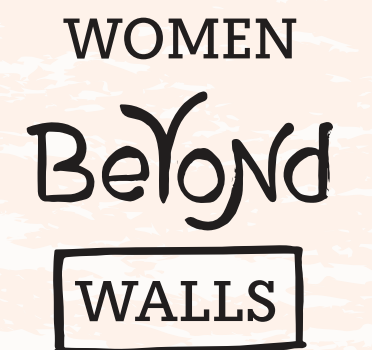


From poverty to punishment

Examining laws and practices that criminalise women due to poverty or status worldwide



“THE STAGGERING RISE IN THE NUMBER OF INCARCERATED WOMEN - DRIVEN BY POVERTY, ABUSE, AND DISCRIMINATORY LAWS - DEMANDS URGENT REDRESS. BEHIND EACH STATISTIC LIES THE STORY OF A WOMAN WHOSE POTENTIAL HAS BEEN STYMIED BY INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE.

— MARY ROBINSON
FORMER PRESIDENT
OF IRELAND

3/4 of a **MILLION!!**
WOMEN & GIRLS ARE
ESTIMATED TO BE IN
PRISON WORLDWIDE.

57% THE RATE AT WHICH THE
FEMALE PRISON POPULATION
HAS GROWN SINCE 2000.

FINDINGS



LAWS & POLICIES
CRIMINALISE WOMEN FOR
LIFE-SUSTAINING
ACTIVITIES AND
SURVIVAL

HARSH DRUG LAWS
= INCREASE IN WOMEN'S
IMPRISONMENT



CULTURAL AND
MORALITY-BASED LAWS
DISPROPORTIONATELY
PUNISH WOMEN



WOMEN ARE CRIMINALISED FOR THEIR
SEXUALITY, GENDER IDENTITY,
REPRODUCTIVE, OR
MENTAL HEALTH STATUS



URGENT NEED FOR MORE
GENDER-
DISAGGREGATED
DATA AND ANALYSIS



RECOMMENDATIONS

DECRIMINALISE POVERTY-
DRIVEN ACTIVITIES

INCREASE
FUNDING

REFORM
DRUG
LAWS

DECRIMINALISE
SEX WORK

END
CRIMINALISATION
OF WITCHCRAFT
AND SORCERY

LEGAL AID AND
EMPOWERMENT
PROGRAMMES

ABOLISH THE
DEATH
PENALTY

ABOLISH 'STATUS
OFFENCES'
INCLUDING
SO-CALLED 'HONOUR'
OR 'MORALITY' CRIMES

PROMOTE
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

HOLD
GOVERNMENTS
ACCOUNTABLE

DECRIMINALISE
SAME-SEX RELATIONS

DECRIMINALISE
ABORTION

MORE GENDER-
DISAGGREGATED
DATA

SCALE UP EFFORTS, SHARE
GOOD PRACTICES

CENTRE WOMEN
WITH LIVED
EXPERIENCE
IN JUSTICE REFORM

GENDER-
SENSITIVE
TRAINING