



**Art & Writing by  
Trans Prisoners in Texas**





Brought to you by:  
Austin Anarchist Black Cross  
[atxanarchistblackcross.wordpress.com](http://atxanarchistblackcross.wordpress.com)  
[atxanarchistblackcross@gmail.com](mailto:atxanarchistblackcross@gmail.com)

All correspondence for this project,  
and information about our organization  
can be directed to:

Austin ABC  
C/O Monkeywrench Books  
110 E North Loop Blvd  
Austin, TX 78751

Design and formatting by  
The Underground Publishing Wing of  
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[monkeywrenchbooks.org](http://monkeywrenchbooks.org)

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*We would like to take this space to include a disclaimer/trigger warning; that is, a way to warn readers of content, ideas, or language that some may find stressful or traumatic. Some essays and poems in this zine discuss violence and depression in various forms. Please take care of yourself while reading this zine; self-care is very important!*

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>J22 2017 STATEMENT</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTOR INFO</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>RESOURCES FOR PRISONERS</b>	<b>39</b>

## ESSAYS & LETTERS

Some Highlights <i>by Katrina Marie C</i>	13
How to Handle Stressful Days <i>by Corderral J.S. Ryan</i>	15
Untitled <i>by Joe Villareal</i>	20
A Letter <i>by Britney Joy</i>	22
A Letter <i>by Ms. Milana</i>	25
A Letter <i>by Jamiee Lynn</i>	31
Stay Strong <i>by Corderral J.S. Ryan</i>	31
Untitled <i>by Jack</i>	32
Untitled <i>by Selene Vinson</i>	35
A Letter <i>by Krysta Marie Morningstar</i>	36
Tips on Writing an Effective Grievance <i>by Vanessa</i>	38
A Letter <i>by Paula R.</i>	40
Untitled <i>by David "Crystal" Duran</i>	43

## POETRY

I Am Who I Always Was <i>by Jamiee Lynn</i>	13
Inside These Walls of Mine <i>by Kimberly</i>	19
What is Love <i>by Georgia</i>	20
My Solitary World <i>by Lady Mistique</i>	26
Bathroom Law <i>by Marius Mason</i>	27
Karma <i>by Angel</i>	43

## ART

Lonely Bird <i>by Joe Villarreal</i>	14
Untitled <i>by Kat Rocha</i>	18
Pride <i>by E. A. Davis</i>	21
Race Car <i>by Amanda Murray</i>	23
Fairy <i>by Kimberly</i>	24
X and Anna <i>by Vanessa</i>	28
Prince <i>by Marius Mason</i>	29
Self Portrait 1 <i>by Selene Vinson</i>	34
Self Portrait 2 <i>by Selene Vinson</i>	37
Inner Reflections <i>by Krysta Marie Morningstar</i>	42

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to “Together We Can Break These Chains”, a zine composed for and by trans and gender variant people currently incarcerated in the Texas prison system. This project is a response to the anticipated second annual Trans Prisoner Day of Action, which calls for a greater effort to raise awareness around prisoner’s struggles, to connect people inside and outside of prisons, and to promote non-criminalized identities and personal expressions.

By creating this zine, we sought to highlight and share the struggles, passions, and abilities of trans prisoners in Texas through their artwork, poems, and essays.

Per the website [www.transprisoners.net](http://www.transprisoners.net):

Jan 22, 2017 marks the second annual international Trans Prisoner Day of Action and Solidarity. If you are on the front lines, doing this work every day, then Jan 22 is a day to celebrate and honor your actions. For everyone else, this is a day to collaborate, be an accomplice not an ally, to prioritize, act, protest, resist, raise awareness, and reach out to trans prisoners, forging new relationships and dismantling the isolation of prison. We encourage you to host a letter writing night reaching out to trans prisoners, hold vigils for those in our communities who have been taken by State violence, to plan an event, organize speakers, screen films, invite presentations, and give workshops to spread the word on the experience of trans prisoners, share knowledge, and build strategies of resistance. Have dance parties and raise funds for people and groups already doing amazing work. Take action. Let’s join together and show our conviction in supporting each other and ending prisons once and for all.

This project was first imagined by Marius Mason, a trans prisoner in Texas, USA. Since then, through his friends and supporters, an international collection of people both inside and outside of prison walls have come together to make Trans Prisoner Day of Action a reality. We are trans and non-trans folks and friends and supporters. We join a long tradition of trans and queer people resisting state violence.

So who are the people behind this zine you are holding in your hands? Monkeywrench Books is an all-volunteer, collectively-run radical infoshop and community space in Austin. Among the many groups that meet there, Austin Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) hosts a weekly letter-writing night to prisoners, as well as creating educational content and advocacy against the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC). Austin ABC defines a prisoner as anyone who is imprisoned within the confines of

an illegitimate, oppressive system or structure. These structures and systems include, but are not limited to: the PIC, the capitalist system and the inequality it breeds, institutionalized and socialized homophobia, sexism, racism, hierarchy, and classism, and the prison of coercion. As a prison abolition collective, the Austin Anarchist Black Cross wishes to abolish all prisons and institutions that wish to incarcerate free and autonomous individuals. The Austin ABC collective believes in a consensus-based community and life for all people.

With that said, all we did was write this convoluted introduction, format and print the pages. The amazing content is entirely by our friends on the inside. We made the decision to digitally transcribe the essays and poems for formatting purposes, as well as to make the content as accessible as possible. We transcribed these materials exactly as is, to represent each person to the best of our abilities.

We are happy to continue accepting submissions so that a third edition can be compiled later in 2017, in addition to our blog and upcoming newsletters.

## **AUSTIN ABC 2016 REPORT BACK & 2017 INITIATIVES:**

As part of the call for submissions for this year's zine, Austin ABC also sent out a survey to about 50 trans prisoners in Texas. We received a little over 30 responses to this survey and noticed important, but unfortunately not surprising, trends. Less than ten percent of survey respondents have received the barest minimum of gender affirming items. More than half of respondents receive unwanted sexual attention from other prisoners and staff, and when the harassment is reported, no official actions are taken. Only a third of respondents were receiving necessary hormones, with several people still waiting on the cumbersome process required by TDCJ, and a few denied hormones outright. Regarding being isolated from general population (not by their own request), five people who responded reported being in solitary confinement or ad seg, and all of these felt it was related to being trans. Two people emphasized the urgent need for TDCJ to house trans prisoners together, in order to create more physical and mental safety. This is something we have advocated for in 2016, and anticipate to do more of this year. Again, unfortunately, all of this information is not necessarily surprising. Still, we remain hopeful, guided by the strength of those on the inside, that we will see positive changes as we push onward.

In the last year, Austin ABC has been able to grow positively not only in number of collective members, actions, and projects, but most

importantly, in the number of connections with people on the inside. This was definitely shown by the significant increase in not only submissions for this 2017 zine, but in the continuing number of letters and requests for penpals we are receiving that we sometimes lack the resources to keep up with! In addition to building our capacity for penpals in 2017, we hope to continue advocating for individual prisoners and prison abolition through a variety of tactics and actions, from call and email blasts to obtain gender affirming items for an individual prisoner already on hunger strike to noise demos outside local jails letting those locked up know they are not alone. Additional projects Austin ABC hopes to accomplish this year include putting out a quarterly newsletter (once every 3 months) with relevant updates about what is going on in the free world and works from Texas prisoners while also starting to work on a longer term project with a radical publisher to put together a physical, full fledged book of essays from trans prisoners about their experiences in prison systems all over the world.

With 8 volunteer collective members, the volume of requests we have begun receiving over the course of the past year has far exceeded our capabilities. To build our capacity in this regard, we have paired up with Houston ABC to create a blog that's sole purpose is to match up queer and trans incarcerated people with free world friends. We're calling this project the "Radical Alliance for Queer and Trans Prisoner Correspondence". Yeah, it's a long name, but it gets the point across! Per the website, our mission statement reads as follows:

Houston Anarchist Black Cross and Austin Anarchist Black Cross are collaborating on this project to focus on solidarity work with incarcerated queer and trans folks.

Queer and trans prisoner solidarity work is vital to us as queers and allies on the outside. We live in a homophobic, transphobic, and transmisogynistic society and one of the many reasons we want to see the end to all prisons is because of the despicable and disproportionate rate that queer and trans people are incarcerated.

