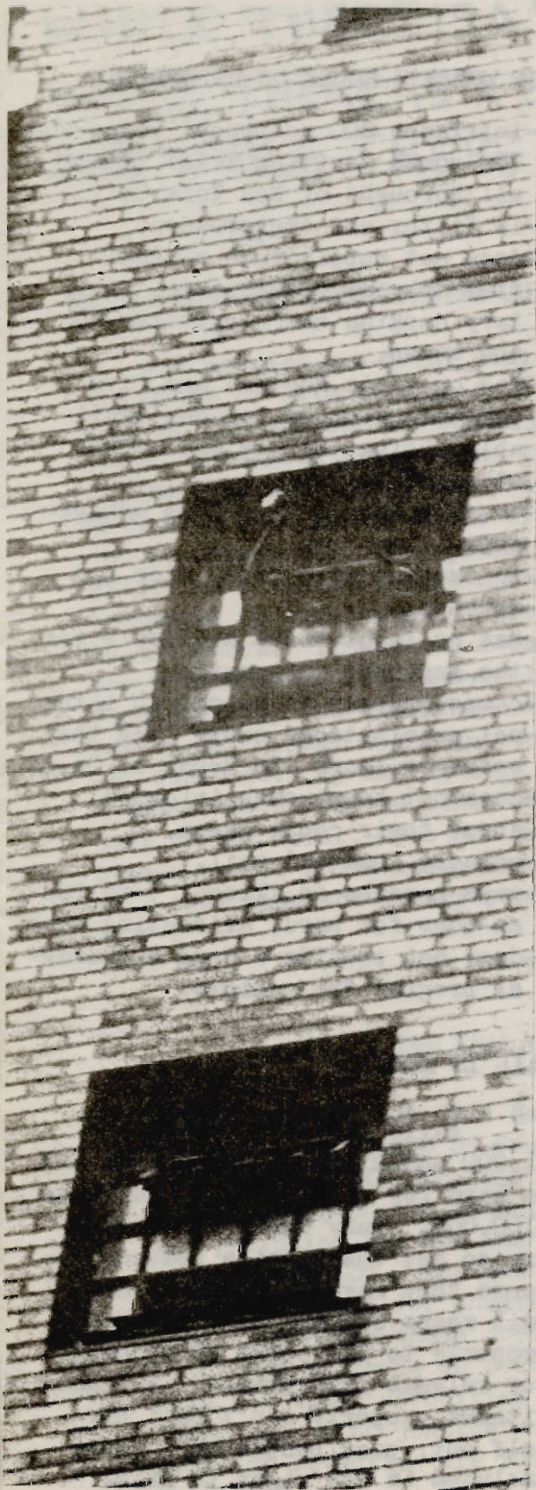




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THE WOMEN'S HOUSE OF DETENTION

- imprisons 200 sentenced women and 700 women awaiting trial from all boroughs of New York City.
- is filthy and overcrowded.
- does not supply such necessities as soap, toothpaste, sanitary napkins and cigarettes to the women.
- has only six doctors and five parttime doctors, seldom available during the day and never at night.
- drugs women to keep them manageable.
- is overrun with rats, mice and roaches.
- has no legal books available for the inmates' information.
- compels women to submit to internal examinations every time they enter or leave the House or Court.
- does not keep women informed about their court dates.
- censors inmates' mail.
- pays inmates an illegal 3 to 10¢ an hour for hard, alienating work.
- does not provide a drug withdrawal program for addicts.

BAIL IS RANSOM

Bails are set from \$50 to \$1,000 and higher. These sums are as hard for poor women to raise as \$100,000. Many women don't even try to get their bails reduced because they have no money at all. Bail means signing over personal property to the court in exchange for release from prison. A woman without property can't bail herself out; poor people were never included in the right to bail.

WHILE THERE IS A LOWER CLASS, I AM IN IT
WHILE THERE IS A CRIMINAL ELEMENT, I AM OF IT
AND WHILE THERE IS A SOUL IN PRISON, I AM NOT FREE

- Eugene V. Debs

WHO IS INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY?

The average pre-trial stay in the House of Detention is four months. It may be as long as a year. Detainees are serving time before they are tried. They are pressured into making deals with the Assistant DA. They plead guilty to a lesser charge and are sentenced to time already served in the House. If a woman refuses and pleads not guilty and is later found guilty, the time she has served may or may not count toward her sentence. By making this deal a woman has saved the state the cost of her trial. She now has a prison record which means higher bail next time she is arrested.

