



Education for girls and women in detention, displacement and refugee camps

Most female offenders commit non-violent crimes. Alternatives to imprisonment for non-violent girls and women can spare families the trauma of separation and reduce the cost to the state. Community service along with skill training is one alternative to imprisonment as are creative ways to pay for legal costs.

Action: Provide job skills training for female detainees. Introduce payment plans for legal fines, bail and legal services.

Education is an insurance against poverty-related imprisonment. It can keep many girls and women out of prison because it provides an alternative income to crime. Because education can keep girls and women out of extreme poverty, it also provides them the means to pay for legal services and bail as well as legal fines, which spares them the distress, hardship and violence of detention.

Action: Pass legislation for compulsory secondary education for all girls in all countries as a bulwark against extreme poverty.

Education provides a safe haven for girls and women in refugee camps. In a chaotic and unstable environment, schooling provides routine, stability, safety and alleviate the boredom and drudgery of daily existence in a camp.

Action: Provide literacy training and mental health services specifically targeted to girls and women in displacement and refugee camps. Ensure equal access to available schooling for displaced and refugee girls and boys.

Education breaks the link between crime and poor work skills. Gainful employment is a key factor in reducing recidivism for women offenders.

Action: Provide education and skills training courses to female prisoners, in particular literacy and language training. Literacy classes can include financial, legal, health, language and information technology literacy.