Our numbers are small, so there are very real limitations to what we can do for the hundreds of queer prisoners in the Gulf Coast. However, we hope to make meaningful connections with people on the inside by building a family through letters and providing useful and entertaining literature.

We'll shut up now so you can start enjoying the contents of this publication! ♥

—Austin Anarchist Black Cross

## J22 STATEMENT

*by Marius Mason*

Dear Family and Friends,

This has been a strange and intense year, both for me personally and for so many others as this world has changed significantly. It has been an inspiration to witness the Black Lives Matter movement as it confronts police brutality and to draw wisdom from that. It has been an inspiration to witness the federation of peoples supporting the Standing Rock Tribe as they confront the ecologically suicidal energy policy of this country, and to draw wisdom from that. And we have borne witness to the struggle for freedom and dignity that so many who have been forced to leave their homes in order to escape war, poverty and violence and in the hopes of finding a more open society where they can put down roots. Though, sadly, all refugees find themselves at risk of prejudice and abuse, trans people have found that they experience a unique discrimination and isolation as they cross borders, and find themselves set apart in detention centers, unable to access medical care and suffering abuse. We continue to gather and hear the stories of trans prisoners who continue to be raped and physically brutalized, in an effort to advocate for their safety and protection and to offer our help. We have seen a year where the laws and policies have changed and shifted, sometimes increasing the civil rights and access to care for trans folks, and sometimes identifying them for particular discrimination and criminalization through the new “bathroom laws” and local ordinances limiting their protection from job and housing discrimination. The United States has a history of civil rights being fought for and lost in a constant dance of egalitarians confronting bigotry, in all of its many forms. We must remain determined and implacable.

As we prepare for a new administration to influence the massive system of incarceration that holds such a large fraction of the population in thrall, we must re-commit ourselves to standing strong for the rights of trans prisoners who will definitely find themselves facing new challenges to the recent changes in healthcare offered to trans prisoners. We must be vigilant and active, so that what few advances have been made are not rescinded. For this reason, it is more important than ever for there to be a lively discussion possible between those who live and work on either side of the walls that separate us. By coming together and building community, by taking the time to develop connection through whatever means of communication are possible - incarcerated trans folks become less vulnerable to attack and our



communities (both LGBT and straight) become stronger as we work to connect and protect each other.

I want to thank all of you who wrote and who organized for supporting incarcerated trans people today. This means so much to me, that I and others like me can be supported. I find great comfort in helping support others who, like me, find themselves attempting to transition in prison. This year has brought a lot of hope for me, as I was finally approved for hormone therapy and began taking testosterone shots on September 14th. The changes have been subtle, and this will be a long road having been so long delayed - but I am hopeful that within a year, I will be allowed to begin the surgeries I need to be medically re-assigned. But there is no guarantee that this policy will stay in place, and it is imperative for all trans folks to be supported in the kind of health care they need (whatever that may be, not everyone needs the same things or anything at all, other than recognition). I also think that as a community that does prisoner support for our comrades behind bars, that we must make sure that all incarcerated folks have access to healthcare, whether that be trans identity related or not.

I wish so much that I could be more present with you all. It gives me so much hope and strength to know that you are out there for us inside—just as I am here inside for all of you. We are one spirit, many hearts, moving towards freedom and where we will live the dream of the world released from injustice and brutality. I am so proud to be with you today; many, many thanks and I hope to know more of you as we move together towards what 2017 will bring.

Love and solidarity,  
Marius Mason

# **I AM WHO I ALWAYS WAS**

*by Jamiee Lynn*

They, They, They Always love to say oh him he's Gay! Like thats all there is to me...So was I gay before I was, or what, before I was gay? Well, then what is it to be gay? Guys with limp wrists, walking with a twist, talking with a lisp All proper + prim, toned up and tanned copper with dance moves as smooth as a helicopter. Dressed in loud colorful Flamingo shirts, Always a flirt, scared of dirt And grease...

Well then, thats not me, not me cuz I'm ghetto and grimy, Dickies and Doc Martians, Not straight, but str-8 off them dirty westside streets, skipped a lot of school, so I'm an under-educated fool, ya'dig? Hard to the cord covered in tattoos? Knuckles up and scarred from street wars, been beat and broken to the floor but nothing down there, so I never stayed down there. I'm never scared to speak my mind, even when it may not be in my best interests sometimes, so yo' fuck society's easy labels + lets turn the tables, cuz I am — way more than just a man who loves another man. I'm down for the struggle and I'm thuggin' while Angels and Demons are tuggin'. Oh my broken heart strings, I'm another lovers sweet dreams. I'm a dad, sister, mother, brother and brother, I never looked good in colorful shirts of flamingo's or Rainbows, never spoke with a lispy lingo, my dance moves suck crazy and to top it off I'm just plain lazy, except when I'm not scared to be an outcast!! so ya'll, Fuck 'em if they Judge and by rights it is all right for us to hold a grudge, But Baby, never Budge. From who you always was...

## **SOME HIGHLIGHTS**

*by Katrina Marie C.*

I need to make a point to address this issue. I feel that transgender should be housed w/ another transgender or somebody they feel comfortable with while on hormone therapy. Not just transgender but to keep it in the family. I'm not in safekeeping, I've been living in population since I've first got on the unit.... I've written Unit of Classification & never did get a response from them.



# HOW TO HANDLE STRESSFUL DAYS

*by Corderral J.S. Ryan*

## INTRODUCTION

My name is Corderral, I am 29 years old and I am the president/ chairman & founding member of a social change semi-underground organization/family of multi-racial membership by the name of United Standing S.T.R.O.N.G. Military Society, which was founded in 2006 and our aims are criminal justice reform, equality, & educational community. I've been incarcerated for over ten years now four in the county jail and only five in prison (Texas Department of Criminal Justice) Clements Unit, i've been in every custody level from G3 to administrative seg. (Not protective custody) which is basically a less restrictive custody level to a very restrictive one & I am a bisexual male so trust me when I say I know the day-to-day struggles one can face while incarcerated, the following is intended to be a guide for those incarcerated with a few tips and advice I can offer to those who are going through it right now as well as for the family members who have loved ones incarcerated you are not alone, we have a urgent need now more than ever to promote unity and community within this nation especially with this new presidential administration coming in to the pay we stay strong and stay focused on the task ahead as we create solutions and not more problems, promote peace not war and stand in solidarity with love for all.

## HOW TO HANDLE STRESSFUL DAYS IN PRISON

No matter if your in the world or in prison nobody wakes up happy everyday, we all have problems, it is how we respond to our daily circumstances and situations that matters most, often times in prison we call it "switching up when someone is having a bad day and they don't seem to be their "normal" self, first we must understand we are all on different paths and points in our walks through life, and we cannot place the blame on others or be negative toward others because we are down nor should we embrace negative things, ways, people on how to deal with stress, we should aim to be productive and not counterproductive in all we do even when we are having a bad day. When I am

having a bad day I make it a point to stop and step back and ask myself why am I feeling this way and what can I do to change that feeling that won't hurt myself or others in the process. Now I understand in daily prison life some things are unavoidable like a correctional officer who comes to work with a attitude or who clearly do things just to get a reaction of you in those situations you must use self-discipline and logic and when all else fails the grievance procedure :) now when dealing with inmates, offenders or whatever title your prison/county jail uses it is advised that you do not use other people as mental or emotional punchings bags that is just wrong. I see that a lot, that goes back to that ole saying if you don't having nothing good to say then don't say nothing at all! Productive things to do when stressed out is: read a book you like, write a book or your personal thoughts down, workout, draw, listen to the radio, talk to someone, go to outside rec or the day-room \*if possible). Counterproductive ways to handle stress is: dwell on a problem, situation or circumstance you have no control over, pick a fight, assault anybody, catch a disciplinary case, get on restriction. So when your having a bad day try to stay strong and if at all positive, it won't rain forever! :)

## **FOR THE HOMOSEXUAL PRISON POPULATION LGBTQ WE MUST STAND IN UNITY AND SOLIDARITY**

PREA or safe prisons as it is known here in Texas thus far has been used against homosexual inmates, to cause problems such as mental and emotional distress and really fails to protect the very people it was created for, it is sad that prison officials use PREA to destroy relationships and sometimes the only mental and emotional support one may have, knowing we (homosexuals) are targets should make us more aware of how we should conduct ourselves in public and with one another to protect our community, we must with care keep one another on point, if you see a brother or sister doing something that may cause them to get a little unwanted attention from prison officials kindly pull them to the side and let them know, trust me they will thank you later. At the same time don't be offended if you're the one being pulled to the side, each one must teach one, we are in this together and real change starts at the ground level and needless to say we are very much on the ground level, there are many outside organizations such as Black & Pink, Austin ABC, Houston ABC, as well as others who we stand in unity and

solidarity with and them with us so never forget we are not alone.

