



ANTIGONE

PER I DIRITTI E LE GARANZIE NEL SISTEMA PENALE

BY THE SIDE OF ANTIGONE

First Report on Detained Women in Italy

Press kit

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WOMEN'S CRIME

FEMALE CRIME IS EQUAL TO 18.3 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. WOMEN PRISONERS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE 4.2 PERCENT

Women arrested or reported are 151,860, according to 2021 data. Men, instead, are 679,277.

WOMEN'S REPORTED CRIMES COMPARED TO MEN'S.

1.9% OF TOTAL SEXUAL ASSAULTS. 6.1% OF MURDERS. 16.8% OF MAFIA REPORTS.

20.2% of total theft reports involve women. 23.2% of scams or computer frauds. 7.5% of robberies. 1.9% of total sexual assaults. 15.9% of reports of stalking. 25.8% of exploitation or promotion of prostitution. 7.7% of the violations of the law on drugs. 6.1% of murders. 16.8% of reports about mafia-type criminal associations.

DETAINED WOMEN

WOMEN'S DETENTION RATE

In Italy there are 8 women detained for every 100,000 female inhabitants. Meanwhile, there are 182 men detained for every 100,000 male inhabitants. There are also 17 transgender women detained for every 100,000 transgender inhabitants.

WOMEN IN PRISON ARE EVEN FEWER THAN REPORTED WOMEN. WOMEN MAKE UP 4.2 PERCENT OF THE DETAINED POPULATION. PRISON TENDS TO BE A MASCULINE PLACE

The presence of women prisoners in Italian prisons has now stood still for many years at around the current 4.2 percent. On January 31 of 2023 there were 2,392 women in Italian penitentiary institutes, including 15 mothers with 17 children in tow. Over the past 15 years, the number of annual admissions of women has almost halved. This is quite in line with what has happened with prison admissions in general, which had been controlled by regulations designed to avoid very short stays. However, the reduction has affected women more than men, because the percentage of female admissions in the years considered, has decreased by one point, from 7.8 percent in 2008 to 6.8 percent in 2022. It remains higher, however, than the percentage of women's admissions to prison, equal to 4.2 percent of total admissions, a sign of the greater shortness of stays and thus lower severity in the sentences received.

THE WORLD AVERAGE OF WOMEN PRISONERS IS 6.9 PERCENT THAT IS 2.7 PERCENT HIGHER THAN IN ITALY

Globally, women make up 6.9 percent of the worldwide's detained population. Hong Kong has the highest percentage in the world, at 19.7%. The Czech Republic has the highest percentage of the EU with 8.5 percent. Albania is the European country with the lowest percentage, at 1.3 percent, followed by Bosnia and Armenia.

WOMEN'S PRISONS AND WOMEN'S SECTIONS IN MEN'S PRISONS

FOUR WOMEN'S PRISONS, ONE INDEPENDENT "ICAM" (A LOW-SECURITY INSTITUTION) AND 44 WOMEN'S SECTIONS IN AS MANY MEN'S PRISONS

On January 31 of 2023 there were 2,392 women in Italian penitentiary institutes, including 15 mothers with 17 children in tow. The four women's prisons in Italy (in Trani, Pozzuoli, Rome and Venice) house 599 women, a quarter of the total. The attenuated custody institute in Lauro houses 9 incarcerated mothers and three others small Icams house 5 women in total. The other 1,779 women are substantially distributed in the 44 women's sections hosted inside men's prisons.

THE LARGEST WOMEN'S PRISON IN EUROPE IS IN ROME

With its 334 female inmates (118 foreigners), Rebibbia women's prison in Rome is the largest of Europe. The regulatory capacity is of 275 places.

THE STRUCTURAL CONDITIONS OF WOMEN'S PRISONS

Cells housing women generally do not differ much from those housing men. However, the structural conditions are often better, and usually women also appear cleaner and more well-kept.

WOMEN'S SECTIONS IN MEN'S PRISONS

They range from 114 female presences in Milan's Bollate prison or 117 in Turin's prison to 5 in Mantua, 4 in Paliano, up to 2 in Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto, very small numbers going back in time. It is difficult to organize significant activities for these people. However, it would be wrong to simply close sections, so as to remove women prisoners from their family and social references.

