

Thanks for contacting the **Boston Anarchist Black Cross!** We are a collective dedicated to prison abolition and prisoner support.

**We offer:**

**-Basic Research:** We can research basic case law, lawyer addresses, release programs, and a number of other things. Don't hesitate to contact us with your request, and if it is something we are not able to do, we will let you know. Please keep in mind that we are not lawyers and therefore cannot provide legal advice.

**-Free subscription to the biannual Prison Action News-** compiled reports of prisoners' actions against the Prison Industrial Complex.

**-Free literature,** 10 [ten] titles per recipient per 6 month period. Keep in mind that we do not maintain records of which titles you have.

Anarchism and Litigation by Eric D. Smith  
Anarchist Survival Guide for Understanding Gestapo Swine Interrogation Mind Games by Harold H. Thompson  
Anarchy- a Pamphlet by Errico Malatesta  
Attacking Prisons at the Point of Production  
Black Anarchism by Ashanti Alston  
Black People's Prison Survival Guide by Abdullah Ibraheem  
The Capitalist System by Michael Bakunin  
Celling Black Bodies; Black Women in the Prison Industrial Complex by Julia Sudbury  
Control Unit Prisons by Frank Atwood  
Crime and Punishment by Voltairine de Cleyre  
Democracy is Direct by Cindy Milstein  
"Deviance" and Punishment in Anarchist Society  
Dykes And Fags Want To Know...A Written Interview with Lesbian Political Prisoners: Linda Evans, Laura Whitehorn, and Susan Rosenberg  
Handbook on Surviving Solitary Confinement by Khalifani Malik Khaldun  
How to Use the Law Library and Write Your Own Law Work by D. Michael Salerno  
In the Struggle for Equality: A History of the Anarchist Red Cross by Boris Yelensky, introduction by Matt Hart  
Invisibility of Women's Prison Resistance by Vikki Law  
It's Like Living in a Black Hole: Women of Color and Solitary Confinement by Cassandra Shaylor  
Law Enforcement Violence Against Women of Color by Andrea Ritchie  
Lessons from COINTELPRO: Building a Movement in the Face of Repression by Claude Marks and Kelah Bott  
No Prisoner Left Behind, the Fight for Transgender/Gender Variant Prisoners by Kevin Weaver  
Non-Western Anarchisms: Rethinking the Global Context by Jason Adams  
Notes on Anarchism by Noam Chomsky  
On Law and Authority by Peter Kropotkin  
Parents in Prison: A Growing Crisis by Austin ABC  
Political Prisoners, Prisons, and Black Liberation by Angela Davis  
The Prison Industrial Complex and the Global Economy by Eve Goldberg  
Prisons and their Moral Influence on Prisoners by Peter Kropotkin  
Prisons, a Social Crime and Failure by Emma Goldman  
Prisons, Where is Thy Victory? by Huey P. Newton  
Reflections on Women in Prison by Jenn Bowman and Summer Thomas  
Statement on Gender Violence and the Prison Industrial Complex by

Critical Resistance and INCITE!

Survival Tips and Ideas for the Ex-Prisoner by Khalifani Malik Khaldun

Tasers and the Fight against Police Brutality by Sally Darity

An Updated History of the New Afrikan Prison Struggle by Sundiata Acoli

What is Syndicalism by Emma Goldman

Women in Prison: How it is With Us by Assata Shakur

*and most recent issue of (as supplies last):*

Prison Action News- Biannual newsletter about prison resistance

Boston ABC is part of the Prison Action News publishing collective. Send us reports of your resistance to the Prison Industrial Complex! If you have any questions about the guidelines, please let us know. The deadlines for each issue are June 1 and December 1.

**We respond to every inquiry but as a small collective it may take time to fulfill your request. We are not lawyers so we cannot perform extensive legal research or provide legal advice. We cannot offer financial assistance, nor look up personal addresses, and we no longer provide envelopes, paper, stamps or other supplies. We recently stopped providing penpals, as the demand was far greater than we could meet. We cannot provide books but can refer you to programs that do. Thanks for understanding!**

*Boston ABC is an anti-racist, anti-sexist organization. We are pro-queer, pro-trans and pro-woman.*

If seeking book titles, you may try writing to the Prison Book program:

Prison Book Program  
c/o Lucy Parsons Bookstore  
1306 Hancock Street, Suite 100  
Quincy, MA 02169

Queer/trans prisoners looking for penpals, newsletter or other support may try writing to Black and Pink:

Black and Pink  
c/o Community Church of Boston  
565 Boylston St.  
Boston, MA 02116

**Boston ABC  
PO Box 230182  
Boston, MA 02123**

**TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH GROUPS  
THAT ASSIST PRISONERS (adapted from  
Lawrence ABC)**

**Type or print clearly.** Having beautiful handwriting is nice, but if it is hard to read, your request will be delayed.