## **FOR THE FREEWORLD FAMILY WHO HAVE LOVED ONES LOCKED UP**

Having loved ones in prison is sometimes as hard as being in prison itself especially if the loved one who is in prison was a parent of a small child, or the main bread winner for the house, incarceration affects so many people on so many different levels us in prison often forget the stress our situations has placed on those who are still free, to those on the outside please understand we need your mental, emotional and sometimes financial support to make it through this place of course most of us is not here by choice, and while we understand it is hard on you by simply taking the time to write a letter you can actually save a life. I've seen people cut themselves because they feel hopeless or alone and that makes me sad to see these things i've seen people die in this place life is truly too short we must take time out for loved ones I know there is work, school, kids and the daily grind of freeworld life but when possible take time out to let your loved one know you care you could just save their life!

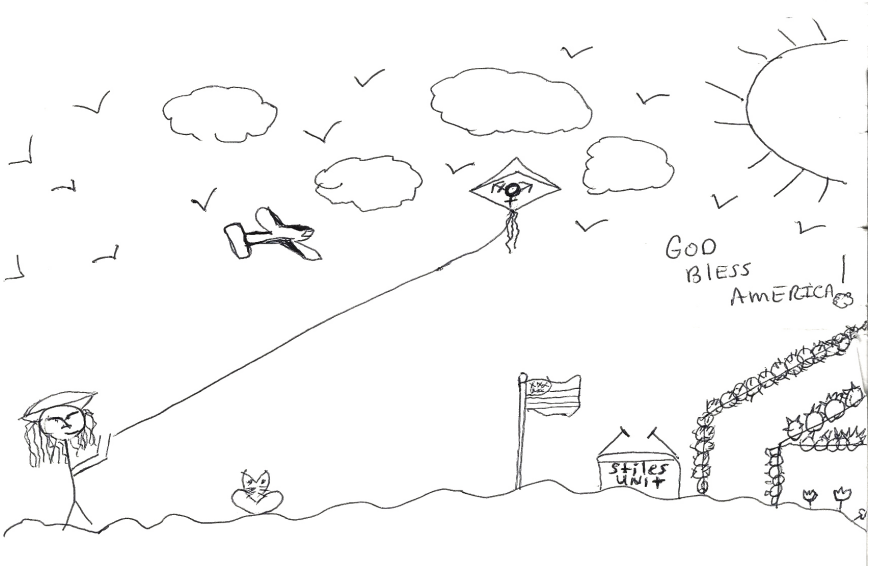
## **FOR TRANS PRISONERS AROUND THE WORLD**

Let me first off say you are beautiful... You are somebody and we stand in solidarity with you. As we continue to fight for trans rights and move forward on this road we will not forget those who came before us, fought for us and gave their very lives for the cause to them we say thank you for your service, we salute you. At a time when so many advancements was made under the Obama administration that are now being threaten to reverse course and come to a halt under this new administration January 22nd must not be the only International Day of Solidarity with Trans prisoners but everyday we must stand in solidarity the fight is far from over. As it was said by the White House #lovewins! :)

## A CALL TO ACTION

In closing I am making this call to action for those behind bars and freeworld alike to fight against ignorance with love and understanding and peace, we must arm ourselves with knowledge, fight with the power of the people make our voices heard, and do everything possible within the law to forge a change for the better as for me and U.S.S.M We stand strong and we stand ready and willing to fight alongside our brothers and sisters in this war for a better world, let's love not hate, build a bridge not walls. Stay united.

With the highest honor,  
Corderral, President/Chairman  
U.S.S.M. Society





# INSIDE THESE WALLS OF MINE

*by Kimberly*

Inside these walls of mine  
I can't keep track of time  
No door  
    No exit  
        Trapped  
Helpless, inside these walls  
Feeling like I will fall  
Crying inside  
    Dying inside  
You see a guy,  
    I tell you it's a lie  
I scream  
    I yell  
        I cry  
You wonder why?  
I would rather die  
Than live this lie  
To not be who I am  
Not what you see with your eyes  
Blind to the tears I cry  
Inside these walls of mine  
I plead,  
    I beg,  
        I cry,

These walls of mine  
Would rather die  
Than live this lie  
And you ask why?  
I say I am she  
When all you see is a he  
Trapped, as I am  
Inside these walls of mine  
I scream,  
    I yell  
        I cry  
The tears fall  
    On these walls of mine

## UNTITLED

*by Joe Villareal*

This is my first step into publicating about my gender. I feel I have to start somewhere and it feels good to do so and be me. About three years ago I was curious on my actions, but mentally I was always curious and I did what I did and it was the greatest experience of my life. I never thought a man could love a person in such a way, especially man to man. That made me of what and who I am today. The only advice I may give to those who are curious or just don't know, don't knock it because you might just find your true self. I've been locked up for sixteen years now and just recently converted my life in late 2013, I'm just sad it took so long for me to find my true self. At first I was scared to come out but the true friends I had which were gay helped me out in my new life. It was simple but yet hard because of my family and daughter, which was my main concern, my daughter came to visit me one day and in a laughing matter I brought it up and then I just told her, and it came out easier than I thought, she accepted me no matter what I became (GAY AND HAPPY). I know it can be hard for a lot of individuals, because I've seen it through my years of being locked up. I pray for you all that are going through these tough times but you have many just like me to lean on which are your closest friends and understand your pain. Don't give up because life does not end Just be you and everything will turn out for the best, because we are who are LGBTQ AND WE strive for our goals in life and that is what makes us better than the norm. Keep your head up and I love you LGBTQ.

## WHAT IS LOVE

*by Georgia*

Is Love a child saying I love you daddy?

Is Love a puppy licking your hand?

Is Love your mother giving a hug?

Is Love giving your life for your country?

Is Love your heart beating faster when that special someone comes into your life?

Is Love Life

Is Love Power

Is Love Hope and strength

Is Love courage

What is Love? A friend who comes to your aide



## A LETTER

*by Britney Joy*

Greetings with profound respects to all special shuttles in the LGBTQ middle way, and our family as Black & Pink. My name is James Warner, but I go by "Jam" as a nick name, or my preferred male to female name, "Britney Joy"\*. I formerly wrote an article for #1 zine and it was editing into that publication. This is in hope I'm able to reach #2 zine in time for its publication. To all you stars who've been subjected to win or loss this past year, I salute you with the spirit of ideas wondered upon. For in truth it's always been the realm of ideologies that's a battlefield. For our opponents who've always opposed our way of life and stumped as to the wrongs are to them. What I have to say digs down their egos of oh so righteousness in that much they (who are just like we) see is part of a carefully constructed illusion given to all this side the womb all the way to the tomb. What in the world is this gay male to female talking about you ask?

Well, let's question a few things in the overt daily lives of all, both in sight and hearing. What's the icon's (marks) of an animal like the NBC Peacock, Republican Elephant or Dem. Donkey, the Kellogg's Rooster, Elmer's Glue Cow, Continental Tire Horse, Gieco Lizard, etc etc etc. mean? Yes what do such icon marks mean? Let's see about those in the animal hierarchy that are in Name. Caterpillar Equipment, Fox News, Duck Tape, Grey Goose Vodka, Hooter's owl, Playboy Bunny, Duck's Unlimited, The Black Panther Party, The Grey Panthers, Frog Tape, Gorilla Glue, etc etc etc. This is to name a very few in name. Is there a global principality of an animal platform style via names and iconic marks? We see these separately, but could we be in illusion to seeing it with an understanding? Does this have anything to do with the Bible Book of Revelations 13:17, where it speaks of marks and names of animals, that verse 18 says are human? Is there a covert global animal conservation club that are not actual animals but rather human enterprises named after or marked with animals? All those who fight to oppose the LGBTQ platform have such program brought to them by someone. Why not ponder and think for one's self about ideas that are unique and may well be important to understand.

