



Global Prison Nursery Network Symposium



Biographies of Speakers

Friday, November 3, 2023
Columbia Law School, New York, NY
Jerome Greene Hall room 101





Opening Remarks | 9:00 - 9:15



Susan Sturm

Susan Sturm is the George M. Jaffin Professor of Law and Social Responsibility and the founding director of the Center for Institutional and Social Change at Columbia Law School. Her work focuses on inequality, discrimination, remedying racial and gender bias, criminal justice reform, lawyer-leadership, and the role education can play in creating social change and a more inclusive world. At the Center for Institutional and Social Change, Sturm leads collaborative action research projects with institutional and community leaders in the areas of education, criminal justice, and community development. Sturm previously served as a co-chair and architect of Columbia Law School's Davis Polk Leadership Initiative, a cross-disciplinary effort to prepare students to succeed as leaders in a wide range of sectors.



Julie Matonich

Julie Matonich cofounded Children of Incarcerated Caregivers (CIC) after more than a decade of representing clients accused of criminal offenses, many of whom faced incarceration and separation from their young children. Julie oversees all areas of CIC's work, including supervising the students who conduct research, write reports, and produce podcasts on prison nurseries throughout the world. Julie is a trial attorney and focuses her law practice on cases involving inadequate healthcare provided to children and pregnant persons.



Keynote Speaker | 9:15-9:30



Nancy Loucks

Professor Nancy Loucks OBE is the Chief Executive of Families Outside, a Scottish voluntary organization that works on behalf of families affected by imprisonment. Prior to this, she worked as an Independent Criminologist, receiving her MPhil and PhD from the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge, and in 2012 was appointed as a Visiting Professor at the University of Strathclyde's Centre for Law, Crime and Justice. Professor Loucks was awarded an OBE in the Queen's 2016 New Year's Honours List for services to Education and Human Rights.

She co-chaired the Justice & Care Workstream for the Independent Care Review and the Independent Review of the Response to Deaths in Prison in Scotland; chairs the Board of the International Coalition for Children of Incarcerated Parents (INCCIP); is a Board member of Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE; Secretary General from 2015-21); and is a member of the Global Prisoners' Families Research Group at the Centre for Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford.



Models of Prison Nurseries | 9:30-10:30



Teresia Nyaoro

Teresia Nyaoro is the Program Lead for Children and Girls at Clean Start Africa, an organization that works with women, children, and girls who have been impacted by the criminal justice system in Kenya and across Africa. With a background in criminology and child psychology, she serves as a life coach, mentor, counselor, and caseworker to women, girls, and their families, with over 15 years of experience.



Judith Clark

During the 37 years that Judith Clark spent in Bedford Hills prison, she developed and worked in the Children's Center, taught pre-natal classes, and worked as a mentor, doula, and group facilitator in the prison nursery. In her current position as Hour Children's Community Justice Advocate, she works with the Birth Support Working Group and is on the Community Action Committee of the HoPE Doula Program based at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, NY.



Moderated by

Veronica Horowitz

Veronica Horowitz is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York. Her research employs mixed methods and focuses on American criminal punishment with a subfoci on mercy, gender, and social stratification.



Lived Experience with a Prison Nursery Program: Mothers' Perspectives | 10:45-12:00



Roslyn D. Smith

Roslyn D. Smith is the Beyond Incarceration Program Manager for V-Day, a nonprofit organization committed to ending violence against women, girls, and the planet. She co-founded the writing group "Right/Write to Heal," catering to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women. Drawing from her personal experience of long-term incarceration, she has become a passionate advocate for criminal justice reform.



