy, even after they've developed female characteristics
- Those who receive hormones get them irregularly and without proper consultation
- Strip searches of transgender prisoners performed in front of other non-transgender prisoners
- Verbal harassment based on gender identity by the staff is common
- Gender appropriate clothing is prohibited and those who are caught wearing them are given disciplinary notices, called 115's
- Prison medical staff uninformed on transgender issues and often behave negatively towards TG/GV prisoners
- Transgender prisoners housed and referred to according to their genitalia with no choice in housing designation.

Since its inception in June 2001, the Trans/Gender Variant in Prison Committee of California Prison Focus (TIP) has sought to address these abuses and works through public education and protest to stop them. Through legal interviews and correspondence with transgender and gender variant prisoners, we investigate abuses and monitor the conditions in both women's and men's prisons, primarily Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla and California State Prison - Corcoran. We also; from time to time, provide educational materials to prisoners in California and the U.S. regarding various issues relating to the transgender and prisoner communities.



We are always welcoming of eager individuals who want to commit some of their time to the service of human rights work around transgender prisoner issues. We meet every 3rd Thursday of the month from 7 PM to 9 PM at the California Prison Focus office.