Like just say this, we all have heard of "Enoch" in the bible, who was Seth's lineage and who walked with God. We know there is a book supposedly passed down from him and found in a monastery in Ethiopia in the 1700s. But how do we know for sure this text is not an infiltration straight off Cain's first son who's name was also Enoch? Do we think for our self or have imposed ideas placed upon us. To all I say,

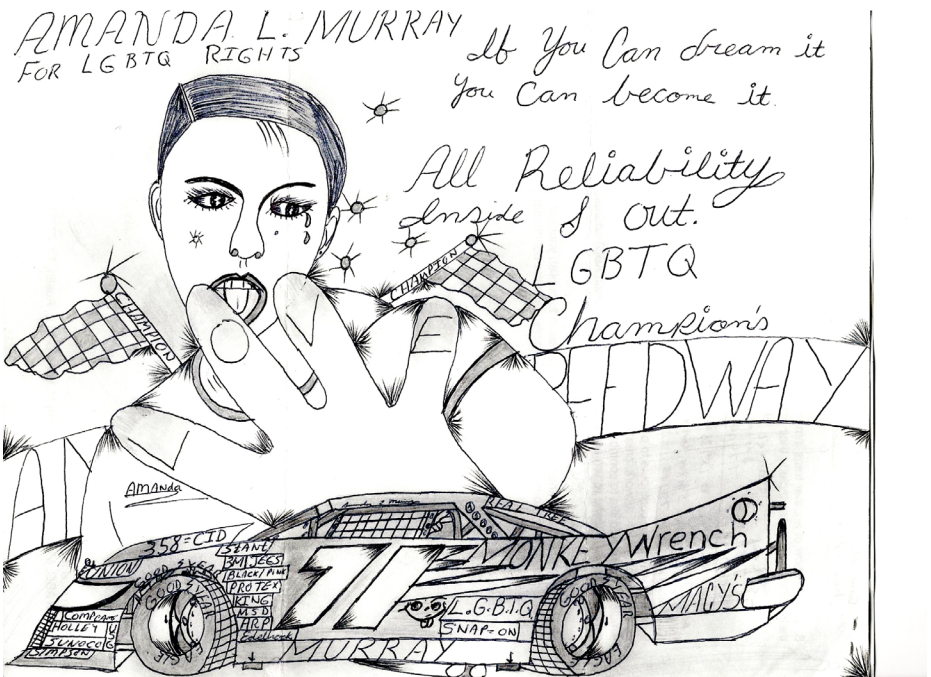


learn to think for your self and program yourself with worthy understandings. God made every one perfectly the way they are for his own reasonings, stop (alto) being so judgemental and question ideas that may get you some-where in your life. To all straights and to all in the middle way parallel I salute you with the spirit of hope and wisdom for a better future. Again ideologies both covert and overt are much more important to focus ones mind on, for truly understanding the world around you is much wise. Question ideologies that have merit worth understanding. Think about the beautiful people around you and realize wisdom is in all of them, you skittles are wise beautiful, all in and out. Struggle to know your selfs. I love all you of our family Black and Pink, keep letting y'all's star shine.

Always y'all's sister girl,

Britney Joy on Conolly Unit, Texas  
AKA James Paul Warner

PS: Smile and hug yourselves, you are special and loved!





## A LETTER

*by Ms. Milana*

To my Brother's and Sister's, HEY! I don't have much to say. Just keep your heads up and stay true to yourselves. Love one another. Believe me, I know some of us make that hard cuz all the drama and mess they bring, but don't stoop to their level. Shout out to Damien "Courtney" Martinez, I love you, bitch, and I hope you're doing okay. Shout out to Baby G and Constance on Michael unit. To the ABC Family, that make this Publication Possible, Thank you for your support and love. Keep doing what you're doing. If

anyone wants to write you can hit me up at: K. Quincy #1684004 938 S. F.M. 1673 Snyder, Texas 79549. You can find me on facebook also, under "Milana Quincy." Please, no haters or negative people. I have enough stress in my life. I don't have time for bullshit. Love, Peace and keep ur heads up.

XOXO,  
*Ms. Milana*





# MY SOLITARY WORLD

*by Lady Mistique*

My Solitary World - the place which I exist  
 Wilfully oblivious to my surroundings  
 In darkness, tightly clenching my fists.  
 The pounding of my heart...

Anger is a red mist  
 Self-hatred in my head  
 Wishing I were dead...!

... The woman inside me cries to be released,  
 Disgusted with this male body.

Will confusion and madness never cease?

I hate my body - its hairiness and penis!

No breasts; no womb, or vagina,

To the gods I shake my fists!

And yell to the skies:

Why'd you make me like this?!

Female inside, yet, outwardly male?

A woman, cursed, living with a man's parts?

The idiocy of it all breaking my heart.

YOU GAVE ME THE WRONG BODY!!!

I hate my life - I don't want to be a male!

Do you hate me so much

To make me live an earthly hell?

In my solitary world

Dreaming of life as a female

In my breast excitement swells!

Oh! What peace and joy to be myself,

Nothing would make me happier,

Not even the worlds wealth.

In my solitary world -

I just want to be a woman!

Is that so much to ask?!

What is the problem?

With hormones and a sex change,

It'd be an arduous, yet simple task.

In my solitary world -

I am mystique...

No longer Shawn Barclay.

I am the woman that I seek.

In my solitary world,

# BATHROOM LAW

*by Marius Mason*

I am in the middle of a shit storm without a scrap of toilet paper  
 Trans and token and barely tolerated in Texas,  
 Though way past school-age  
 The news these past few days like a Jerry Springer marathon on one  
 topic  
 Unhinged angry-faced bullies, Rainbow hearts and brave allies  
 Accusations and absurdities fly around the room like spitballs  
 All about who can do what where in the bathrooms at school  
 We all gotta pee, it's a commonality  
 In history, predictably, there's always the backlash  
 Every tortured step forward in civil rights progression towards equal-  
 ity, humanity  
 Is met with tragedy  
 From battered Medgar Evers' body  
 And Billie Holiday's strange hangin' fruit  
 To secret sailors flung overboard at sea and  
 Harvey Milk gunned down for being gay  
 How many years of little white signs on Bathrooms, drinking fountains,  
 busses  
 Throughout the taciturn South  
 That said that to share this American life as equal citizens  
 Was to be contaminated  
 Those thugs worried about safety, too  
 They were protecting Southern womanhood by killing four little girls  
 at church  
 What a load of crap, a tsunami of filth  
 A backed-up toilet of ignorance, no less dangerous  
 For its lack of common sense  
 But here's the clincher  
 We all have skin in this game  
 No matter what color you are  
 We all gotta pee, it's a commonality  
 and just like those wily old Nazis  
 Who knew to go for the edges, then cut to the middle  
 If they can make laws shaming and blaming and curtailing the rights  
 Of people like me, now  
 Then they can make a law stick to your sore spot, too  
 It's all about power and precedent,  
 And really, we all gotta pee  
 That's just human.









## A LETTER

*by Jamiee Lynn*

First + foremost let me shout out to all my people, all LGBTQ, and anyone who falls under the 7 colors of our Rainbow! My name is Jamiee Lynn. I'm 40 yrs. young. I've been locked up for 15yrs. in the Great state of Texas...It hasn't always been great. I've been through some very hard times. I've been raped, beat and stomped to the ground, and all because I'm transgender...Back in 2006 I was raped and nothing was done, only got locked up and given a case for allowing it to happen. They blamed me, said I enticed the two dudes into having sex. That was back before PREA came into existence, but is that for the Greater now? I'm on hormones now, and I have boobs, but I still can't get into safe keeping. The unit I'm on treats Transgender like were the dirt on the bottom of their shoes. Allred unit safe prisons officials can't stand us. They try to write us up for the smallest stuff. It's crazy. I think that we are supposed to be housed in the house with other transgenders, but they house us in the house with people that hate us. But it's all good because one day it might slap them in the face when one of us get raped or killed...