**Include your name, identification number, and complete address on every letter you send.** The return address is often ripped when the envelope is opened. Sometimes envelopes are discarded before the address of the sender is recorded. If your mailing information is on your letter, your request is more likely to be filled. If you don't have an ID number, report that in each letter you send.

**Don't assume the person reading your letter knows you and your specific situation.** The person with whom you corresponded in the past may no longer be a member of the organization. If there is anything special a group needs to know about you, write it in each letter you send.

**Don't start your letter with "Dear Sir" or "Gentlemen."** Plenty of women do prisoner support work, and it is disheartening when prisoners forget that. Acceptable greetings include, "To Whom It May Concern," "Dear [Name of Organization]" or simply "Hello!"

**Don't request assistance from groups that don't serve the state or kind of prison in which you are locked up.** You'll just be wasting your time and theirs, as well as your stamp.

**If the organization you are contacting serves a specific population (female, transgender, death row, etc. prisoners) state plainly that you are a member of the group in question.**

**Be Polite.** People who work with groups that assist prisoners are doing the best they can, often with limited resources. Being rude, threatening, or demanding will not get your needs met.

**Don't request materials from a group more often than it is willing to provide them.** Stick to the timetable the organization provides, whether that is once a month, every six months, or once a season. Most groups simply cannot afford to send material to prisoners as often as it's wanted or even needed.

**Don't ask an organization to do things the informational literature clearly states it doesn't do.** If the brochure says the group isn't a pen pal service, don't ask for a pen pal. If the order form lists a price for prisoner subscriptions, don't ask for free literature. If the group states they don't send books to prisoners, don't send a list of titles you want to receive.

**If you are writing to as a question or request a catalog, send a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) if possible.** Sending a SASE will save the time and money of the organization to which you are writing.

**Ask before you send anything to a group** (your writing, legal paperwork, a letter to be forwarded, etc.) Many organizations do not have the funds to return things sent to them, and you may lose your only copy. If you want something of yours photocopied, typed, published, forwarded, sent to the media, etc., ask the group if they can help before you send material.

**Don't panic if you don't get a response from a group immediately.** Groups that assist prisoners are usually understaffed, swamped with work, and run by volunteers. Read informational literature carefully to get an idea of how long it may take for your request to be filled. If there is no indication of how long it might take to fill requests, you may want to write again if you haven't received a response after a month or two. Mail is sometimes lost, and the organization may not know that if you don't tell them.

**Don't expect a woman who answers your letter to be your girlfriend or secretary.** It is not fair to expect someone to take on these roles just because she is female.

**If you have romantic feelings for someone you correspond with, make sure you know that person well before you bring this up.** People who assist prisoners know that people who are locked up are often lonely, but it can be startling when a stranger suddenly professes love and/or attraction.

**If a person you are corresponding with has asked you to stop certain behavior, honor their request.** If your pen pal or other person you have been writing to asks you to not say certain things, whether it is of a sexual or romantic nature, or a remark that they find offensive, try to respect their feelings about this. Chances are if you don't, they will stop writing.

**Don't send letters or drawings of a sexual nature to anyone who has not agreed to receive such material from you.** Sending materials of a sexual nature to people who don't want them is not a good way to go about making friends or getting your needs met.

**Offer to make a donation to the organizations that assist you.** Almost all groups that assist prisoners welcome stamps or pre-stamped envelopes. Find out how to send a check drawn on your commissary account or ask your friends or family members on the outside to send a donation. (Before doing this, make sure the group can accept checks). Most groups that assist prisoners are seriously under funded, and many members pay for expenses out of their own pockets, or spend lots of time and energy asking for donations or holding fundraisers. Every donation (even a small one) really helps.

**Encourage friends and family members to get involved with an established prisoner support group or start such a group. Resolve that when you get out of prison, you will do some sort of support work for people still locked up.** Most states have no programs that send books to prisoners. Tens of thousands of prisoners want a pen pal. Prisoners need community members to go into jails and prisons to teach basic life and job skills. Money always helps, but groups assisting prisoners also need people power.

**Boston ABC  
PO Box 230182  
Boston, MA 02123**