



The Social Mission Conference 2010

THE MARGINALISED



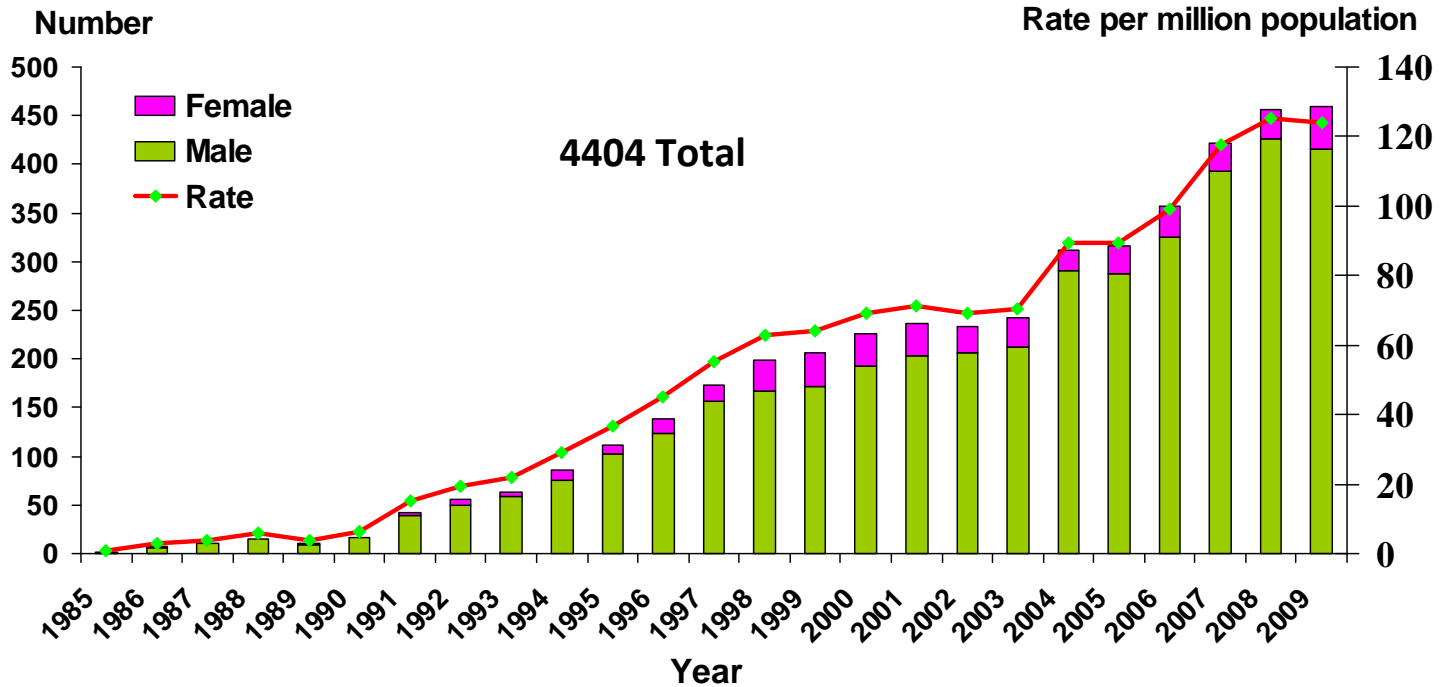
Anthony Soo

**Vice-President,
Catholic AIDS
Response Effort**



HIV INFECTION IN SINGAPORE

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- Rising infection rate – many more undetected and unreported
- Predominantly male but % female increasing. 46% '09 increase
- 90% from sexual contact – 61% heterosexual
- Affects all walks of life
- Lifelong medication can provide extended productive lives