Keep y'all's heads up ^

Blessed BE  
Always with Love and  
In Solidarity!!  
—Jamiee Lynn

## STAY STRONG

*by Corderral J.S. Ryan*

Being in prison is a hardship we may or may not have earned, having and maintaining a relationship while in prison is even harder, it takes ALOT of UNDERSTANDING, TRUST, LOVE, LOYALTY AND DEVOTION, the greatest of these is LOVE. We are loved, we are wanted and we are one, when the load get a little too hard to bear... STAY STRONG... not everyday will be a good day but STAY STRONG. You are beautiful... we will continue to move forward building upon the skills and intelligence of one another thus we will not fail, we ARE STRONG! UNITED WE STAND AND UNITED WE WILL MOVE FORWARD... SO REMEMBER STAY STRONG... I LOVE YOU.

# UNTITLED

*by Jack*

I am transgender just beginning my transition to male. I have been incarcerated for three years, two of which here in solitary confinement. I would like to say that PREA, although well-intentioned, is a joke at best. Every six months I get a review by Safe Prisons to ensure I am safe. Well, the one time I was actually being stalked and sexually harassed I reported it to PREA. Because none of the people (inmate and staff) would witness on my behalf, the investigation was concluded with a "non-substantiated" finding. It was assumed that I could not be harassed if no one witnessed it. So forgive me if I have no faith in PREA.

Living in ad-seg is demoralizing, hopeless and robs you of all interpersonal skills because of the lack of human interaction. I can agree for ad-seg as a disciplinary tool short-term. But I'm housed with people who have been here 5, 10, 12 years and have stayed out of trouble but still can't get voted to return to General Population. I personally have been passed up for meals, denied recreation and shower, all because an officer doesn't like that I'm transgender. All it takes is a slight disagreement or the voicing of one's opinion about the staff to get bogus disciplinary reports and demoted to a lower level where you are denied books and hygiene products and it takes you three months to work your way back up.

Next, I'd like to dispel the myth that the prison takes care of all our needs. Prison is a for-profit business that cares only how to make money from prisoners. We receive one roll of toilet paper a week and sometimes four bars of soap smaller than a hotel soap. That's it. Everything else must be purchased. I cannot stress enough the importance of supporting anyone you know inside prison. Without that support, many of us are resorting to selling meals or entering into relationships just to get what we need. A few church organizations help, but only at the holiday times. The rest of the year we must fend for ourselves. The system also charges us \$100/year for medical care. If a person has no funds, they will issue paper, pens and five stamps a month, the cost of which is placed as a hold on your account and so many of us never see any money deposited because of our debts.

The system is making more money than ever with the addition of phones, email, care packages, electronic fund deposits, and the various product-producing industries they achieve through free inmate labor. We eat little to none of what is grown in the fields and from the cattle raised and sold. And yet, none of this money is being invested in the prison. The lighting, plumbing, and building structures are outdated

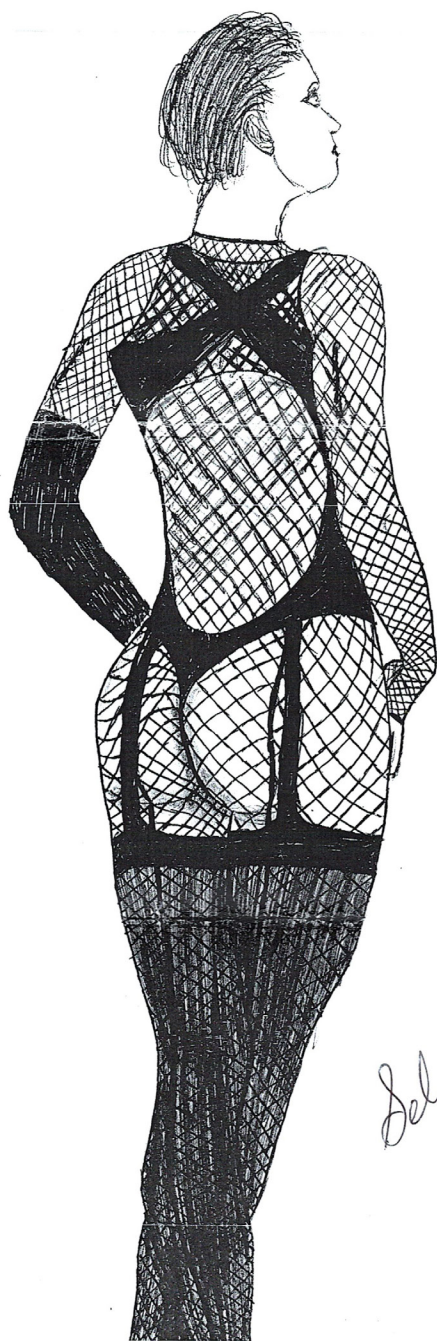


and faulty. Whenever it rains outside, my cell leaks the water right onto my bed. The foundation is cracked allowing entrance to a host of insects but all that is done is bug spray is applied to the outside walls.

The grievance process is the largest failure in the institute. I will give the warden credit for the many imaginative untruths she offers as answers to our grievances. Non-existent "investigations" happen all the time which always conclude you either have no basis for the grievance or an officers word has been accepted over yours. This is what happens when a governing body is self-regulated. We are being treated outside of policy whenever it benefits us but anything restricting us is enforced with all rigor. I know of one person who the warden said she would not vote to let her out of solitary until she grew two inches of hair. This is nowhere in the requirements of being allowed in General Population. This is a clear abuse of power on the warden's part. There are many people in General Population with short hair cuts way less than two inches. But they have to keep ad-seg full because this is only one of two units that houses people in solitary and that ensures good population statistics so they can continue to get money for each inmate.

In closing, I'd like to say that the way we are fed is atrocious. We only get fed enough to keep us alive. Yes, I have complimented the staff when we do get a good meal but only because it's so few and far between. Can you imagine eating beans lunch and dinner 365 days a year? We are always hungry, especially between dinner served at 4PM and breakfast at 4AM. Our food is always cold and often mixed all up from the haphazard way our trays are handled. Again, please provide means for your loved ones to purchase additional food items. It makes all the difference.

We are helpless to change the system from inside. But the voting public can help end extended solitary confinement and mass incarceration. I personally thank all the free world advocates currently working to free us and fighting for better conditions. One day we shall win over oppression.



Selene K. Vinson  
#1595965

## UNTITLED

*by Selene Vinson*

I have been currently doing my damndest to get these assholes to allow us trans women to grow our hair and issue us panties. These are things we have been ordered by the Gender specialist. It took me a long time but I did wind up getting bras. Happily I'll say I was the 1st "man" to get bras under transgender. They pass em out like crazy on Stiles unit. But some of my sisters on other units still are not getting them. It's a work in progress all over I reckon. My ultimate goal is sex reassignment surgery. I've taken a couple months off lately to sit back, relax, refocus my mind to match the progress my body is having feminizing. It's really becoming harder to live with a cell mate that is male as 95% of em are enthralled with a chick with a dick! Sorry for the vulgarity but it helps people to understand the position us trans women are in with these "male" inmates. Sexually I identify as fluid. More so as a lesbian. As when 2 years back I adored men. Currently I am anti-men. With my body so feminine as it is I am continually sexually harassed by male cell mates.

TDCJ officials at the unit level I know are not educated on the effects of hormones on trans women. Specifically how it weakens us as we lose muscle mass. We are equivalent of biological women. So that does make us more vulnerable to successful attacks of the sexual variety as we can be overpowered. It's a long road. The fact that I feel we should only be celled with like medical people (transgenders who are on therapy also). It's an option on our medical classification sheets. I'm still brainstorming on the best route to take. Because any time a trans woman complains or suggests a better or safer way of things we are automatically put in a solitary style cell, deny you all privileges you'd have if you sit back and let them railroad you any way they desire. The only time they do the right thing is when they feel they'll have to answer to Joe Q Public.

## A LETTER

*by Krysta Marie Morningstar*

J22 Collective,

How are you all on this upcoming second annual Trans-Prisoner day of action? I was most honored by you during the first one, you printed my story in all its shocking detail, right at the beginning of the zine. Then, even though I feared public reprisal instead I received an outpouring of support and solidarity from across the world. The most touching of all came from a kind soul in Finland, who took the time to draw a picture of a flower, growing from seed to blossom to seed again, reminding me that beautiful flowers can grow from dirt. May the goddess bless you! I will never forget that.