WOMEN SUFFER THE DAMAGE OF THE OVERCROWDING PRODUCED BY MEN

The official crowding rate of women's prisons was found to be 112.3 percent, which is higher than the general official crowding rate of Italian prisons (which is 109.2 percent, and yet lower than the actual real rate, because of the lack of consideration of unusable beds). Crowding in women's sections, noted during our visits, turned out

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to be 115 percent, compared with 113.7 percent for men. Women, with the small numerical burden they bring to the prison system, are not responsible for prison overcrowding, but they suffer it more than men, when they do not suffer on the contrary from isolation.

IN TWO OUT OF THREE OF THE CELLS HOUSING FEMALE INMATES THERE IS A BIDET

In 66 percent of the cells visited by Antigone there is a bidet as required by prison regulations, but the exceptions are important. It is missing, for example, in Bollate, an institution that houses 140 female inmates, or in San Vittore, which houses 79.

IN THE VISITED CELLS, THE TOILET IS ALMOST ALWAYS IN A SEPARATE ROOM

In 95.5 percent of the female cells visited, the toilet is in a separate room, compared to 89.8 percent in the exclusively male institutions, but even here, exceptions are important. At Rebibbia, in the "*camerotti*" ward, in the single rooms on the second floor there is only the toilet, which is not separated from the rest of the cell, and the showers are shared. At Bollate in the ground-floor ward the toilet is a squat toilet and in two cells there is not even a door separating the area with the beds from the bathroom/kitchen area.

60% OF THE CELLS HAVE A SHOWER

A shower is present in 60 percent of cells, compared with 47.5 percent in institutions that house only men. The institutions of Trani, Reggio Emilia, Rebibbia and Bollate are exceptions.

INMATE MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

17 CHILDREN IMPRISONED WITH THEIR 15 MOTHERS

As of January 31, 2023, there were 17 children under one year old living in prison with their 15 incarcerated mothers.

The trend in the presence of children in prisons has continued to fluctuate over the last 30 years, up (up to exceed 80 units) and down without being particularly influenced even by the regulatory changes introduced over time to protect the relationship between incarcerated mothers and underage children. It was the pandemic instead, with the fear for prisons that it entailed, and the related actions taken, that drastically reduced the numbers, from 48 children at the ending of 2019 to 29 at the ending of 2020, finally to the 17 that are now inside penal institutions. It is a sign of how, beyond the norms, to solve the problem of children in prison, it is necessary and possible to work in the practice of the judiciary by acting case-by-case on individual situations.

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9 CHILDREN IN LAURO, 3 IN SAN VITTORE IN MILAN, 2 IN VENICE, 1 IN TURIN, ROME AND LECCE

The largest core of the children that are in prison today (8 women with 9 children) is in the Lauro ICAM, followed by 3 women and 3 children in the San Vittore ICAM in Milan, and one woman with 2 children in the Venice Women's Prison ICAM. Then there are three cores composed only of a mother and a child within the ICAM of the Turin Prison, in the nursery section of women's Rebibbia, and in the women's section of the Lecce Prison, where, at the time of Antigone's visit, there was a woman with a 2-years-old daughter, housed in an area of the prison separated from the other women inmates. In the Institute there is not a real nursery section, but only a space where a crib, a changing table and children's toys are allocated. There were no organized activities and programs for mothers with children, since incarcerated mothers are usually only in transit for short periods.

ONLY TWO SHELTERED GROUP HOMES

Throughout Italy there are only two sheltered family homes prescribed by Law No. 62 of 2011 to address the difficulties faced in accessing alternatives to prison by detained mothers without a home deemed appropriate by the judiciary. In Milan, it has been hosting this type of users (since 2010, even before the law came into force) the protected family home of the association "Ciao... un ponte tra carcere, famiglia e territorio," which currently houses four mothers with five children. A few years later, in 2017, the "Casa di Leda" was born in Rome, which can accommodate six women with eight children up to ten years old.

TRANS DETENUES.

