



#SheMatters

IMAGO DEI PRISON MINISTRY
Press release - for immediate release
edited - 28th July 2021

Local women's prison charity launch campaign to remind people why #SheMatters

#SheMatters, is a campaign launched by Imago Dei Prison Ministry on 3rd May 2021, in response to the need to raise awareness around women in the criminal justice system. It aims to highlight the underlying reasons why many women find themselves in prison and the lack of ongoing support for women leaving prison.

The #SheMatters campaign has been driven by our ID Grace House UK project. A housing and training centre that will provide women leaving prison with safe accommodation, and will be based in the South East of England. The research conducted around ID Grace House UK drew attention to the needs of women both in prison and on leaving prison. #SheMatters is a movement to publicise knowledge and promote systemic change in the criminal justice system and to raise funds for ID Grace House UK.

There are some sobering statistics around women in prison. Reoffending rates of women are high- 58% of women released from prison reoffend in their first year of release.

Every year around 9,000 women are sent to prison. Of those women in prison:

- around 31% have spent time in care,
- 53% having suffered emotional, physical, or sexual abuse during childhood,
- 46% having suffered domestic violence,
- 57% have the expected literacy skills of an 11-year-old,
- Nearly half of women prisoners (48%) report having committed offences to support someone else's drug use, compared to 22% of male prisoners,
- On average, 305 vulnerable women per year leave the 4 prisons in the South East of England with nowhere to sleep that night,
- Out of all adult prisoners released in 2018, 67% of those who slept rough or were otherwise homeless went on to commit another crime within a year.



Women are discharged from prison with a bag of possession and until only recently, £76. In many cases these women have nowhere safe to go, they maybe going back to an abusive situation, sofa surfing for sexual favours, or sleeping rough on the streets. In light of the recent tragedy of Sarah Everard's death we have to question how safe it is for women to be sleeping rough.

You can support the #SheMatters campaign by accessing the website www.shematters.uk for suggestions, or you can:

- Send a letter to your local MP calling for changes in the Criminal Justice System for women,
 - Donate to the ID Grace House UK appeal,
 - Fundraise for ID Grace House UK,
 - Use the #SheMatters tag,
 - Follow our social media - Facebook @IDPrisonMinistry, Instagram @id_prisonministry, Twitter @ID_PMinistry and LinkedIn @id-prisonministry
- Like, share, and comment on our content.

Charity Director, Tracy, states:

“As a chaplain regularly working in women's prisons, I see firsthand the circumstances and root causes surrounding criminal behaviour, the pressing ongoing need for rehabilitation and support for those both serving their time in custody and those leaving prison being resettled into the community. Everybody deserves to live with hope, hope that they can change their circumstances for the better. Each woman is precious, a valuable life that impacts and influences others; children, family, friends and society. Each life matters – SheMatters.”

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR:

Contact Information

Tracy Sickel - Director of Imago Dei Prison Ministry

Telephone: 01342 477472

Email: shematters@idprisonministry.org.uk

#SheMatters Website: www.shematters.uk

Imago Dei Prison Ministry Website: <https://www.idprisonministry.org.uk/>

ID Grace House UK Website: <https://www.gracehouseuk.org/>