Much has happened in the year that has ensued from the last day of solidarity to this one. I have been given my initial diagnosis of gender dysphoria from the state, I have been scheduled to see the State doctor who prescribes hormones, rescheduled, rescheduled again, then told after being chained halfway across the state to see him and being sent back to my unit without seeing him that I would see him via tele-med (video conference) in 3-6 more months. I am extremely frustrated with this system and every time I try to voice complaint I'm told to "be happy that the state is even treating my disorder at all". I received a Christmas card from Black and Pink that gave me heart though, it read "your existence is resistance"!

I have been waiting since November 2015 for transgender health care, and there is only one doctor in the whole state that is given to treat us. I've been writing complaints to the medical staff asking why I couldn't see him on tele-med. I suppose enough people have asked the same question as now they appear to be instituting this.

Sometimes it gets really hard as everywhere I turn I receive a litany of "you're a man in a man's prison!", and outcries from offenders and staff denouncing my femininity. A couple of times it's driven me to contemplate suicide and once to try it (for the third time in my life). Luckily I have survived and grown stronger. At times like that I remember that I am not alone, that there are those like yourself who are fighting on my behalf and that because of that I "can" receive TG healthcare now as opposed to just two years ago.

My best advice is to be firm in who you know you are. People are going to try and define you, no matter what, so the best policy is to define yourself. Then you can be whatever you want to be.

Much Love,

Krysta Marie Morningstar



## TIPS ON WRITING AN EFFECTIVE GRIEVANCE

*by Vanessa Gibson*

If you want to write a winning grievance or at least boost your chance of winning, I encourage you to follow these simple steps:

**1.** Be honest. It's always best to stick to exactly what happen, especially if you plan to file a lawsuit because in almost every case the guards or medical documents what happen and there are witnesses. You don't want to file a lawsuit and once you get to court, the court finds out that was you was not being honest.

**2.** Be clear. It's always best to be clear and use words that you are comfortable using. If you are not for sure about a word, look it up in a dictionary or ask someone how to spell it. I won't lie, a lot of the times when I write a grievance, I'm upset! So my grievance reflects that I'm peeved! But I encourage you to take your time and if you are upset, write it when you calm down.

**3.** Never use profanity or be disrespectful. Using profanity or being disrespectful will only make you look bad, especially if you file a lawsuit and go to a jury trial.

**4.** If you use legal terms, always make sure that the legal term you use is the right word and that you are properly using it. The following legal words are a few that pertain to prison issues:

1. DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE
2. EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE
3. RETALIATION
4. PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS
5. WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS
6. FALSE DISCIPLINARY CHARGE

It's always best to learn legal words because if you file a lawsuit, you will need them to help you explain your legal claim.

**5** ■ Document your claims. If medical is denying you treatment, file as many sick calls as you can. Be sure you put everything in your sick call. If you are in pain, spell it out! If you are suicidal, or feeling depressed, if you explain how you feel and why you feel this way because when you file a lawsuit or your claims are reviewed, these claims will either win your case or lose it.

**6** ■ In formal Resolutions, always file an informal Resolution. All you have to do is write on top of your letter or I-60 informal Resolution, TDCJ requires us to file an informal Resolution before we can file a medical grievance.

**7** ■ If you plan to file a lawsuit, exhaust your claims. The law requires us to file a step one grievance and then appeal it to a step 2. This is even true if you win your step one. If you don't, your case will be dismissed for failure to exhaust your administrative remedies.

You cannot expect to always win your grievance. Over the years, I've learned that TDCJ has a policy to deny all claims even if they are true because their response to your grievance is evidence and you can rest for sure that it's rare if not impossible to get TDCJ to incriminate themselves. They want you to prove it.

Sometimes even if you don't win, your grievance will help to change policies or improve our conditions. So I encourage you to file grievances! Hopefully these tips will help!



## A LETTER

*by Paula R.*

My name is Paular R. and I am a Transwoman, 61 years old, started my transition in 2002 and was a prisoner of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) for 22 years. I was an inmate on several MALE units while incarcerated and I'm a Disabled Veteran because of the PTSD I suffer from because of the pure HELL I went through for those 22 years from other inmates and TDCJ staff. If it wasn't for the Veterans Administration, years of Psychiatric and Medical care at VA Hospitals, I would be dead now, committed suicide, which I attempted to do and was saved by the actions of a friend I was living with.

My PTSD trauma started as soon as I went into the door of TDCJ wearing a dress, makeup, heels, long pretty hair, and very feminine mannerism. As I walked through the door, over a hundred inmates with only boxers on my right side started whistling, making VERY lude and threatening screams, dropping their boxers to shake their penis at me, to the degree of making the Captain run down the hall to control the inmates. But it didn't last long because he made me strip naked in a cell of bars across from the aisle of the other inmates. When I took off my dress, they went wild because I was wearing Victoria Secrets push up bra (38C) string bikini panties and still wearing my high heels. When my bra came off and my breasts exposed, the other inmates came unwound. I mention this event to bring to the reader's attention that the Staff at TDCJ cannot control the actions of male inmates when Transwomen inmates are housed in a men's unit, which is why the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) allows for Transwomen to be assigned to a female unit, but TDCJ routinely refuses to exercise this option.

As a result of TDCJ assigning me to a male unit, for 22 years I was forced by gang members to have sex with their members, I was bought and sold between gangs like a piece of meat at a super market. Since I had 38C breasts I was a very popular sex slave. When I wrote grievances about my rape, I would told by guards to "fuck or fight". Needless to say all my grievances were returned with the reply that there was no foundation for the allegations and that there was no proof of them happening. When the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed by the President of the USA, I thought things might change, but it didn't, in fact it got worse because the PREA had no "bite" to it, until US Attorney General Eric Holder signed the PREA Rules several years later. During this period of time, Mr. Holder solicited to inmates for their opinions about the pending rules. If it wasn't for the organization Just

Detention International allowing inmates to send them their opinions about pending rules in "Legal Mail" in sealed envelopes, our letters to Mr. Holder would have never gotten to him. I was assigned to the Allred Unit in Iowa Park, Texas, at that time, this unit was being investigated by the Justice Department and was found to be the worst unit in TDCJ for prison rape. When staff members of TDCJ and this unit was required to appear before a hearing to explain why they had not protected its inmates from rape, I was transferred to a halfway house in Houston, Texas, to get rid of the trouble maker (me) that had sent my grievances to Mr. Holder with my opinion of the PREA Rules. At the halfway house I had to also file grievances for my treatment there and I was soon paroled so the unit wouldn't be investigated. Not long after my parole, I discharged my sentence and was free from TDCJ.

Since my discharge, I became an advocate for the PREA and prisoners in TDCJ. I read the transcripts of the PREA hearings and found my case was one of the 50 cases against TDCJ. I cried reading how TDCJ pointed fingers at each other and made a fool of themselves excusing away the blame for our rapes. Not long after the hearing I noticed the majority of the TDCJ staff was no longer employed with TDCJ or were transferred to other units. It was too bad the press was received a "gag order" and TDCJ was spared all the publicity, I wish the press could have printed all the news about how corrupt TDCJ was and how they ruined the lives of all the inmates that were raped while in their care.

I still get letters from Transgender inmates in TDCJ and it is so sad to read their letters that TDCJ are still allowing them to get raped, abused, housed with men which sets a very high risk for them and that TDCJ refuses to change their ways and how they treat Transgender inmates. My prayers are with all the Transgender inmates and I will continue to advocate on their behalf until TDCJ stops this abuse.

Sincerely,  
Paula R.



# KARMA

*by Angel*

43

Look down and hate what I see.  
They're not suppose to be there,  
They don't belong to me.  
Crazy thoughts run through my head.  
Sometimes I just wish I was dead.  
If my mama were alive she'd understand.  
For it was her the first to say,  
"You should've been born a man."  
She never turned on me & my gay brother.  
She taught us that that we're still her babies,  
To always love eachother.  
Being persecuted for what I am  
These people in TDCJ don't give a damn  
They point their fingers and laugh at the way I walk  
Not realizing the damage they cause when they talk  
I just want to be treated right  
And respected for who I am  
I want my rights,  
Not pumped with Celexa cause of a treatment plan  
How much more abuse will I be able to take  
They can't change who I am, it's real pain I feel it's not fake  
I hate God gave me this curse, please help me mama  
I can't wait for their judgement day cause I believe in karma.

# UNTITLED

*by David 'Crystal' Duran*

My name is David Duran and I found out I wanted to be girl at age 7 years old. I was raised by my mom and two sisters. When I was 7 years old I kiss my first boy, a Mexican named Carter. This when I first experienced feeling feminism and wanting to be girl. This was deepest secret of my life.