The approximately 70 trans women in Italian prisons are housed in special protected sections inside the male prisons in the institutions of Belluno, Como, Ivrea, Naples Secondigliano, Reggio Emilia and Rome Rebibbia Nuovo Complesso. These women often live in a state of neglect, being involved in very few internal activities. In Belluno, the 16 detainees housed in the trans section do not carry out in any cultural, recreational or sports activities, and only one inmate attends a school course. No activities are operating in the Ivrea sections either, and none of the 7 trans women are enrolled in school courses. At the time of the visit, there were 11 women housed in the transex section. For the 11 women in Como, the processing and workshop spaces are very small and, differently from men, they are not allowed to use the gym or sports field. The 11 women in Secondigliano take a professional course of nail art and makeup. For the 11 women in Reggio Emilia, there are no school courses available. The 16 trans women in Rebibbia, most of whom are foreigners, however, are allowed to take literacy courses and to attend secondary school courses, both of which held in the classrooms inside the section. The planned recreational activities

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are sewing and a drama class. As for sports, there is the possibility to practice volleyball.

THE LEGAL COMPOSITION OF WOMEN'S DETENTION

WOMEN ON REMAND ARE JUST SHORT OF ONE-THIRD OF THE TOTAL FEMALE INMATE POPULATION

A look at the legal composition does not bring any major surprises. Women on remand in prison are, out of the total number of prisoners on remand, in a percentage completely comparable to that of their overall presence in the prison system.

WOMEN INTERNED IN 'REMS' (RESIDENCE FOR THE EXECUTION OF SECURITY MEASURES) ARE 12% OF THE TOTAL

As of Dec. 31, 2022, there were 33 active Rems in the country. Of the 592 internees with a psychiatric detention security measure, 71 (or 12 percent of the total) were women, including 4 foreigners. Women interned in Rems are therefore a higher percentage than women detained in prison. However, women interned in prison - or recipients of a non-psychiatric custodial security measure resulting to habitualness, professionalism and tendency in crime – are in a lower percentage than the female presence in prison (2.3 percent of the total number of detainees interned in prison).

WOMEN'S CRIMES: FIRST OF ALL, PROPERTY CRIMES

Property crimes for women matters 29.2 percent out of all crimes ascribed to the female inmate population, while for men they count 23.7 percent out of crimes ascribed to the male inmate population, a gap of 5.5 points of percentage. Men matter more in the law on weapons (4.7 percentage points more), probably indicating that in property crimes carried out by men, robberies compared to simple thefts, count more than for women. Also, mafia-type association sees 2.5 percentage points in addition among men prisoners than women, while crimes against public administration see an increase of 2.2 percentage points. The other types of crimes show roughly similar percentages among men and women in prison.

WOMEN RECEIVE LOWER SENTENCES THAN MEN. 30 WOMEN ARE SENTENCED TO LIFE. 72 TO OVER 20 YEARS

Men thicken percentagewise in sentences of more than ten years of confinement or life imprisonment far more than what happens for women. The other way round, the latter thicken percentagewise in sentences up to seven years of prison, far more than what happens for men. There are 30 women sentenced to life. Female inmates that have to serve less than one-year sentences are 65. To serve sentences under three years there are 355 women, 249 between 10 and 20 years and 72 over 20 years.

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FOREIGN FEMALE PRISONERS

FOREIGN FEMALE DETAINEES IN DECLINE: THEY ARE NOW 30.5 OF TOTAL DETAINEES. IN 2013 THEY WERE TEN PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER

The presence of foreign women out of the total number of women prisoners is 30.5 percent. In 2013, the percentage of foreign women out of the total number of women was 40.05%. Over the past 10 years, foreign women detained in Italian prisons have decreased both in absolute and percentage terms.

MOST REPRESENTED NATIONALITIES: ROMANIAN, NIGERIAN, BULGARIAN

Compared to the countries of origin of foreign women, the most present nationality is Romanian, which starts with very high numbers in 2013 (with 287 presences) and decreases over the years until stabilizing in the last three years at around 180 units. The second most present nationality is Nigerian, which between 2013 and 2015 stands at around 90 units, then rises gradually up to a peak of 204 people, and in 2022 returns to decline to 111 units. The third most present nationality follows at a considerable distance and varies greatly from year to year. In 2022, Bulgarian nationality rises to the third place with 66 people.

DECREASE IN FOREIGN WOMEN DEFENDANTS

Between 2017 and 2021 there is a decrease in the percentage of women defendants (from 33.62% to 28.25%). A higher percentage of convicted Italian women can be seen (in 2021, 72.67% of Italian women had a conviction) than foreign women (in 2021, 68.84% of foreign women had a conviction). As a result, a lower percentage of Italian women was not permanent (from 28.95% in 2017 to 26.93% in 2021) as opposed to foreign women (from 41.51% in 2017 to 31.02 in 2021).

FOREIGNERS' MOST COMMITTED CRIMES ARE: AGAINST PROPERTY, AGAINST THE PERSON AND AGAINST THE DRUG LAW

In the case of foreign women, the most prevalent crimes are property crimes (376), crimes against the person (285) and drug law violations (142). These three are the main types of crimes also for the total foreign detainees. They are followed at a significant distance by violations of the Aliens Act (73), prostitution (71), crimes against the administration of justice (57) and against public administration (57).

GIRLS IN JUVENILE PRISONS

Among Italy's 17 Juvenile Penal Institutes, only one, in Pontremoli, is entirely feminine while two others, in Rome and Nisida, have female sections, although in the latter it is not currently operating. As of January 2023, of the 385 young prisoners in Italian juvenile prisons, only 10 were girls, or 2.6 percent of the total, a percentage still lower than that of adult female prisoners. Communities housed 58 girls

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subjected to criminal measures, or 6.5 percent of the total. Overall, there were 1,300 youth girls in charge of juvenile justice services, that represent the 9.4 percent of the total number of boys and girls in charge for the execution of some criminal measure or for social investigations and treatment projects. As we move toward more restraining measures, the percentage of girls evidently characterized by low criminal background, decreases. A look at prison admissions shows us how that of girls has halved in percentage from 2007 (14.4 percent) to 2022 (7.3 percent), with a strong incidence of the decrease in the admissions of foreigners.

WOMEN IN THE PENAL AREA OUTSIDE OF PRISON

DETAINED WOMEN ARE 1.3 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN CRIMINAL SUPERVISION

As of January 2023, women in prison make up 1.3 percent of the total number of people under criminal supervision, while women in the external penal area make up 7.9 percent. For men, the two percentages stood at 30.1 percent and 60.6 percent, respectively. While for women the latter percentage is more than six times than the former, for men the ratio is about one to two. This is as much a sign of the higher number of short sentences received by women, as it is of the specific rules on alternatives to prison for detained mothers, as again it is of the higher rate of trust enjoyed by women in the judiciary, because of their low weight in terms of social dangerousness.

14,146 WOMEN IN PROBATION. OF THESE 3,331 IN ALTERNATIVE MEASURES, LESS THAN THE NUMBER OF WOMEN PLACED ON "MESSA ALLA PROVA" - (SUSPENSION OF THE PROCEEDINGS WITH PROBATION)

As of January 15, 2023, the out-of-prison landscape is populated by a total of 122,257 people, of whom the 11.6 percent (or 14,146) are women, compared to the 88.4 percent of their male counterparts (or 108,111 men). The growth in the use of the external penal area observable over time has been consistent and steady, particularly in the last 15 years. 3,331 at the beginning of 2023 were the women in alternative measures. 3,815 subjects were in suspension of the proceedings with probation.

HOME DETENTION IS MORE USED THAN IN THE CASE OF MEN. ONLY 33 WOMEN IN "SEMILIBERTÀ" (PARTIAL FREEDOM)

The women in foster care are 2,113 of whom 74.2 percent come from liberty, 19.7 percent from a detention that has already begun in prison, and 6 percent from home detention or home arrest. Out of the 1,185 women in home detention, however, a more balanced division prevails between women condemned from liberty (40 percent) and those condemned from detention (46 percent), to which are added the women awaiting a decision under Article 656 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (the residual 14.2 percent). In the case of women, probationary custody slightly exceeds

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the figures related to home detention, a ratio that, instead is subject to a wider gap in the male sphere, where men in foster care stand out clearly, proving to be almost always a number significantly higher than the number of men in home detention. A statistic that could be explained by the easier access of mothers and pregnant women to the latter measure, but also with a cultural substratum that tends to relegate women to the domestic role only, dampening any working and professionalizing development, which they would instead have the opportunity to implement in conditions of greater freedom and through the carrying out of re-socializing activities. There are Only 33 women in partial freedom.

THE SOCIAL COMPOSITION OF FEMALE DETENTION

AGE OF WOMEN PRISONERS. WOMEN OVER 70 YEARS OLD ARE 31, AND WOMEN FROM EIGHTEEN TO TWENTY YEARS OLD ARE ONLY 9

A look at the age groups shows us how the female inmate population tends to be older than the male inmate population and how the entire detained population has been aging over the last 15 years. Women over the age of 70 are 31. Women aged between eighteen and twenty are only 9. Female Young adults are 78.

THERE ARE MORE THAN 3,890 CHILDREN OF DETAINED WOMEN WHO ARE OUTSIDE OF PRISON

Among the 2237 women who were in prison at the end of 2021, 1,426 were mothers. 372 of these had one child, 379 had two, 303 had three, 184 had four, 70 had five, 52 had 6, and 63 had more than 6 children.

Overall, we can say that on 31 December 2021 there were over 3,890 children with their mother in an Italian prison (we do not know the exact figure greater than six).

STAFF DEDICATED TO WOMEN'S PRISONS

THE STAFF IN WOMEN'S PRISONS. A GREATER PRESENCE OF WARDENS THAN IN MALE PRISONS AND SECTIONS

An exclusively appointed warden is more present in institutions housing women (70.5 percent) than in the total number of institutions (58.5 percent). The same applies to deputy directors. There is one or more of them in 34.9 percent of institutions where women are housed compared to 26.6 percent of the institutes' average. There is also a higher presence of police officers (85.8 percent of the workforce is covered compared to 83.8 percent of the institutions' average) and of educators (76.7 percent of the headcount compared to 72.1 percent).

THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF DETAINED WOMEN

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12.4% OF WOMEN HAVE SERIOUS PSYCHIATRIC DIAGNOSES. 63.8% USES PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS: DATA WHICH MARKING AN ENORMOUS DISCOMFORT

A 24-hour doctor is present in 75 percent of the institutions that house women, compared with 61 percent of those that house only men. Women with serious psychiatric diagnoses are 12.4 percent of those present, compared with 9.2 percent of those present in all the institutions visited in 2022, and they 63.8 percent of those present regularly use psychotropic drugs, compared with the 41.6 percent of the total. Then, Psychological distress appears more significant among women. Probably because of this, in the wards, the hours of psychiatric care that are provided on average for every 100 inmates are 7 in the institutions that house only men and 11.2 in institutions where also women are housed, while the hours of psychological care are 13 in the institutions that house only men and 22.34 in those where there are also women.

14.9 OF WOMEN ARE IN TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE ADDICTION

The 14.9 percent of female inmates are in treatment for drug addiction compared with 20.8 percent of total inmates.

THERE IS A LACK OF GYNECOLOGY SERVICES IN ONE IN THREE PRISONS AND OF AN OBSTETRICS SERVICE IN TWO IN THREE PRISONS

There is a gynaecology service for detained women in 66.7 percent of institutions housing women. In the others, among which there are important institutes such as San Vittore (79 women present) or Palermo "Pagliarelli" (66), the specialist is called when necessary or women are brought outside. There is a midwifery service for detained women in 31.8 percent of institutions housing women.

SELF-HARM, SUICIDE, DISCIPLINE

TOO MANY CASES OF SELF-HARM

Acts of self-harm among women were 30.8 per 100 attendees, compared with 15 in the institutions that house only men.

5 WOMEN KILLED THEMSELVES IN 2022. IN 2020 AND 2021, ONLY ONE WOMAN HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE.

The number of suicides last year was dramatic: in 2022 84 people took their own lives within a penal institution, one every four days. Such a high number had never been recorded, neither in absolute nor in relative terms. Among them, 5 were women, 3 of whom were foreigners (both 2020 and 2021 had recorded a single female suicide in prison).

FIVE SUICIDES, FIVE TRAGIC STORIES

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Two women suffered from mental distress; two others had drug addiction problems. Some were very young. Concetta Manuela Agosta was 29 years old and had been in the Messina district prison for only two days. She hanged herself in her cell. A 36-year-old Romanian woman hanged herself with a pair of elastic trousers from a medlar at the end of yard time in Barcelona Pozzo di Gotto prison. The Italian woman who took her own life in Rebibbia was 36 years old and had drug addiction. The 51-year-old foreign woman who hanged herself in Brescia prison had been detained there for several months for property crimes. Donatella Hodo, 27, also had drug addiction problems and had been back and forth between prison and community since she was very young. She killed herself one night in Verona prison. The supervisory magistrate admitted that the system had failed with her, and that prison was not the right place for Donatella.

THE MOST CONTESTED DISCIPLINARY INFRACTION IS THE NEGLIGENCE IN ROOM CLEANING. 'TYPICAL FEMALE' BEHAVIOR SEEMS TO BE EXPECTED FROM FEMALE INMATES

During the year 2021, 40,043 disciplinary infractions committed in prisons were identified, 2,111 of which (5.3 percent) involved female prisoners.

In some types of infractions, women are proportionally more represented than men. These infractions include the neglect of personal or room cleaning, where women weigh for the 13.6 percent (compared with 4.2 percent of its overall presence in prison), the harassing attitude towards fellow inmates (11.4 percent), and the intimidation or the oppression over them (8.5 percent). Other types of infractions involve female prisoners proportionally less than men, such as participation in riots or uprisings (1.2 percent of the total of that type of infractions), promotion of them (0.2 percent), traffic or possess of unauthorized property (1.4 percent), delay in re-entry to prison (2.7 percent), and fraudulent communications with the outside outsiders (1.4 percent).

'Typical female' behaviours seem to be expected from female inmates and thus higher standards of clean and decorum are required to them more than to men. There is also a stereotype that female prisoners are more quarrelsome. Female conflict, represented as quarrelling for futile reasons as opposed to the seriousness and dangerousness of male conflicts, is seen as a problem in prison management and therefore is identified and reported even when not serious. Indeed, many of the infractions ascribed to women remain without punishment.

WOMEN ARE SUBJECT TO LESS SEVERE DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS THAN MEN

In general, women receive lighter disciplinary sanctions than male inmates, because women are over-represented in terms of being scolded and admonished by the warden and under-represented in terms of being excluded from mutual activities, also known as disciplinary isolation.

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LIFE INSIDE PRISONS: ACTIVITIES, WORK, EDUCATION

VERY FEW ACTIVITIES IN COMMON WITH MEN. AN ANACHRONISTIC BAN ON INTEGRATION AND GATHERING

Opportunities for interaction between female and male inmates are provided in only 10 percent of the institutions that house women. Mixed participation takes place in Bollate in an educational activity dedicated to women, in Sollicciano in some training courses (e.g., HACCP), in Bergamo and Forlì in the theatre course, in Mantova in the poetry workshop, and in Pesaro in the green therapy project which is held inside the greenhouse.

ONE IN TWO WOMEN WORKS. MOST EMPLOYED BY THE PRISON ADMINISTRATION

Women in prison are included in employment pathways in higher percentages than men. At the end of 2021, the latest available data, half of the women in prison were employed (but keep in mind that to be counted among working prisoners it may be enough to work even a few or very few hours per week, resulting in little or very little remuneration). There was a total of 1,118 employed women, accounting the 5.8 percent of the total number of detained people employed. 925 of these, (82.7 percent) worked for the Penitentiary administration and 193 (17.3 percent) for outsiders. Over the past fifteen years, the percentage of women out of total employed prisoners has always fluctuated around these figures, not exceeding 6.6 percent and not falling below 5.4 percent.

242 WOMEN ATTENDED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSES

Even in participation in professional training courses, women tend to be more represented than the average of their prison attendance. It is important to direct the type of training offered toward non-stereotypical female paths. In the first half of 2022, the latest available data, there were 2,248 people enrolled in the 197 professional training courses activated, including 242 women (representing the 10.8%). However, if we look at completed courses, again in that semester there were 163 courses, in which 1,763 inmates were enrolled, and 90 of them (5.1%) were women.

