

GLOSSARY OF TERMS & FRAMING

| Framing about... | Language CURB Tries to Avoid... | People Centered Language CURB Promotes... | Why? |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| People in Prison | | | |
| Unspecified Person in Prison | <p>Words: inmateⁱ, offender, criminal, felon, prisoner, violatorⁱⁱ</p> <p>Ex: <i>“San Joaquin County holds parole violators as little as one day, and Fresno County sometimes refuses to accept any. Los Angeles County is releasing offenders who serve as little as 10% of their sentences.”</i>ⁱⁱⁱ</p> | <p>Words: imprisoned people/person, people/person in prison</p> | <p>We want to highlight the fact that imprisonment is an active thing that happens to people; challenge the narrative that those in prison brought imprisonment upon themselves. Shift the focus away from blaming individuals rather than the prison system, societal conditions, the police, etc.</p> |
| People Formerly Imprisoned | <p>Words: ex-convict^{iv}, ex-con^v, ex-offender, parolee</p> <p>Ex: LA Times headline <i>“L.A. County supervisors consider helping ex-offenders get ID cards”</i>^{vi}</p> | <p>Words: formerly imprisoned, person formerly imprisoned</p> | <p>We want to highlight the fact that imprisonment is an active thing that happens to people; challenge the narrative that those in prison brought imprisonment upon themselves. Shift the focus away from blaming individuals rather than the prison system, societal conditions, the police, etc.</p> |
| People in Prisons for Women | <p>Words/Phrases: Women prisoners^{vii}</p> | <p>Phrases: People in women’s prisons</p> | <p>Be inclusive of gender non-conforming and trans people in prisons</p> |
| Disabled People in Prison | <p>Words/Phrases: disabled inmates</p> | <p>Phrases: Imprisoned people with disabilities</p> | <p>Avoid defining (and offending) people by physical, psychological, or other differences</p> |
| Mental Health | <p>Phrases: Mentally ill</p> <p>Ex: <i>“...Sheriff Marlin Gusman’s team presented his short-term proposal to house up to 44 severely mentally ill inmates in St. Gabriel at a cost of \$400,000.”</i>^{viii}</p> | <p>Phrases: People with mental illness, people who have experienced mental health concerns</p> | <p>Avoid defining (and offending) people by physical, psychological, or other differences</p> |

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| <p>Gang validation, “security threat groups” (regarding solitary confinement)</p> | <p>Phrases: Gang member, gang leader, security threat group (associate and member), “worst of the worst,” shot caller</p> <p>Framing: anything that suggests risk to prison population</p> | <p>Phrases: people designated/targeted as gang members/security threats.</p> <p>Framing: imprisoned organizers, activists (in context of hunger strike, for example)</p> | <p>The prison system’s anti-gang propaganda is often based on offensive, dangerous, and racist stereotypes that dehumanize people of color and poor people. We must challenge prison’s attempts to depoliticize and delegitimize political resistance on the inside.</p> |
| <p>Gender Nonconforming People in Prison</p> | <p>Phrases: “male inmates who presented themselves as women”^{xxx}</p> <p>Framing: Anything that disrespects or denies an imprisoned person’s chosen or preferred gender identity</p> | <p>Words/Phrases: transgender, gender nonconforming, gender queer</p> | <p>Be inclusive of gender non-conforming and trans people in prisons</p> |
| <p>Prisons and Construction</p> | | | |
| <p>Public Spending on Prisons or Jails</p> | <p>Framing: invest - “The County plans to invest \$2 billion in a new jail”</p> | <p>Words: waste, divert, squander</p> <p>Framing: County Supervisors decided to waste another \$2 billion on an unneded jail. OR The Sheriff wants the County to divert more funds from human services to pay for his \$2 billion jail project.</p> | <p>Prisons & jails are not investments. Schools are an investment. Public health clinics are an investment. Investments promise a positive payout. More jails, prisons, and police are part of the problem, not an investment towards a solution.</p> |
| <p>Prisons and Jails</p> | <p>Words/Phrases: Any euphemism for a cage. Community Correctional Facility. Female Rehabilitative Community Corrections Center, beds, rehab, corrections, “women’s village”</p> | <p>Words: prison, jail, cage</p> <p>Example: In the campaign against AB76, we were successful in getting most media in the state to call the FRCCCS ‘women’s mini-prisons.’</p> | <p>As prisons and jails try to rebrand themselves as social services, we need to remind the public that cages are cages, and that cops and prison guards are not social workers or therapists.</p> |