I am ready to change my sexual gender from male to female. Many women want to be man because world is ruled by men and women don't get the same respect. Women had to use sexuality or sex as tool of power and control. I don't want to be girl for sexuality or sex power, but the feeling of feminism, feeling my true self!

# CONTRIBUTORS STATEMENTS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

We encourage people to make connections through the walls. Therefore, we have included addresses for the contributors of this zine, with their permission, so that free world allies and accomplices can reach out for friendship, to extend legal assistance, and advocacy of any sort. The letter should be addressed to the name in bold accompanied with their TDCJ #, and the envelope should be addressed to their legal name.

## **AMANDA**

**William Danny Duffy #685495**

A. Hughes Unit  
Rt. 2 Box 4400  
Gatesville, TX 76597

**Note:** Address envelope to William Danny Duffy, letter to Amanda.

## **ANGEL**

*My name is Angel Rocha. I'm 44 years old doing a 50 year sentence. I'm also a proud trans-man. I've been incarcerated for 18 yrs now & I'm being forced to live as a woman. This has really made me depressed & I've been suicidal in the past. I was referred to crisis management & diagnosed with severe depression & put on pills. I never had these issues in the free world. Never. I was also diagnosed with gender dysphoria and gender identity disorder, which is basically the same thing—then told I have NO RIGHTS.*

**N. Ocha #908431**

Mt. View Unit  
2305 Ransom Rd.  
Gatesville, TX 76528

**Note:** Address envelope to N. Ocha, letter to Angel.

## **BRITNEY JOY (JAM)**

**James Paul Warner #1463447**

Connally Unit  
899 FM 632,  
Kenedy, TX 78119

**Note:** Address envelope to James Warner, letter to Britney.

## **CORDERRAL J.S. RYAN**

#1670188  
Clements Unit  
9601 Spur 591  
Amarillo, TX 79107

## **CRYSTAL**

*I am seeking a lawyer and legal assistance on how to get approved to change my sexual gender is prison to female gender, and change my name to a female name. I need help to get the surgery, get court to change my sex gender officially, and I will need help to get hormone treatment for breasts. Finally, I will need help getting TDCJ*

to transfer me to a female prison,  
after sex change.

**David Duran #1195075**

Connally Unit

899 FM 632,

Kenedy, TX 78119

**Note:** Address envelope to David Duran, letter to Crystal.

**E.A. DAVIS**

*I am a Trans (M 2 F) serving LIFE who will eventually die here inside a Texas state prison facility (the WORST prison system in the ENTIRE United States) as I will not be released from prison. Much love to all of you! Your sister in the struggle!*

**Edee A. Davis #1342848**

Allred Unit

2101 FM 369 N

Iowa Park, TX 76367

**GEORGIA**

**Donald Daggett #688356**

Stiles Unit

3060 FM 3514

Beaumont, TX 77705

**Note:** Address envelope to Donald Daggett, letter to Georgia.

**JACK**

**Lisa Jackson #1898962**

Lane Murray Unit

1916 N. HWY 36 Bypass

Gatesville, TX 76596

**Note:** Address envelope to Lisa Jackson, letter to Jack.

**JAMIEE LYNN**

*Shout out to All my peoples out there! All my girls over at the Hughes unit, It's always "Rainbow Nation" on mine...Also to all the girls + boys I know here on Allred! Promise, Heather, Sashes I love ya'll! Also all the people that fall under the Rainbow All over this state and outside the state line to read the Jan. 22nd Zine #2!*

**Jeremy Ballard #1052246**

Allred Unit

2101 FM 369 N.

Iowa Park, TX 76367

**Note:** Address envelope to Jeremy Ballard, letter to Jamiee Lynn.

**JOE G. VILLARREAL**

#2034890

Stiles Unit

3060 FM 3514

Beaumont, TX 77705

**KATRINA (KAT) MARIE**

**E. Rocha #1798473**

Stiles Unit

P.O. Box 27137

3060 FM 3514

Beaumont, TX 77705

**Note:** Address envelope to E. Rocha, letter to Katrina.

## KIMBERLY (KIM)

**Timothy Stricker #1628145**

Stiles Unit

3060 FM 3514

Beumont, TX 77705

**Note:** Address envelope to Timothy Stricker, letter to Kimberly.

## KRYSTA MARIE MORNINGSTAR

**Kris Jones #1705728**

Daniel Unit

938 S. FM. 1673

Snyder, TX 79549

**Note:** Address envelope to Kris Jones, letter to Krysta.

## LADY MYSTIQUE AKA BELLADONNA MYSTIQUE

*I'm left./180 lbs with blonde hair and brown eyes. I'm pansexual/transgendered (sort of a lesbian; I mess w/ guys in here bc its all there is; fellow sisters are generally just out for a trick, I'm no trick; nor do I want to be used or gotten w/ for what little \$ I do get. I'm into Wicca, Native Americanism, and Celtic Druidry/Celtic Shamanism. I have life in prison for a 1st degree murder charge from 1999. DOB: March 1st, 1979 - Pisces*

**Shawn Barclay #899733**

A. Hughes Unit

Rt 2 Box 4400

Gatesville, TX 76597

**Note:** Address envelope to Shawn Barclay, letter to Lady Mystique.

## MARIUS MASON

**Marie Mason #04672-061**

FMC Carswell

P.O. Box 27137

Fort Worth, TX 76127

**Note:** Address envelope to Marie "Marius" Mason, letter to Marius

## MS. MILANA

**K. Quincy #1684004**

Daniel Unit

938 S. FM. 1673

Snyder, TX 79549.

**Note:** Address envelope to K. Quincy, letter to Ms. Milana.

## SELENE

*I am in need of any help to further the goals of Transwomen in prison and will answer all correspondence, yet I can't write to other prisoners - but will help all the LGBT people if it's in my abilities. Please ladies, be positive and help each other any way you can. Always smile, it's like pissing in "the man's" face. In solidarity and love.*

**S. Vinson #1595965**

Stiles Unit

3060 FM 3514

Beaumont, TX 77705

**Note:** Address envelope to S. Vinson letter to Selene.



*Currently, she has a lawsuit pending in court to challenge a blanket ban on gender reassignment changes for trans prisoners. This will be a long battle, therefore she needs everyone's support.*

*Along with her lawsuit, Vanessa has compiled a list of demands to change TDCJ policies that will be more inclusive and safe for trans prisoners*

**List of Demands:**

- appropriate mental health care by gender specialists
- training of medical staff to deal with trans inmates
- allowing transgender inmates to have appropriate gender items
- creating a new grooming policy for transgender inmates that prevents them from being forced to cut their hair
- creating a strip search policy that follows the PREA standards
- making a motion towards trans inmates being able to transfer to the their identified genders unit.
- creating an oversight committee outside the current grievance system so trans inmates can have a fair case"

**Scott Gibson #699888**

A. Hughes Unit

Rt 2 Box 4400

Gatesville, TX 76597

**Note:** Address envelope to Scott "Vanessa" Gibson, letter to Vanessa.

# GENERAL & LGBTQ RESOURCES FOR PRISONERS

## FREE BOOKS AND LITERATURE

### **Books To Prisoners**

c/o Left Bank Books  
92 Pike Street, Box A  
Seattle, WA 98101

*Books To Prisoners is a Seattle-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster a love of reading behind bars, encourage the pursuit of knowledge and self-empowerment, and break the cycle of recidivism. We believe that books are tools for learning and for opening minds to new ideas and possibilities, and engage incarcerated individuals with the benefits of reading by mailing tens of thousands of free books to inmates across the country each year.*

*To request books from Books to Prisoners, we ask that the person in prison send a letter including their name, prison ID number, and address. Please be patient with us and allow up to several months for receipt of a package*

### **East Bay Prisoner Support**

PO Box 22449  
Oakland, CA 94609

<https://eastbayprisonersupport.wordpress.com/>

*East Bay Prisoner Support formed in 2007 as an explicitly anarchist and anti-prison group. We work on prisoner solidarity and resistance to the repressive police state. Our primary projects include distributing anarchist, anti-capitalist and anti-civilization literature to prisoners, facilitating letter writing, highlighting bay area anti-prison events and cases, and fundraising for prisoners who are a part of the struggle against all forms of domination.*

