

Amnesty International Bill of Rights for Women

A bill of human rights for women in prison

Women in custody:

Have the right to be free of sexual misconduct from their custodians. They have the human right to be free from rape and sexual assault, sexually offensive language and innuendo, verbal aggression, sexual suggestiveness, ogling by male guards while they are undressing or going to the bathe bathroom, and other forms of sexual misconduct.

Have a right to complain of sexual assault and misconduct, and to expect their reports will be investigated, independently, promptly and thoroughly.

Must be able to seek protections of their own human rights without fear of retaliation. They must be able to make complaints secure from punishment. Indeed, the staff of jails and prisons should be offered a complaint procedure that will offer them protection from retaliation from other guards as well.

Have a right to be transported and to deliver their children free of shackles unless essential to prevent escape, or to protect people or property.

Have a right to health. Medical or mental health neglect, and the over-reliance on solitary confinement can have serious consequences on women in custody.

Women have the right to be guarded by only female officers. If that is not possible, male guards should always be accompanied by female guards and men should not be allowed to “pat-down” women inmates unless a clear emergency situation exists.

Women in prison have a right to know what their rights are.

Women in prison have a right to be pre-screened for access to medical care by appropriately trained medical staff.

Amnesty International USA

Midwest Regional Office
53 West Jackson Blvd Suite 731
Chicago, IL 60604-3606