

PRISONERS' STRUGGLES

Creating Scandal:

Prison Abolition and the Policy Agenda

International Conference on Penal Abolition (ICOPA) XII

July 23 – 25, 2008

Kings College, London, U.K.

The Howard League for Penal Reform is organizing and hosting the **Twelfth International Conference on Penal Abolition (ICOPA)** to develop the case for the abolition of prison and to rethink penal policy. The conference will discuss and hear about the impact of the penal system on our communities and provide suggestions for new and alternative approaches. It will look at custody and community interventions as alternatives to imprisonment; prisons and the politics of poverty; the role of the media and public opinion; and the role of privatisation and capitalism in penal policy today.

ICOPA XII will host international speakers dealing with the ancillary, fiscal and human costs of crime and punishment in the 21st century and will look at other possibilities and approaches outside of a failing crime control agenda. The conference is aimed at an international audience of practitioners, policy makers, prisoners, penal reformers, NGOs, academics and concerned individuals.

You can find additional information on ICOPA XII by visiting the Howard League for Penal Reform website: www.icopa12london.org.uk.

AS PART OF ICOPA XII, THE *JOURNAL OF PRISONERS ON PRISONS* IS ORGANIZING A COLLOQUIUM ON THE UNIVERSAL CARCERAL

In recent years, the coercive, ordering and stigmatizing powers of the late modern state have expanded and exceeded the traditional boundaries of the criminal justice system to feature prominently in the domains of labour, health, immigration, and defence. The proliferation and normalization of detention as a disposal tactic in other spheres - indeed the universalization of the carceral - poses considerable challenges to penal abolitionists, who must now contend with additional spaces of control that act as appendages intensifying the expansion of an already wide net. As we move towards the universal carceral, there is a need to re-examine abolitionist critique, strategy, and practice.

The Colloquium will involve four panel sessions, on topics relating to the Universal Carceral theme.

We are currently accepting abstracts for papers* that deal with

- the expansion of systems of punishment and confinement
- transformations in incarceration and the emergence of new spaces of confinement
- the diverse experiences and lived realities of prisoners and detainees, including forms of resistance
- penal abolition in an age of confinement and detention

We seek papers which address the politics, spatial dynamics, impacts, and experiences of the universal carceral from a variety of standpoints. Theoretical, empirical, and ethnographic contributions from prisoners, advocates, academics, and other fellow travellers are welcomed.

The *Journal of Prisoners on Prisons* is a vehicle for scholarship rooted in the lived experience of imprisonment, and we extend our commitment to prison writing to the Universal Carceral Colloquium. We welcome abstracts and proposals for papers from persons who are currently subject to incarceration, or who have previously experienced confinement and the deprivation of liberty.

In noting this, we acknowledge that circumstances will make it difficult for current and ex-prisoners to contribute to the colloquium in person. A current sentence, conditions of release, and a criminal record could make travel to ICOPA XII in London, UK, impossible.

If the Organizing Committee accepts an abstract from an individual who is in such a situation, we will endeavour to arrange for the presentation of the paper at the Colloquium, either through the use of a recorded presentation or by having a panel chair or other representative read the paper on the author's behalf.

Selected colloquium papers and other ICOPA papers will be considered for publication in Volume 17:2 of the *Journal of Prisoners on Prisons* (December 2008).

For more information and updates on the Universal Carceral Colloquium, visit our website: http://web.mac.com/mikelarsen1/The_Universal_Carceral/Welcome.html

To reach the Colloquium Organizing Committee with questions or comments, or to submit an abstract, send us an e-mail at icopaxii.universalcarceral@gmail.com, or write us at:

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* Deadline for proposals for conference presentations: May 1, 2008. The JPP will also be accepting contributions from prisoners on the “Universal Carceral” theme until July 1, 2008.