### **Inside Books Project**

c/o 12th Street Books  
827 West 12th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

*You may write to Inside Books Project once every 3 months. In your letter, make sure to include some categories of the types of books you are interested in (for example: fiction, educational, history, languages, LGBTQ, radical politics/activism, etc.) IBP also has a complete resource guide you may request. Be patient, it may take a few months to hear back as they serve all of Texas.*

### **Jailhouse Lawyer's Handbook**

National Lawyers Guild—Prison Law Project  
132 Nassau Street, Rm 922  
New York, NY 10038

*This Handbook explains how a prisoner can start a lawsuit in federal court, to fight against mistreatment and bad conditions in prison. Because most prisoners are in state prisons, the authors focus on those. However, people in federal prisons and city or county jails will be able to use the Handbook too. This is the fifth edition, revised and printed in 2010. Request a free copy (donations of \$2 or more are greatly appreciated and help offset the cost of printing/postage)*

### **Prison Yoga Project**

P.O. Box 426  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
[givebackyoga.org/shop/  
prison-yoga-project-a-path-for-healing-and-recovery](http://givebackyoga.org/shop/prison-yoga-project-a-path-for-healing-and-recovery)

*Free 100-page yoga manual written especially for people in prison. Write for a free copy. Focuses on the self-reflection and personal discipline. The book contains guides for physical practice (asana), breathing (pranayama) and meditation (dyhana).*

### **Sinister Wisdom INC**

PO Box 3252  
Berkeley CA 94703  
[www.sinisterwisdom.org](http://www.sinisterwisdom.org)

*Lesbian literary journal free to women in prisons and mental institutions.*

### **Tranzmission Prison Books**

P.O. Box 1874  
Asheville, NC 28801

*Offers free books and resources to LGBT inmates.*

## RESOURCES

### **Black and Pink Collective**

614 Columbia Rd  
Dorchester, MA 02125  
[www.blackandpink.org](http://www.blackandpink.org)

*Provides a free monthly newsletter of prisoner written material, hosts an online listing of penpals, coordinates an art program, provides direct advocacy when possible, and offers religious and erotic materials upon request.*

### **Gay Buddhist Fellowship**

2261 Market Street #456-A  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
[www.gaybuddhist.org](http://www.gaybuddhist.org)

*Supports Buddhist practice in the gay men's community. Monthly newsletter.*

### **Human Rights Campaign**

1640 Rhode Island Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036-3278  
202-628-4160  
(800) 777-4723  
[www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

*Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender equal rights.*

### **International Foundation For Gender Education**

P.O. Box 540229  
Waltham, MA 02454-0229  
(781) 894-8340  
(781) 899-2212  
[info@ifge.org](mailto:info@ifge.org)  
[ifge.org](http://ifge.org)

*Resources, books to promote understanding and acceptance of all sexual orientations.*

### **National Center for Transgender Equality**

1400 16th Street N.W. Suite 510  
Washington DC 20036  
(202) 903-0112  
[transequality.org](http://transequality.org)

*Dedicated to advancing the equality of transgender people through advocacy, collaboration and empowerment.*

## **Radical Alliance for Queer and Trans Prisoner Correspondence**

### **Houston ABC**

P.O. Box 88202  
Houston, TX 77288  
houston\_abc@riseup.net

txqtprisoners.wordpress.com

### **Austin ABC**

c/o Monkeywrench Books  
110 E. North Loop Blvd  
Austin, TX 78751  
atxanarchistblackcross@gmail.com

*Queer and Trans Prisoner Penpal Support in Texas. If you are a queer or trans prisoners in Texas who wants a pen pal on the outside, please write to either one of the addresses listed above.*

## **Prison Activist Resource Center**

PO Box 70447  
Oakland CA 94612  
510-893-4648

*PARC corresponds with and mails a directory of these resources to prisoners, their friends and family members. We are often the first point of contact for people to connect with prisoners' rights organizations, community organizations, prison literature and arts projects, family and visiting resources, healthcare and legal resources, parole and pre-release resources, and the prison abolition movement.*

## **Prison Health News**

c/o Philadelphia FIGHT  
1233 Locust Street 5th floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

*Published four times a year, this newsletter is dedicated to building and promoting an information network for and by prisoners. Prison Health News seeks to answer health questions from folks on the inside, as well as providing resources and information for prisoners to get proper health care while incarcerated.*

## **Prison Justice League**

PJL ATTN: Special Legal Counsel Brian McGiverin  
1405 Montopolis Drive  
Austin, TX 78741

*The PJL works to improve the conditions in Texas prisons through litigation, advocacy, and by empowering our members. We address the needs of prisoners in Texas, challenge institutions of punishment and hold them accountable for their actions, and service choice for prisoners in communities most affected by the criminal justice system. Become a member!*

**Prison Legal News**

PO Box 1151

1013 Lucerne Avenue

Lake Worth, FL 33460

*A monthly 56 Page magazine with summaries and analysis of recent national and local court decisions on prisoner rights, from the prisoner perspective, articles from attorneys, including how-to litigation advice, news of prison-related struggle and activism in the United States and around the world, and distributes a wide variety of legal self help and criminal justice books. \$30.00 a year. You can subscribe for yourself or someone else (a gift subscription) by mailing a check or money order for the correct amount.*

**Prisoner Correspondence Project**

QPIRG Concordia

c/o Concordia University,

1455 de Maisonneuve O

Montreal, QC H3G 1M8

[info@prisonerconcordanceproject.com](mailto:info@prisonerconcordanceproject.com)

[www.prisonerconcordanceproject.com](http://www.prisonerconcordanceproject.com)

*Resource program for lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender inmates.*

**Sylvia Rivera Law Project**

147 W 24th St, 5th Floor

New York NY 10011

(212) 337-8550

[info@srp.org](mailto:info@srp.org)

[srp.org](http://srp.org)

*Provides direct representation for low income transgender people and transgender people of color, including a "Prisoner Rights Project" that assists with the following areas:*

- Assistance Getting Trans-affirming health care
- Name Changes
- Assistance with Safety Issues
- Advocacy for gender-affirming placement and conditions
- Re-Entry Assistance
- Fingerprinting and criminal history check

### **Texas Association Against Sexual Assault**

6200 La Calma Drive, Suite 110

Austin, TX 78752

Office: (512) 474-7190

Toll-free 24-hour Hotline: (800) 656-4679

[www.taasa.org](http://www.taasa.org)

*Founded to assist sexual assault survivors and to create a Texas free from sexual violence. Connects survivors to rape crisis centers around Texas.*

### **Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project (TGIJP)**

370 Turk Street # 370

San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 252-1444

[www.tgijp.org](http://www.tgijp.org)

*Offers advice and resources to transgender people. Also offerses newsletter, resource guide and survival guide for transgendered prisoners.*

### **Trans Pride Initiative**

501 Wynnewood Dr. #213

Dallas, TX 75224

(214) 449-1439

*Trans Pride Initiative advocates for trans and gender variant persons in the Dallas area and for incarcerated trans and gender diverse persons throughout Texas. We provide general trans-related information and can answer your questions about accessing hormones while doing your time. We can also help you advocate for improved conditions and safety in prison. We always respond to letters, so if you have a question or issue you are dealing with, let us know and we will see if we can help keep you safe and healthy--or at least safer and healthier—while in TDCJ.*



This is a shout out and special thanks to our friends and accomplices!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this zine, who were brave enough to share their artwork and voices. We understand what a vulnerable position you put yourself in when contributing to this project and want to especially acknowledge your courage and strength.

Thank you Black & Pink Collective for your constant support & helping us connect with folks on the inside, as well as Trans Pride Initiative for sharing resources and being one of the few organizations actively fighting for the dignity of trans prisoners in TDCJ.

Last but not least, thank you to all the other radical prison abolitionist groups across the world who dare to envision making what others say is impossible—a reality, and anyone who imagines a world without bars.

Towards trans liberation and a world without cages!  
Austin Anarchist Black Cross





"[...] it is more important than ever for there to be a lively discussion possible between those who live and work on either side of the walls that separate us. By coming together and building community, by taking the time to develop connection through whatever means of communication are possible - incarcerated trans folks become less vulnerable to attack and our communities (both LGBT and straight) become stronger as we work to connect and protect each other."

—Marius Mason

**AUSTIN ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS**