



**SONKE
GENDER
JUSTICE**

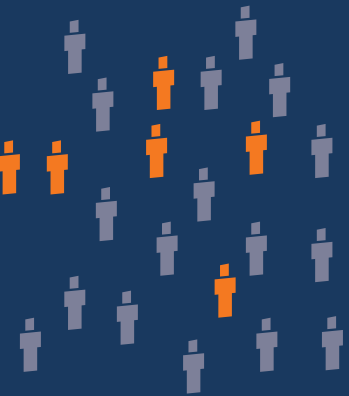
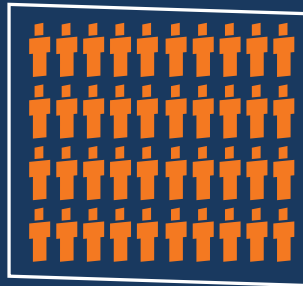
HIV/AIDS • GENDER EQUALITY • HUMAN RIGHTS

WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT PRISONERS?

We tend to think that what happens inside prisons won't affect everyone on the outside, but that isn't the case. *Here is why.*

1 PRISONERS MOVE AROUND

Prisons do not only threaten the health of people incarcerated within them. Prison staff and the population at large are also at risk, because prisoners are not a static population – they move around the prison system and back and forth from the outside world.



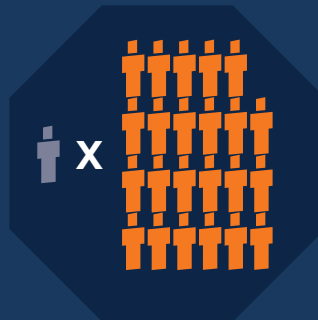
2 PRISONERS' HEALTH IS OUR PROBLEM, TOO

Prisons are very important in the fight against HIV and TB:

Nearly **25%** of South African prisoners are HIV positive.



Prisoners in southern Africa are **23 times** more likely than people outside to contract TB.



We need to address **gender-based violence (GBV)**, HIV and TB inside prison if we're going to beat these problems outside.



3 PRISON STATISTICS ARE FRIGHTENING

Each year:

Nearly 300,000 people are admitted into remand facilities (returned to prison, while awaiting trial).



130,000 inmates are admitted into sentenced facilities.



Roughly 360,000 people are released from the prison system.

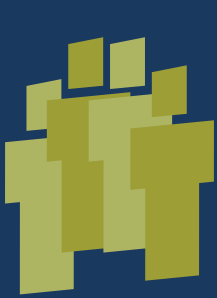


South Africa has the largest prison population in Africa, with a constant prison population of 160,000. In 2014/15, roughly 30% of sentenced inmates were serving sentences for non-violent crimes.



4 PRISON CONDITIONS ARE INHUMANE

Why are HIV and TB common in prisons?



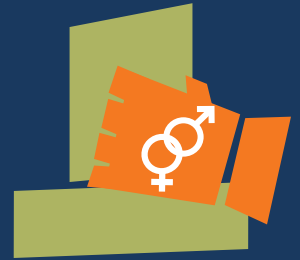
Overcrowding and poor conditions



Inadequate nutrition and ventilation



Interruption to HIV treatment

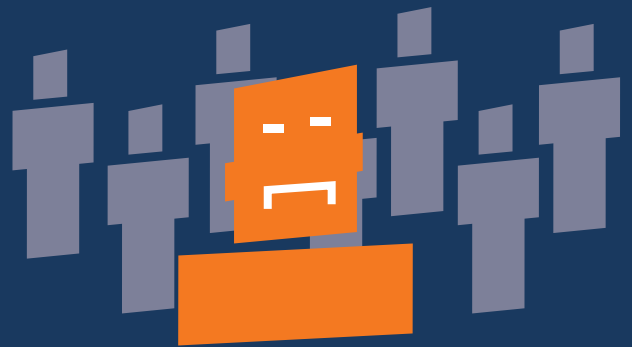


High levels of sexual violence

5 HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME?

Once prisoners are released, they return to their communities. So what happens in prison doesn't stay in prison.

Rehabilitation (re-integrating the ex-prisoner into their community and preventing re-offending) is impossible when conditions are this bad, so the prison system is failing all of us.



6 WHAT CAN SOCIETY DO?

1. Fulfil, protect and promote inmates' human rights to humane conditions of confinement, including access to health care and reading materials, adequate exercise and protection from violence.
2. Ensure independent and effective prison oversight.
3. Decrease overcrowding by finding alternatives to prison confinement, such as:
 - being remanded into the community while awaiting trial, with electronic monitoring and probation conditions;
 - community service;
 - restorative justice (restoring offenders back into their communities through rehabilitation and reconciliation with their victims) for non-violent offenders.
4. Decriminalise petty, non-violent offences, such as sex work and vagrancy by-laws.



oversight



health



protection



reading



exercise