Miyhosi Benton

Miyhosi Benton is a criminal justice activist, policy advocacy expert, strategist, and independent consultant. She has contributed to multiple policy campaigns addressing issues at the intersection of gender justice and the criminal legal system. Benton was a leader in the successful campaign to pass the 2015 New York Anti-Shackling Law, one of the most progressive of its kind in the nation, which strengthened and expanded the state's ban on the barbaric practice of shackling pregnant women who are incarcerated. From 2016-2021, Benton was a senior staff person at WJP, most recently serving as WJP's Associate Director of Advocacy & Strategy. Prior to joining WJP, Benton worked at the Osborne Association's New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents and at Hour Children, a reentry program that supports families uniting after incarceration. Benton received the 2015 Susan B. Anthony Award from the National Organization for Women-NYC and the 2016 Hour Children Mother of the Year Award.



Moderated by

Dr. Helen Kim

Dr. Helen Kim is the co-founder and director of the Hennepin Healthcare Mother-Baby Program, Redleaf Center for Family Healing, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota. She is a reproductive and perinatal psychiatrist who is committed to empowering women and promoting generational healing by providing exceptional mental health care and parenting support, particularly for those impacted by trauma and discrimination. Dr. Kim co-founded Minnesota's first reproductive psychiatry program, and then, as a Bush Fellow, she conceptualized and co-founded the Mother-Baby Program, including the Mother-Baby Day Hospital, an intensive mental health program for perinatal women, the 4th of its kind in the U.S. and the first in Minnesota. In its first six years, the Mother-Baby Program served thousands and secured seed funding to establish the Redleaf Center for Family Healing. The center's core mission is to save and enrich lives and promote generational healing through integrative mental health and parenting support for families with young children.



Compliance with International and U.S. Laws

12:45-1:45



Benoit Van Keirsbilck

Benoit Van Keirsbilck is the Director of the Belgian section of Defence for Children—International (DCI). He is Chief Editor of the Journal of Children's Law (Belgium) and a member of the Advisory board of the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. He is a member of the Interdisciplinary Center for the Rights of the Child, which organizes academic courses and develops research. He has been elected as a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2021–2024).



Gretta L. Goodwin

Gretta L. Goodwin is a Director in GAO's Homeland Security and Justice team. She has led reviews on the federal response to address the online exploitation of children, law enforcement oversight and use of force, the federal response to the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, law enforcement use of facial recognition technology, the care of pregnant women in DHS and DOJ custody, the Bureau of Prisons' response to COVID-19, DNA evidence backlogs, Pell Grants for incarcerated students, juvenile justice issues for Native American youth, human trafficking, federal criminal restitution, background checks for gun purchases involving domestic violence records, and federal data on sexual violence.



Moderated by

Barbara A. Frey

Barbara A. Frey, J.D., is an international human rights scholar, teacher, and activist. Frey directed the Human Rights Program at the University of Minnesota from 2001–22 and served as Director of Graduate Studies for the Master of Human Rights from 2015–19. Frey's research interests include gun violence and human rights, disappearances and impunity in Mexico, immigration, and human rights advocacy, and she lectures and writes widely on these topics.



Compliance with International and U.S. Laws

Barbara A. Frey (continued)

Frey has worked in non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations as well as academic institutions. She was an alternate member of the U.N. Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2000-03) and was Special Rapporteur for a Sub-Commission study on firearms and human rights (2001-06). She received two Fulbright-Garcia Robles fellowships (2013 and 2019) for research on human rights in Mexico. From 1985 through 1996, Frey was Executive Director of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. Frey serves on the advisory board of Children of Incarcerated Caregivers.



Support from NGOs and Communities | 1:45-2:45



Natasha Roberts

Natasha Roberts has worked with the Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSED) for 10 years, most recently as a program manager implementing PSED direct service programs, including Early Head Start at the Washington Corrections Center for Women. With a master's degree in early childhood education, a bachelor's degree in sociology, and a minor in criminal justice, she is committed to leading with racial equity and implementing high quality services for children and families.



