This handout supplements the presentation “Imprisoned Women and Sterilization: Enduring Legal and Ethical Concerns” by Rachel Roth and Sara Ainsworth. It includes academic, NGO, and activist resources, and a list organizations; * denotes online availability. (Additional research can be found via academic databases.) You can contact me for further information at rachel.roth [at] earthlink.net

Prison Medical Abuse, Sterilization Abuse

Justice Now (Oakland, CA), testimony to the United Nations and to the state of California, video testimony by formerly imprisoned people, op-eds and law review articles (jnow.org).*

Corey Johnson, ongoing series on coercive sterilization in California State prisons for women (Center for Investigative Reporting, 2013).*


Institute of Medicine, Ethical Considerations for Research Involving Prisoners (National Academies Press, 2006).*


Other Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice Readings

ACLU, Briefing Paper: The Shackling of Pregnant Women & Girls in U.S. Prisons, Jails & Youth Detention Centers (Oct. 2012); International Human Rights Clinic-University of Chicago Law School, CLAIM, ACLU, Shackling of Incarcerated Pregnant Women in the United States (submitted to the UN Human Rights Committee, Aug. 2013) (both include analysis of statutes, policies, and court decisions).*

ACLU, Break the Chains, and Brennan Center for Justice, Caught in the Net: The Impact of Drug Policies on Women and Families (2005).*

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Committee Opinion No. 511: Health Care for Pregnant and Postpartum Incarcerated Women and Adolescent Females (2011).*


Imprisonment & Reproductive Justice
Rachel Roth, APHA 2013

Brawley v. DOC 712 F.Supp.2d 1208 (Dist. Wash. 2010) (plaintiff in shackle case represented by Sara Ainsworth, then of Legal Voice in Seattle, WA)*


Marianne Bullock and Vicki Elson, “Doulas Working in Prisons” (2013, at thedoulaguide.blogspot).*

Center for Young Women’s Development, “Incarcerated Young Mothers’ Bill of Rights” (2005).*


Victoria Law, resistancebehindbars.org (see e.g. post on ASFA reform in WA State).*

Robin Levi and Ayelet Waldman, eds., Inside this Place, Not of It: Narratives from Women’s Prisons (McSweeney’s, 2011).


Eesha Pandit, “Ten Reasons Why Prisons Are Bad for Reproductive Freedom” (2005).*

Political Research Associates, Defending Justice (2005) and Defending Reproductive Justice (2009), Activist Resource Kits (includes criminalization of reproduction and prison abolition).*

Rachel Roth, “‘She Doesn’t Deserve to be Treated Like This’: Prisons as Sites of Reproductive Injustice” (Center for Women Policy Studies, 2012); “Obstructing Justice: Prisons as Barriers to Medical Care for Pregnant Women,” UCLA Women’s Law Journal, vol. 18, no. 1 (2010); “Searching for the State: Who Governs Prisoners’ Reproductive Rights?” Social Politics, vol. 11, no. 3 (2004); posts at MomsRising.*

Karen Shain, “Prison Nurseries: Are They Good for Mother and Baby?” (2013).*

Jael Silliman and Anannya Bhattacharjee, eds., Policing the National Body: Race, Gender, and Criminalization (South End Press, 2002).


World Health Organization, *Kyiv Declaration on Women's Health in Prison* (adopted by the WHO Regional Office for Europe in 2008).*

**Advocacy, Legal Service, and Research Organizations**

- A New Way of Life Reentry Project (Los Angeles, CA)
- American Friends Service Committee (local chapters and national office)
- Amnesty International (reports on prison conditions, including shackling, sexual abuse)
- Arkansas Voices for the Children Left Behind (technical assistance)
- Birth Attendants (doulas for those in the Washington State prison for women)
- Birthing Behind Bars (activist site with first-person video testimony, news, petitions)
- Correctional Association of New York, Women in Prison Project (monitoring, research, advocacy)
- Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM)
- Equal Rights Advocates (San Francisco, CA) (see the “Let Her Work” campaign)
- Forward Together (Oakland, CA) (info and tools on reproductive justice)
- Human Rights Watch (reports on prison conditions, access to RH in ICE detention)
- International Centre for Prison Studies (research on women’s imprisonment)
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice (fact sheet on the prison system)
- Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (San Francisco, CA)
- Legal Voice (Seattle, WA; works throughout the Northwest on shackling and ASFA reform)
- M.O.M. Mobile at Riverside (doulas for those in jail and support for caregivers outside, Philly, PA)
- National Advocates for Pregnant Women (New York, national research and legal action)
- National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated (Philly, PA)
- Penal Reform International (research, international standards)
- Power Inside (for women affected by incarceration; Baltimore, MD)
- Prison Birth Project (doulas for those in the Western Massachusetts jail for women)
- Real Cost of Prisons Project (popular education comic books, news updates on Facebook page)
- Sentencing Project (see esp. March 2013 report on changes in women’s imprisonment)
- SisterSong: Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective (Atlanta, GA)
- Strong Families (writings, images from campaign against shackling in CA)
- Stop Shackling Pregnant Women in Maryland (follow the campaign on Facebook)
- Texas Jail Project (grassroots monitoring, including conditions for pregnant women)
- United States Bureau of Justice Statistics (the best source for U.S. statistics)
- WORTH (Women on the Rise Telling HerStory, New York)
- Women and Prison: A Site for Resistance (website with interviews, writings)
- Women’s Prison Association (service and advocacy in New York; national research)
- Women’s Refugee Commission (reports on asylum & immigration detention in the U.S.)
- World Health Organization (program on prisons and health, including women’s health)

If you know someone in prison who is being denied prenatal care or access to abortion, you can contact the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project or your local ACLU for help.

If you know someone in prison who is trying to get an abortion and can’t afford to pay for one, you can contact the National Network of Abortion Funds for help.