

Press Release

2nd June 2004

Crisis in women's prisons - Another woman prisoner dies

Yesterday, 1st June 2004, another woman, Rebecca Smith, died in HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale, Lancashire.

Helen Shaw, Co-Director of INQUEST said:

“The government must undertake a radical rethink of sentencing policy and the imprisonment of vulnerable people. Nine women have died in prison this year, seven in the last two months and fourteen women died last year. Each case has an individual investigation and inquest and yet lessons are clearly not being learned. The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman now has the remit for investigating these deaths but we question whether the current system is effective and makes a meaningful contribution to the prevention of further deaths. The Prisons Minister must respond to this crisis and outline what action will be taken to stop this shamefully rising death toll.”

Self inflicted deaths of Women in Prison 2004 (England and Wales)

Name	Date of Death	Cause	Ethnicity	Age	Status	Establishment
Tina Bromley	04/01/2004	Hanging	UK White	37	Sentenced	HMP Edmunds Hill (formerly HMP Highpoint female)
April Sherman	13/01/2004	Hanging	UK White	27	Trial	HMP Edmunds Hill (formerly HMP Highpoint female)
Sheena Kotecha	03/04/2004	Hanging	UK Asian	22	Sentenced	HMP Brockhill
Julie Hope	17/04/2004	Hanging	White	35	Remanded	HMP Holloway
Louise Davis	18/04/2004	Hanging	White	32	Sentenced	HMP New Hall
Paige Tapp	18/04/2004	Hanging	UK White	23	Sentenced	HMP Send
Sharon Miller	08/05/2004	Hanging	UK White	45	Sentenced	HMP Durham
Heather Waite	08/05/2004	Hanging	UK White	28	Awaiting Sentence	HMP Holloway
Rebecca Mary Rose Smith	01/06/2004	Hanging	UK White	40	Sentenced	HMP Buckley Hall

Source: INQUEST Monitoring 2004