

"The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons."

-Fyodor Dostoyevsky

"The poor. Why should anyone care about the poor, I mean why? Forget about Jesus Christ and the Good Samaritan, I mean you can go to church once a week and pray to the man hanging on a cross and hope you get to heaven. I ain't like that. Heaven is here, right now. And it's how you live your life that matters, right now. And it's how you can wake up and look yourself in the mirror every morning, into your soul, and say I'm doing the right thing, cause I care"

-Dr. Helen Caldicott

"You've gotta give 'em hope!"

-Harvey Milk

We have two regular nights where we meet to answer letters and send out books.

We're located at the Metropolitan Community Church Golden Gate, 1508 Church Street, between 27th and Duncan, San Francisco, CA every Tuesday and Wednesday night.



Times are between 6 and 9 P.M.

Prisoners should write their requests and comments to Locked Out, c/o Bound Together Books, 1369 Haight Street, San Francisco, CA 94117.

For any other information, please call 415-489-7279 and leave a short, detailed message.

LOCKED OUT OF SIGHT



BUT NOT OUT OF MIND

According to the Department of Justice, if present conditions persist, one in every twenty people will serve time in a prison in their lifetime.



In fact, the United States has more people imprisoned than almost every other country in the world, reaching upwards to 2 million.

One million of those prisoners are serving time for non-violent offences. In California between 1992 and 1997, while the violent crime rate was falling by 28 percent, the California prison population

was growing by 270 inmates per week.

Among those incarcerated are transgendered, bisexual, lesbian, and gay inmates. If you can imagine prison getting any worse, consider how it is for this population. Often, these inmates are helpless against the homophobic inmate population and prison staff. Queer prisoners are often attacked by neo-nazi skinheads, confined to lock down because of their orientation, denied vocational, educational and exercise opportunities, insulted by the staff, and subjected to homophobic religious propaganda.

Locked Out is an organization of concerned people, friends, and family, who attempt to make the public aware of these issues. But the main focus of our work is sending free books to inmates who request them. Because of their hostile environment, many of these people do not have access to the prison library, if their prison has a library at all. We provide them with books and magazines that allow them to exercise their mind, learn how to read, understand the world, and even to escape into a world less harsh than the one they know.

Besides our book project, we can assist inmates in other ways. These include

- Providing a list of gay and lesbian lawyers, as well as other queer and non-queer resources



- Document and report abuse to various organizations, such as Amnesty International
- Depending on the case, take action, such as petitions, benefits, letter writing campaigns, etc.
- Function as an information source for people in the community to learn about the plight of queer prisoners