

WE ARE PRISONERS

There are at least 4.5 million of us in Asia-Pacific and we face these issues:

20 of us are locked in the same cell for hours each day.

The male staff physically abuse me and the other female inmates.

I was raped by another inmate and I have nobody to turn to.

I was forced to do a HIV test without counselling and now everyone knows I'm HIV positive.

My HIV treatment has stopped since coming to prison.

I have unsafe sex because we can't get any condoms here.

With or without guards knowing, we smuggle and inject drugs. But clean needles are rare, so we reuse and share them.

We are being left behind due to:

- Weak criminal justice systems, leading to long periods of pre-trial detention and overcrowding
- Lack of legislation to ensure HIV tests are done with informed consent, confidentiality and counselling
- No access to harm reduction measures in closed settings
- Restrictions on condoms in prisons, often due to laws prohibiting same-sex sexual activities
- Lack of policies to ensure protection of the physical and mental health of prisoners