

**Judy Greenspan, Re: trans advocacy letter**

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To: Judy Greenspan [REDACTED]  
From: Judy Greenspan [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: trans advocacy letter  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Attached:

>>  
>>HIV/Hepatitis C in Prison Committee  
>>California Prison Focus  
>>2940 16th Street, #307  
>>San Francisco, CA 94103  
>>Phone/Fax: (510) [REDACTED]  
>>  
>>November 27, 2001  
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>>  
>>Frederic Brown, Warden  
>>California State Prison - Corcoran  
>>P.O. Box 8800  
>>Corcoran, CA 93212  
>>  
>>Re: Transgender & Gender variant prisoners  
>>Access to appropriate mental & medical care, harassment-free environment  
>>  
>>Dear Warden Brown:  
>>  
>>The HIV and Hepatitis C in Prison Committee of California Prison Focus  
>>regularly conducts legal visits with transgender and gender-variant  
>>prisoners at your institution. It has come to our attention that prisoners  
>>who identify as transgender or gender-variant, meaning prisoners who are  
>>housed at CSP-Corcoran but who are female-identified or other-than-male  
>>identified, are being denied access to appropriate medical and mental  
>>healthcare services. In addition, we are concerned about several situations  
>>in which these individuals have been subjected to derisive comments from  
>>some of the staff. We urge you to investigate this matter immediately and  
>>to implement changes that will adequately address this issue.  
>>  
>>The standards of care for people who identify as transgender or  
>>gender-variant are well documented in the outside medical world. These  
>>include access to hormone therapy, appropriate psychological counseling,  
>>bras, and other supportive underclothing that would enable the individual to  
>>live as their self-identified gender. At CSP-Corcoran, there is no protocol  
>>in place to enable transgender and gender-variant prisoners to access any  
>>gender-related healthcare services. Prisoners who have requested hormones  
>>in the past have been denied, even after being diagnosed with Gender  
>>Identity Dysphoria (GID), for which the standard treatment is long-term  
>>hormone therapy. In fact, two years ago, three prisoners at your  
>>institution had a telemedicine conference with Dr. Lori Kohler, who  
>>diagnosed all of them as having GID. Further, she prescribed hormone  
>>therapy to all three prisoners (two of whom had been on hormone therapy  
>>prior to their arrival at CSP-Corcoran). These prescriptions were later  
>>blocked by then Chief Medical Officer Dr. Yee, who failed to explain his  
>>actions.  
>>  
>>Denial of continuing necessary medical treatment for a pre-existing  
>>condition, and of beginning medical therapy for a newly-diagnosed condition,  
>>is in direct violation of the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution,  
>>which proscribes against cruel and unusual punishment, as well as California  
>>Constitution, Article 1, Section 17 and California Penal Code, Section 2652.  
>>State courts have also held that hormone therapy is a necessary medical  
>>treatment for transgender prisoners (see attachment).  
>>  
>>Currently, there is one prison in California that offers targeted medical  
>>and mental healthcare services to the transgender and gender-variant  
>>prisoner population. California Medical Facility-Vacaville provides access  
>>to counseling, hormone therapy, and supportive clothing for male-to-female  
>>transgender prisoners. As far as we are aware, there have been no negative

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>>repercussions as a result. In fact, it would be logical to assume that  
>>expanding medical and mental healthcare in this way would only improve  
>>conditions inside by working to ensure that all prisoners have access to  
>>appropriate healthcare services.

>>  
>>Finally, we understand through our legal investigations that transgender and  
>>gender-variant prisoners at CSP-Corcoran have been subjected to homophobic  
>>and demeaning remarks by several COs employed there. This type of abuse  
>>only exacerbates the severe mental anguish these prisoners deal with due to  
>>the lack of appropriate mental and medical services. For example, during a  
>>forceful cell extraction, SHU inmate Lonnie Williams K-52702 was repeatedly  
>>called "faggot" and "punk" by CO K. Blattel as he was pepper-sprayed,  
>>beaten, stripped naked, and placed in chains. According to your staff,  
>>Williams was cell extracted because they were "worried" that he was  
>>suicidal. Surely, this is no way to treat individuals who may possibly be  
>>suicidal. Other instances where transgender and gender-variant prisoners  
>>have been verbally and physically humiliated in the course of their everyday  
>>activities are also noted in our files. Though not all cases are as extreme  
>>as Mr. Williams's, we feel every case is preventable and should not be  
>>tolerated. The reciprocation of respect between inmates and staff is duly  
>>mandated in California Penal Code, Section 5058, and as such, we expect full  
>>participation from both parties. If your office would like further  
>>information regarding sensitivity trainings around transgender issues in a  
>>correctional setting, please contact our office and we will connect you with  
>>Veronika Cauley who has done such trainings with the San Francisco County  
>>Sheriffs Department.

>>  
>>In closing, we urge you investigate these important issues immediately and  
>>to implement changes that will adequately resolve these problems.

>>  
>>Thank you for your attention to this matter.

>>  
>>Sincerely,

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>>  
>>Kevin Weaver

>>The HIV and Hepatitis C in Prison Committee and  
>>The Trans/Gender-Variant in Prison Committee,  
>>California Prison Focus

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>>  
>>Attachment

>>  
>>cc:Edward S. Alameida, Jr., Chairperson, CDoC  
>>Michael L. Bendon, Chief Medical Officer, CSP-Corcoran  
>>Dr. Susann Steinberg, Deputy Director, Health Care Services Division, CDoC  
>>Steve White, Inspector General, State of California  
>>Carole Migden, Chairperson, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
>>Chris Daley, Attorney-at-Law, National Center for Lesbian Rights  
>>Veronika Cauley, Commissioner, City and County of San Francisco  
>>Dr. Lori Kohler, Director, Family Health Center, San Francisco General  
>>Hospital  
>>Various Human Rights Organizations and Members of the Media

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## ***Concerned about HIV in Prison, Medical Neglect and Abuse?***

Get involved in campaigns for justice, human rights and dignity for prisoners with HIV/AIDS and other serious medical problems. Help expose the silent but deadly brutality of medical neglect at Corcoran state prison. Support HIV+ women prisoners and their continuing battle for adequate medical care at California's largest women's prison in Chowchilla. Advocate for HIV peer education and prisoner access to condoms, dental dams and bleach. Fight for compassionate release for all dying prisoners.

**Come to the first meeting of the  
HIV In Prison Committee  
of California Prison Focus**

**Wednesday, April 29  
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
2489 Mission St. #28, SF**

For more information call (510) [REDACTED]