

PRESS RELEASE
15th October 2004

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF – ANOTHER TWO WOMEN DEAD IN PRISON IN TWO AND A HALF DAYS

Katherine Jones became the second woman in just over two days to die in prison. The 19-year-old woman died today after she was found hanging in her cell at HMP Brockhill just over two days after Mandy Pearson died at HMP New Hall. These deaths bring the toll of women up to 13 already this year, 11 since April. In July this year Marie Walsh and Rebecca Turner found dead in their cells within 36 hours of each other.

In 2003 there were 14 self-inflicted deaths of women in prisons across England and Wales, a 64% increase on the previous year and a number that has far exceeded any year since INQUEST's monitoring began.

Deborah Coles, co-director of INQUEST that works with the families of people who die in custody and campaigns around the issues the deaths raise said:

“For history to repeat itself in this way is utterly shocking. For two women to be found dead in just over two days defies belief. This shameful and relentless death toll exposes a crisis in women's prisons and the numbers of women being sent to prisons that cannot protect their right to life. Prison cannot be used as a dumping ground for some of the most vulnerable people in society and these deaths raise serious concerns about the systemic failings of the Prison Service and their ability to keep women in their custody safe. Following each death there is an individual investigation and inquest and yet lessons are clearly not being learned.”

Self-inflicted Deaths of Women in Prison 2004

Name	Date of Death	Ethnicity	Age	Remand/Convicted	Cause	Classification	Establishment
Katherine Jones	15/10/2004	UK White	19	Remand	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Brockhill
Mandy Pearson	12/10/2004	UK White	37	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP New Hall
Marie Walsh	29/07/2004	UK White	29	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP New Hall
Rebecca Turner	28/07/2004	UK White	22	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Low Newton
Rebecca Smith	01/06/2004	UK White	40	Convicted	Suffocation/Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Buckley Hall
Heather Wait	08/05/2004	UK White	28	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Holloway
Sharon Miller	08/05/2004	UK White	45	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Durham
Paige Tapp	18/04/2004	UK White	23	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Send
Louise Davis	18/04/2004	White	32	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP New Hall

Self-inflicted Deaths of Women in Prison 2004

Name	Date of Death	Ethnicity	Age	Remand/Convicted	Cause	Classification	Establishment
Julie Hope	17/04/2004	White	35	Remanded	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Holloway
Sheena Kotecha	03/04/2004	UK Asian	22	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Brockhill
April Sherman	13/01/2004	UK White	27	Remanded	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Edmunds Hill (HMP Highpoint female)
Tina Bromley	04/01/2004	UK White	37	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Edmunds Hill (HMP Highpoint female)

Self-inflicted Deaths of Women in Brockhill Prison 1998-date

Name	Date Of Death	Ethnicity	Age	Status	Cause	Classification	Establishment
Sheena Kotecha	03/04/2004	UK Asian	22	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Brockhill
Leanne Gidney	14/01/2003	UK White	18	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Brockhill
Anne Marie Bates	31/08/2001	UK White	18	Remanded	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Brockhill
Edeita Pomell	08/05/2000	Black Caribbean	20	Remanded	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Brockhill
Sandra Jane Harris	28/03/2000	UK Black	26	Remanded	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Brockhill
Joanne Holland	12/07/1999	UK White	26	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Brockhill
Rona Benson	03/12/1998	UK White	32	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Brockhill