Comment [MS1]: I say framing here because the words that would come up under this topic can generally be viewed as relatively neutral terms: allocate, earmark, commit funds, fund, finance, etc. So it’s not so much what certain words we want to avoid using, but certain framing that we want to use vs not use.

Comment [MS2]: These examples illustrate well the significance of framing the whole sentence and message, rather than just using or not using a word.

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| Circumstances of Imprisonment | | | |
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| Sentencing and Indictment | <p>Phrases: Committed ____ Crime</p> <p>Framing: rather than describing people by category of charge (murderer, rapist, drug dealer), note the circumstance of imprisonment.</p> | <p>Phrases: sentenced to, imprisoned for</p> | <p>Focus on the active nature of indictment and sentencing, that this is a thing that happens to and is imposed on people. Avoid reducing someone to their charge.</p> |
| Imprisonment Related to Substance Abuse | <p>Words/Phrases: Drug user, drug addict, junkie, crackhead</p> <p>Ex: <i>Milford News</i> headline ""ACLU sues over sending drug addicts to Framingham prison"^x</p> | <p>Phrases: people using drugs, people who have used drugs, people in recovery</p> | <p>Avoid defining (and offending) people by physical, psychological, or other differences</p> |
| Violence and Harm | <p>Words – For the person who was harmed: Battered women, victim.</p> <p><i>For the person who did harm:</i> Perpetrator, batterer, rapist</p> <p>Ex: Headline: "Victim Takes the Stand in Greg Hardy Domestic Violence Trial"^{xi}</p> | <p>Words – For the person who was harmed: Survivor</p> <p>Framing - For the person who did harm: committed x specific thing</p> | <p>We want survivors to be empowered.</p> <p>We want people who did harm not to be flattened to single set of acts.</p> |

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Commonly asked questions:

What a federal prison, private prison, state prison, county jail, immigration detention center is?

*Suggestion, different organizations have different frames. This is just some suggestions.

[sic]: What do y'all think about using the term "sic" when quoting language we reject--to draw attention to the reader that we disagree with terms like "offender." I've seen this technique used effectively in feminists writings rejecting problematic language such as "girls" instead of "women" etc. it's a way to show that we want to maintain the exact quote, but point out to readers that we know there's problematic language at the very least the reader would possibly pause to try to find what's wrong or why we used [sic]

Example: County Chief Executive William T Fujioka noted in a memo to the board that it had been "difficult to quantify the actual need for identification among Los Angeles County's ex-offenders [sic]"

ⁱ <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-inmate-riot-calipatria-state-prison-20140527-story.html>

ⁱⁱ <http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/chronic-offender-gets-another-eight-years-for-bank-robbery>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.latimes.com/local/politics/la-me-ff-pol-brown-prisons-20140622-story.html#page=1>

^{iv} <http://www.ktvu.com/news/news/crime-law/ex-convict-found-guilty-2012-oakland-fatal-stabbin/ngc3g/>

^v <http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/07/04/4010416/homeless-parolees-weigh-on-california.html>

^{vi} <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-offender-ids-20140128-story.html>

^{vii} <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-politics/10662145/Women-prisoners-Sex-in-prison-is-commonplace-the-male-inmates-just-hide-it-more-than-girls.html>

^{viii} http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/07/post_562.html

^{ix} http://www.thereporter.com/news/ci_12252153

^x <http://www.milforddailynews.com/article/20140702/News/140708995>

^{xi} <http://charlotte.twcnews.com/content/news/709798/victim-takes-the-stand-in-greg-hardy-domestic-violence-trial/>