



WOMEN IN PRISON PROJECT 2015

The Correctional Association of New York (CA) is a non-profit criminal justice policy advocacy organization. One of three CA projects, the **Women in Prison Project** (WIPP) carries out a powerful and strategically integrated program in New York to:

- ✓ Reduce the use of prison for women and end mass incarceration.
- ✓ Ensure that prison conditions for women are as humane and just as possible.
- ✓ Reform the criminal justice system to treat women and all people with fairness, dignity and justice.

Our work is guided by the principle that women most directly impacted by incarceration are the experts and have the right to be **leaders** in changing the punitive criminal justice policies that directly affect their lives.

Under unique statutory authority granted to the CA in 1846, WIPP **monitors conditions in NY's women's prisons**, a role played by no other group in the country. WIPP coordinates the **Coalition for Women Prisoners**, a statewide alliance of 1,800 people and the NY's foremost advocacy group focused on women directly impacted by prison, and conducts **advocacy campaigns** to reform harmful criminal justice policies. In 2003, WIPP launched **ReConnect**, a leadership and advocacy training program for women recently home from incarceration. WIPP also performs research, **publishes reports**, and conducts public education, coalition building and community organizing.

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

- ✓ Spearheaded successful campaigns to enact the (1) **Anti-Shackling Law**, which forbids prisons and jails from restraining incarcerated women during labor, delivery and recovery; (2) **Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) Expanded Discretion Law**, which helps protect the parental rights of incarcerated parents with children in foster care; (3) **HIV-Hepatitis C Oversight Law** which requires the Department of Health to monitor HIV/HCV care in prison; and (4) **Medicaid Suspension Law**, which reversed the state's practice of terminating Medicaid for people entering prison and jail.
- ✓ Helped secure state funding for a **family visitation** program at New York's largest women's prison and established health and parenting sections in the libraries of each women's prison.
- ✓ Initiated a rigorous program to **monitor conditions** inside women's prisons using gender-specific research tools and to advocate for critical improvements.
- ✓ Graduated **180 women** from ReConnect and launched an initiative for women to continue working with WIPP on criminal justice campaigns after they graduate.

WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW

- ✓ Distributing **Reproductive Injustice: the State of Reproductive Health Care for Women in New York State Prisons**, the most comprehensive study of reproductive health for incarcerated women to date. This report is part of our campaign to promote reproductive justice for incarcerated women, including improving reproductive health in prison and ending the barbaric practice of shackling pregnant women.
- ✓ Leading a groundbreaking campaign to enact the **Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act** and change the criminal justice system's unjust punishment of survivors who act to protect themselves from domestic violence.
- ✓ Strengthening the 2009 **Anti-Shackling Law** and expanding the legal ban on shackling to women during all stages of pregnancy, and ensuring effective implementation of the 2010 ASFA Expanded Discretion Law which helps incarcerated mothers and fathers protect their **parental rights**.
- ✓ Distributing our housing guide for women returning from prison and jail, **A Place to Call My Own: Women and the Search for Housing After Incarceration**, and launching the spring 2015 cycle of **ReConnect**.

Correctional Association of New York's Women in Prison Project (WIPP) Staff, 2004 – 2015

- **Tamar Kraft-Stolar**
 - Project Director, 2003 – 2015

- **Jaya Vasandani**
 - Project Associate, 2004 – 2007
 - Prison Monitoring Consultant, 2008 – 2010
 - Associate Director of Prison Monitoring, 2010 – 2011
 - Associate Director, 2011 – 2015

- **Andrea Williams**
 - ReConnect Program Coordinator, 2004 – 2005
 - ReConnect Program Director, 2006 – 2015
 - ReConnect Program Director & Special Projects Coordinator, 2015

- **Stacey Thompson**
 - Community Outreach Educator, 2004 – 2005
 - Community Outreach Coordinator, 2005 – 2009
 - Coalition Associate, 2010 – 2012

- **Serena Martin**
 - Project Associate, 2007 – 2009
 - Associate Director of Policy, 2009 – 2010
 - Consultant, 2011

- **Jackie Velez**
 - WIPP Assistant, 2009 – 2013

- **Maggie Williams**
 - WIPP Associate Director, 2008 – 2009

- **Anisah Sabur**
 - Project Associate, 2014 – 2015