7.1% OF WOMEN ARE ILLITERATE. 59 FEMALE INMATES HAVE A DEGREE

As concerns educational pathways, the latest available data (as of Dec. 31, 2021) show that educational qualification had been observed for the two-thirds of the women in prison, or 1,515 out of 2,237. The largest number of women (667), nearly half of the recorded data, held a junior high school license. There were 39 female inmates without any educational qualification while 108 were illiterate, accounting for 7.1 percent of the total detained women. There are 59 female inmates with a degree.

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835 WOMEN ATTENDED A SCHOOL COURSE. TOO FEW WOMEN ATTEND UNIVERSITY COURSES. ONLY ONE WOMAN GRADUATED IN 2021 AS OPPOSED TO MEN, THAT WERE 18

In the 2021-22 school year, 20,357 inmates were enrolled in some courses of the education-cycle (accounting for 32.1 percent of those present at the beginning of the term, so as of September 2021). Among these, 835 were women. However, only 15.8 percent of the number of attendees at the beginning of the term achieved promotion during the school year (8,456 people, including 334 women), which is less than half. This is a sign of a great problem in the ability to ensure a solid school education in prison. While in the lower grades of education women enrolled and promoted compared to the total number of women in attendance tend to be proportionally more represented than men enrolled and promoted compared to the total number of men in attendance, in the higher grades the situation is reversed. Today, as in the past, women tend to attend literacy and Italian language learning courses and other first-level courses, accessing second-level courses less.

A look at the data on university studies confirms this consideration. At the end of 2021, the latest available data, there were 1,093 inmates enrolled at the university (including 517 in penitentiary institutions with university centres), and these included only 36 women. Among the 19 inmates who graduated during the year there was only one woman.

SOCCER AS A MEANS OF EMANCIPATION. THE EXPERIENCE OF "ATLETICO DIRITTI" IN THE REBIBBIA WOMEN'S PRISON

In 2018, the "Atletico Diritti" 5-a-side soccer (futsal) team was born, and it trains and plays in Rebibbia women's prison in Rome. "Atletico Diritti" is a multi-sport club founded in 2014 by Antigone together with the "Progetto Diritti" association and with the support of Roma Tre University. The women's futsal team plays a championship of the Italian Sports Center (CSI). The prison field was initially not up to Figc (Italian Football Federation) standards. The choice of futsal reflects the philosophy behind the Atletico Diritti project: to fight stereotypes, break them down, to build a different idea far from clichés, and to do it through sports. Because within the prison - even more than in the unrestricted society - women risk being subjected to stereotypical interpretations. Women of different nationalities, Italian, Romani, Brazilian, Colombian, Peruvian, Serbian and Romanian, they all have worn the Atletico Diritti uniform. They have become a team, they have come together and supported each other, creating through soccer a virtuous bond also with all the staff of the institution, who come on Saturdays to cheer the team during the games. The weekly entry of external teams into the prison has contributed to create a bridge between inside and outside, that is the only way to fight prejudice and to bring prison out of isolation. In May 2020, amid the pandemic, the team captain was received in private audience by Pope Francis, to whom she read a poem written by herself. To say it using her own words, "if we can improve on a soccer field then we can do it in life too!"

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HELD IN SPECIAL REGIMES

12 WOMEN ARE SUBJECTED TO THE 41 BIS, SECOND INDENT REGIME. ONE IN TEN WOMEN IS IN HIGH SECURITY

The 12 female inmates are all at the penitentiary institution of L'Aquila. They are 0.5 percent of the total female inmate population. A percentage about three times lower than that of men. There are 8 women in the AS2 regime (inmates belonging to national and international terrorist associations) and 218 in the AS3 regime (mafia-type criminal organizations). About 10% of women are in the AS regime. In the case of men, the percentage rises to 16.8 percent, a sign of a higher criminal profile. Women are restricted in Piacenza, Latina, Lecce, Santa Maria Capua Vetere, Vigevano, Rome Rebibbia, and Reggio Calabria.

SIX WOMEN COLLABORATE IN 'Z' SECTIONS

"Z" sections, are aimed to house women who are collaborators of justice or otherwise related to male collaborators of justice. Today there are three sections throughout the country aimed to house women collaborators of justice or the relatives of collaborators for a total number of 6 women.

PRISON AS SEEN BY WOMEN'S DEMANDS TO ANTIGONE OMBUDSMAN

Below are some excerpts from letters sent to Antigone from which the most recurring problems, anxieties, and fears are evident.

