

A RESOLUTION OF THE JACKSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
Resolution No. 2023-2

Human Rights for People Incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility

Whereas, we believe in the fundamental principles of justice, equality, and the dignity of all individuals; and

Whereas, we recognize the deep-rooted influence of white supremacy within our society and carceral system (1); and

Whereas, the right to live dignified lives free from abuse, oppression, violence, and neglect is a universal human right and specifically enumerated in the platform of the Democratic Party of Oregon (2-3); and

Whereas, we advocate for proactive measures to prevent suffering and provide resources and relief to historically oppressed groups, including Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color who are over-represented within our carceral system (4 - page 85); and

Whereas, we firmly support healthcare access and disability accommodations, including for incarcerated individuals (5); and

Whereas, we support restorative justice and rehabilitation practices within our justice system (3); and

Whereas, we demand accountability and due process in all situations but especially where public agencies are responsible for incarcerated individuals (3); and

Whereas, the behavior that leads to prison for women, femmes, and those assigned female at birth is different from that of men and is inextricably linked to poverty, violence, and trauma (6-7);

Whereas, the Gender Informed Practices Assessment has revealed chronic unmet needs and inadequate conditions at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF), impacting the well-being of incarcerated women and staff; specifically the urgent need to a) stabilize staffing, b) address facility concerns, and c) ensure that the rights and dignity of incarcerated individuals are upheld (4 – page 7-12); and

Whereas, several staff members at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility have been charged and convicted of misconduct, including sexual assault, against those incarcerated at CCCF (8-11).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE JACKSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. We call upon the Oregon Department of Corrections to take immediate actions to address the chronic unmet needs, inadequate conditions, neglect, and abuse of the incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, especially as outlined in the Gender Informed Practices Assessment.

Section 2. We demand that the Legislature and district attorneys implement restorative justice and rehabilitation practices within our justice system with transparency and accountability to guarantee the human rights of incarcerated and detained individuals, and that the State of Oregon invest in resources and policies that prioritize justice, equality, and dignity for all by addressing the poverty, trauma, and violence, which are the largest contributing factors to incarceration for women, femmes and those assigned female at birth..

Section 3. We further demand that the Governor review the sentences of those incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility who have been convicted on drug-only and/or non-violent crimes and to use her commutation power to expedite release from incarceration for as many women as possible, and to provide trauma-informed transitional support for them, their children, and families, as they return to their communities.

Section 4. Most importantly, we demand that the State make those incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility whole by offering reparations, with primary consideration given to the needs of the incarcerated and their families as spoken by their own voices, including: monetary compensation; removal of cages, shackles and chains from cells; providing individual and group therapy; providing standard medical, dental, vision, psychiatric and other care; providing adequate menstrual and hygiene products, including undergarments; eliminating barriers between the incarcerated and their loved ones, including providing phone and video calls free of charge; and implementing the full list of recommendations included in the Gender Informed Practices Assessment without delay. Incarcerated individuals must be able to determine what should be done with monetary compensation, with options including but not limited to high yield savings accounts, distribution to third parties on their behalf, or used as payment for child support obligations. The State bears responsibility for the well-being of incarcerated people and it is up to the State to make whole those incarcerated at Coffee Creek.

REFERENCES:

- (1) Brennan Center for Justice (August 2020): <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/hidden-plain-sight-racism-white-supremacy-and-far-right-militancy-law>
- (2) United Nations Declaration: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>
- (3) Oregon Democrat Platform (Updated 2023): [DPO Platform: Human Rights](#)

- (4) GIPA report on the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (2023): www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6469828/
- (5) Oregon Democrat Platform (Updated 2023): [DPO Platform: Healthcare](#)
- (6) Vera (August 2016): <https://www.vera.org/publications/overlooked-women-and-jails-report> - [:~:text=Women often become involved with,low-level, nonviolent offenses.](#)
- (7) MDPI Journal (November 2021): <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0760/10/11/446>
- (8) Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) (October 2023): [CCCF Officer Charged with Sexual Crimes Against Incarcerated Woman](#)
- (9) OPB (October 2023): [Former Oregon prison nurse found guilty of sexual assault of women in custody](#)
- (10) Statesmen Journal (March 2021): [Former Coffee Creek corrections officer sentenced to federal prison](#)
- (11) Death by a Thousand Cuts (October 2022): [Death by a Thousand Cuts: Stories from Inside Coffee Creek Correctional Facility](#)

Resolution submitted by the Platform and Resolutions Committee.

ADOPTED by the Jackson County Democratic Party Central Committee on the 27th day of November, 2023.

David B. Sours

David Sours,
Chair, Jackson County Democratic Party