



HEAR FROM HER

Annette Price

System Impacted Women Speak Series
Brought to you by the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition

I was 20 years old, at the wrong place at the wrong time. Had I had interactions with police prior, it would've been different. I went to the police to tell them that I had been raped and attacked. They had already had it made up in their minds that they knew what had happened; that this was a pimp-prostitute altercation, which it wasn't.

They treated me like I was a horrible person instead of someone who had just encountered being beaten and raped. I was 4 months pregnant when I went to jail. After I had my baby, I was really angry. Angry that I had gotten all that time [40 years] for defending myself and my unborn child.

Women are the backbone to our families. Women are the glue that hold families together. When the mother is not there, it has a snowball effect on kids. The support is broken. The dynamics of the family are shattered. There is no more bonding, no more nurturing. It collapses the family.

I just want my experiences to be helpful for women coming out. I've been through a whole lot, but I keep getting back up every time I'm knocked down. I've done my time; I've done everything the court system told me to do. I wish they would just let me live my life, but they won't. I was just denied my application to become a Licensed Chemical Dependency counselor because there is a lifetime ban on my conviction. I have two masters degrees, but can't use them because of my conviction.



How can we prevent women from entering the criminal justice system?

1

Stop incarcerating mothers.

2

Let's address the root causes of what's going on, because prison is not the right place for healing.

3

For women who are in prison, we need meaningful programs tailored toward women's needs.

For more information about women in Texas' criminal justice system, visit TexasCJC.org/Womens-Justice