LIFE INSIDE - An inmate in Como: "At the women's prison there is no possibility to use the theatre, no possibility to take music classes, since the instruments are only in men's prison. The air area has no usable balls ... and gives no possibility to carry out sports activities. The educational area exists only in the man's area, and the female inmates are without stable educators, with the effect that observations and summaries are drafted, precluding access to alternative measures, with very serious damage to the female inmates."

EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS – An inmate in Latina: *"I haven't had meetings with my mother since Dec. 20, 2019. I don't have my father anymore and my mother can't make it because of health and economic problems. It is true that I made a mistake, but how is my mother to blame? Has my path been for nothing? I can't take it anymore, I feel bad, this detachment is too much."*

THE DAUGHTERS – a Detained in Vigevano: *"I have 2 underage children, the 2008's male (entrusted to my mother) and the 2009's female (entrusted to his father and my mother). Unfortunately, I had one child in 2019, but he was taken in foster care in the hospital itself. I haven't heard from him since then. I know that by law adoptability opens when you have a 10 years sentence, but with me they opened adoptability since now, in fact already for 1 year. They did not even give me the chance to prove that I have changed my life. I am falling into a bad depression. It is like I am doing a double imprisonment."*

THE LACK OF SPACES – An Inmate in Messina: *"The walkways are very few meters, you can't walk around, there is no space. The bathroom is with a crappy half wall. And a tin roof.... I wonder why the state is so indifferent to all of this? it seems to me like a 41 bis, what should we do? Who should we turn to? The penal code does not provide for psychological torture, but here it happens constantly, if you submit an "application" for phone calls, or for video calls and they lose it they tell you that the application can't be found, and we take a loss because we can phone only twice a week. If we are addressing you, it is because we really are on the edge of endurance of all this abuse."*

ANTIGONE'S TEN PROPOSALS FOR DETAINED WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The tragedy of Antigone talks about the relationship between law and justice and about the conflict between male power and women's bodies. We wanted to name after Antigone this first Report on Detained Women in Italy, on behalf of all the 'Antigones' who are in Italian prisons.

Our penitentiary system is male oriented in its regulations and institutional organization. In the law, in prison regulations and in prison management There is no specific attention paid to detained women. We therefore start with our proposals to bridge this gap.

The Bangkok Rules (United Nations Rules Concerning the Treatment of Detained Women and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders) reiterate that measures taken to meet these needs from the perspective of gender equality

are not to be considered discriminatory. The following are just some of the possible proposals for regulatory innovation. Some require a legislative action, others a merely administrative one.

1. An office dealing with women's detention should be established in the Department of Prison Administration, which should be headed by experts on gender policies.
2. Positive actions aimed at removing the obstacles that women face in accessing work, education, and professional training should be provided.
3. Detained Women's sleeping rooms must have everything that is necessary to meet the specific hygienic and sanitary needs of women, including sanitary napkins provided free of charge.
4. Detained Women must be provided with female cancer prevention and screening services equivalent to those of women at large. In particular, PaP testing and screening for breast or reproductive cancer must be offered to female inmates equally to what is offered in the free community for other women of the same age.
5. At the stage of the woman's admission to prison, a thorough examination directed at verifying whether the woman has experienced sexual violence or other abuse or forms of violence prior to her admission to prison must be ensured by prison and National Health Service staff. If incidents of sexual violence or other abuse or mistreatment are ascertained or reported during detention, the woman must be promptly informed of her right to appeal to the judicial authorities.
6. To the woman victim of violence managed by a health, psychological and social point of view while in custody must be assured the consistency of care once she is out.
7. In prisons where women are detained, there must be properly trained and specialized on gender-based violence staff. All staff assigned to work with detained women must receive training related to the specific gender-needs and to the rights of detained women.
8. Actions aimed to prevent all forms of gender-based discrimination against women who work in the prison staff at all levels should be taken.
9. According with the principle that life in prison should approximate as much as possible to that in the free community, joint daily activities should be provided in all prisons housing both men and women so as to increase opportunities, especially for detained women.
10. Prisons and women's sections should be patterned as much as possible on the "custodia attenuata" (low security) custody model.