THE REAL CRIMINALS ARE NEVER PUNISHED!

First National City Bank is not punished for stealing the resources of the black people of South Africa. The Rockefellers are not jailed for stealing oil from the Venezuelans. The U.S. government is not sentenced to death for genocide in Vietnam. Industries are not punished for polluting our air and water, for annihilating our forests, for poisoning our food. The men who control the large corporations are not put behind bars for cheating the worker out of the profit of his daily labor. Because these criminal acts produce profit, they are not defined as crimes by those in power. But we know that until the people responsible for these atrocities are brought to justice in a people's court, there can be no justice and no criminal prisoners. The women in the House of Detention are POLITICAL PRISONERS. ALL PRISONERS ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS.

WHY ARE WOMEN ARRESTED?

The women in the House of D. are all poor and are predominantly black and Puerto Rican. Because this system forces women to be dependent on men, a woman left without a man to "take care" of her must often fight for her own survival and that of her children by any means necessary. All women are forced to sell their bodies and/or minds to survive but only the poor women who must offer themselves on the streets are arrested for it.

Any child born to an inmate is immediately taken from the mother and handed over to the Bureau of Child Welfare so it is the government which decides who is "fit" to keep the child.



DRUGS

Many of the sisters in the House are drug addicts--victims of a \$3 billion-a-year heroin industry. The victims suffer not only physical disabilities, poverty, destruction of families and death, but are punished for catching the disease of addiction by the very system which allows the germs to spread. Drugs conveniently keep the poor and alienated silent and powerless.

THE MOVE TO RIKERS ISLAND

A new facility for women detainees is being completed on Rikers Island. Even if this prison is newer, cleaner and more spacious than the present one (it is planned to look like a modern school but a wall has already fallen in because the island is sinking), it is still a prison. It is still depriving women of their rights. It will be much harder for people to visit or call up through the windows; the women will be completely isolated from the city.

SISTERS IN THE HOUSE OF D
WRITE TO THE BAIL FUND

"Sitting here in desolation within this cell, I hear the chants and feel some kind of hope from the people."

"We met through the windows of the Women's House of Detention. You were yelling 'Free the People' and I, an inmate here, was screaming 'Power' and 'Thank you'...I must say that I love you people for going through all those changes for us..."

"As for your organization getting known, the grapevine is powerful and it is getting through. Yes, I wish the sisters would get together. But due to reprisals for the last demonstration, it is extremely difficult...But I know once they realize there are people who care, it may give them courage."

"I know it is within my constitutional rights to have adequate consul. When they deny me this, they deny me my rights. And this is wrong but when you don't have money for a private lawyer, you are stuck with the dirty end of the stick."

"...if I don't get out I will lose my job. The judge doesn't give a damn if you have a job or not. He don't care if you are incorrect or not. He knows the poor people can't get bail. On the money I make from my job I can hardly make ends meet."

WHERE DO WE GET OUR FUNDS?

From you and people like you. From collections at Women's Liberation meetings. From selling literature about women and prisons. From collecting money in the street. From bazaars, benefits and dances.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

-
- ____ Enclosed is my donation of \$ ____.
- ____ I would like to work with the Women's Bail Fund.
- ____ I would like to raise money for the Women's Bail Fund.
- ____ I have contacts with women inside the Women's House of Detention.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Send contributions and requests for information to:

Women's Bail Fund
Box 637
Peter Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003

WOMEN'S BAIL FUND

is a coalition of Third World and white women from the Black Panther Party, the Young Lords Party, the Inmates Liberation Front, Youth Against War and Fascism, and various independent groups who are:

- raising bail to release prisoners from the House of Detention.
- establishing communication with the sisters inside.
- assisting released women in meeting their basic needs.
- providing legal information for inmates.
- making public the tortures the prisoners undergo.
- coordinating a lawsuit against the House of D. for: the low wages paid to sentenced women, absence of law books, censorship of the mail and the criminally insufficient medical care.
- supporting other prison struggles.

The work of the Bail Fund has been severely hampered by the Department of Corrections. All exchange of mail between inmates and the Bail Fund has been illegally stopped by the warden because our communications "violate the sacred lawyer-client relationship."

WHO DO WE BAIL OUT?

Of the women who come to our attention we bail out those who have low bails (under \$500, usually under \$200), who have been incarcerated the longest, and who have special medical or family problems. We also work with lawyers to obtain bail reductions for women with high bails.