

Jennifer Gingrich
Portland

Just this week, it was revealed that Washington state has put sex offenders, including one serial killer of multiple women, in women's prison because they now identify as trans women. This was discovered during a hearing in which the ACLU fought to block a Freedom of Information Act request about trans women prisoners in the state. It was also revealed that women inmates in the prison have alleged they are being sexually assaulted by some of the trans women..- something else the ACLU, which fought to house the prisoners by their self-declared gender identity instead of by biological sex, has been fighting to keep from being released.
<https://mynorthwest.com/2666243/doc-washington-correctional-center-women-men-transfer/>

Last year, female prisoners in Illinois filed lawsuits stating that they were being raped by trans inmate Janiah Monroe, who was put in women's prison when the ACLU fought to have her moved there despite the fact that she had strangled to death a cellmate in men's prison.
<https://news.wttw.com/2020/02/19/lawsuit-female-prisoner-says-she-was-raped-trans-gender-inmate>

We have no idea how many more cases of this happening there are. The ACLU and transgender rights groups fight to keep the records sealed in multiple states.

No one seems to care at all about women being raped. Only trans people matter, according to this new philosophy of the party I voted for in every election of my life, the Democrats. Even the Maine Women's Lobby and the National Organization of Women completely ignore the cries of female inmates - they won't even acknowledge them. Never did I imagine my own party and these organizations I supported for years would stop caring about any woman not born with a penis. Even to them, women's rights are old news.

Studies have found that 80% of women prison inmates have suffered sexual abuse. Forcing them to act as human shields to protect other groups from each other, at the risk of being again sexually assaulted themselves, is beyond cruel.

Most trans women in prison have intact male sex organs. Many of them are serving their time for sex offenses or other violent offenses. It beggars belief that anyone would think it a good idea to lock them in cells with caged women, but unbelievably, that is what's being proposed..

There is no reason to believe that saying they identify as women makes trans inmates any less likely to be dangerous to women than any other natal male - the UK group Fairplay for Women found this month that 50% of the trans women in UK prisons have at least one offense for a sex crime (compared to less than 2% of the female inmates).

When did we stop caring about women's dignity and safety and decide that was progressive? Please remember that women are NOT human shields to protect other groups from each other. They are vulnerable to male violence, no matter how the perpetrators identify. Please don't allow males to self-identify into their prison cells. Please let them matter to someone.

Jennifer Gingrich
Portland, Maine
gingrich.jennifer@yahoo.com