Lindsay Owens

Lindsay Owens is the Site Manager for the Early Head Start Program with the Residential Parenting Program at the Washington Corrections Center for Women. In her first year at WCCW, she has loved the opportunity to work with this population of women and children, giving these women the opportunity to parent when they otherwise couldn't. She graduated from Washington State University with a bachelor's in early childhood education and care. Owens has worked with children her whole life and professionally for 12 years. Children and families are her passions; she loves to watch children learn and grow, and the spontaneity they bring to life.



Dr. Smita Dharmamer

Dr. Smita Dharmamer is the Associate Director of Aangan Trust India, with over two decades of experience in the child protection space. After 15 years in homeopathy, she pivoted her career, earning a postgraduate diploma in counseling and joining Aangan Trust as a counselor in 2006. Dr. Dharmamer's journey at Aangan exposed her to diverse states, cultures, and languages, all while advocating for vulnerable children and fostering an appreciation for the world's diversity and the absence of boundaries. Dr. Dharmamer is a proponent of working from within the system, emphasizing the importance of nurturing the superhero within these children. Her dedication was recognized with the Rex Karmaveer Global Fellowship Award in 2016. Additionally, in 2017, she participated in the Global Change Leaders fellowship program at the Coady International Institute in Canada. Recently, she spearheaded the innovative Prison Nursery program that brought together state authorities, a citizen group, and Aangan to ensure social justice for children and undertrials.



Moderated by

Julie Matonich

Julie Matonich cofounded Children of Incarcerated Caregivers (CIC) after more than a decade of representing clients accused of criminal offenses, many of whom faced incarceration and separation from their young children. Julie oversees all areas of CIC's work, including supervising the students who conduct research, write reports, and produce podcasts on prison nurseries throughout the world. Julie is a trial attorney and focuses her law practice on cases involving inadequate healthcare provided to children and pregnant persons.



Alternatives and Abolition | 3:00-4:00



Lori Timlin

Lori Timlin has served as Parenting Coordinator at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Shakopee for 12 years. She has 20 years of experience in probation and has provided custody and visitation mediation and assessment in family court. As the co-chair of the Healthy Start Conditional Release Program, she works with pregnant and postpartum incarcerated women, helping them to develop birth plans, connect with resources and education, navigate child protection requirements, and screen for Healthy Start. In addition, Timlin works with general population on all things parenting: court involvement, working with caregivers, visiting, parenting education, and resource identification.



Stuti Shah

Stuti Shah is currently a doctoral candidate of law at Columbia Law School. She is interested in engaging in a critical and comparative re-thinking of law and penal institutions that harm people and communities. Shah's research is focused on re-imagining crime and punishment through a feminist and subaltern lens in India. She is currently a research fellow at Children of Incarcerated Caregivers, engaged in the Prison Nursery Project.



Dr. Martha Paynter

Dr. Martha Paynter is Director of Nursing Research with the Contraception and Abortion Research Team (CART)-UBC and Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of New Brunswick, where her clinical teaching and research focus on the intersection of reproductive health and the criminal justice system. She is the Affiliate Scientist for the Nova Scotia Women's Choice Clinic and the founder and past chair of Wellness Within: An Organization for Health and Justice, the only organization in Canada dedicated to advancing reproductive justice for people experiencing criminalization. She is the author of *Abortion to Abolition: Reproductive Health and Justice in Canada*.



Moderated by

Paul Dosh

Paul Dosh is an Associate Professor at Macalester College, where he has chaired the political science department and directed the Latin American Studies program. He has taught at San Quentin Prison, Carleton College, and UC Berkeley, where he earned his PhD. A Fulbright-Hays scholar and a prison abolitionist, he co-founded the non-profit Building Dignity, served on the advisory board of Children of Incarcerated Caregivers, and has worked with the Asian Prisoners Support Committee. He studies urban social movements, and his current research, "Demanding Freedom and Dignity: Resistance to Mass Incarceration in Latin America," draws on interviews with grassroots organizers in Colombia and Mexico.

If you have questions, comments, or want to learn more about Children of Incarcerated Caregivers, contact us at info@cicmn.org.