PLIGHT OF SUFFERERS

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loneliness

depression

anger

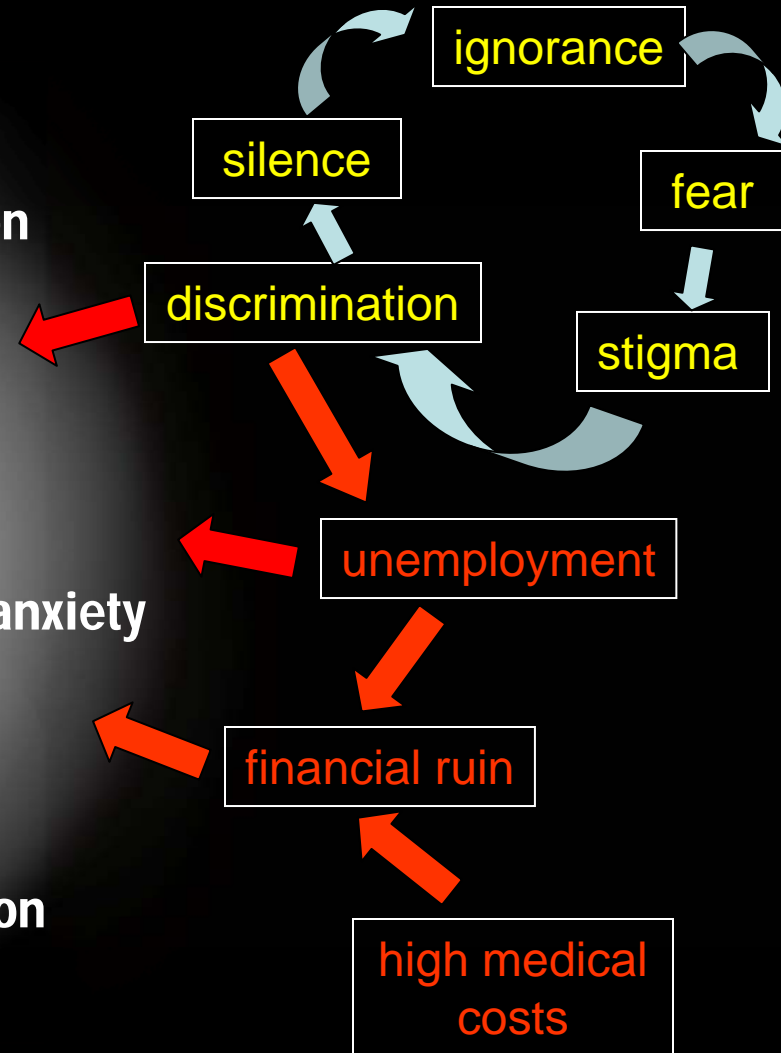
guilt/shame

disabilities

shattered lives

fear/anxiety

rejection





Denise Pang

Vice-Chairman, Clarity



Are you...

Engaged in
Productive
Activity

Fulfilling
Relationships
with Others



Capacity to
cope with
Change

Capacity to
cope with
Adversity



Mental Health in Singapore (2008/9)



- >33,000 outpatients seeking treatment at IMH for mental disorders
- Available Mental Health Rehab & Support Services (other than IMH)

| VWOs/NPOs | Premises | Services |
|---|---|--|
| SACS | Simei & Hougang Care Center | Residential and Day Care Supported Employment |
| | CRSS Bukit Batok | Day Care and Home Visits |
| SAMH | Bukit Gombak Home, Youthreach, Oasis Day Care | Residential and Day Centre Supported Employment |
| | | |
| Others include: Crises Management & Support (SOS), Silver Ribbon, Action Group for Mental Illness | | |



Current Challenges



- **Providers:**
 - Need to reach more people with psychiatric illnesses
 - Case loads are high per case worker is high = time spent per case is low
 - Funding and governance
- **Recovering Individuals and Caregivers:**
 - Financial & Social Support
 - Employability
 - Housing
 - Crisis Intervention
 - High rate of relapses
- **External Environment:**
 - Employers
 - Housing
 - Social acceptance



Kevin Yap

**Chairman,
Roman Catholic
Prison Ministry**



The Marginalized

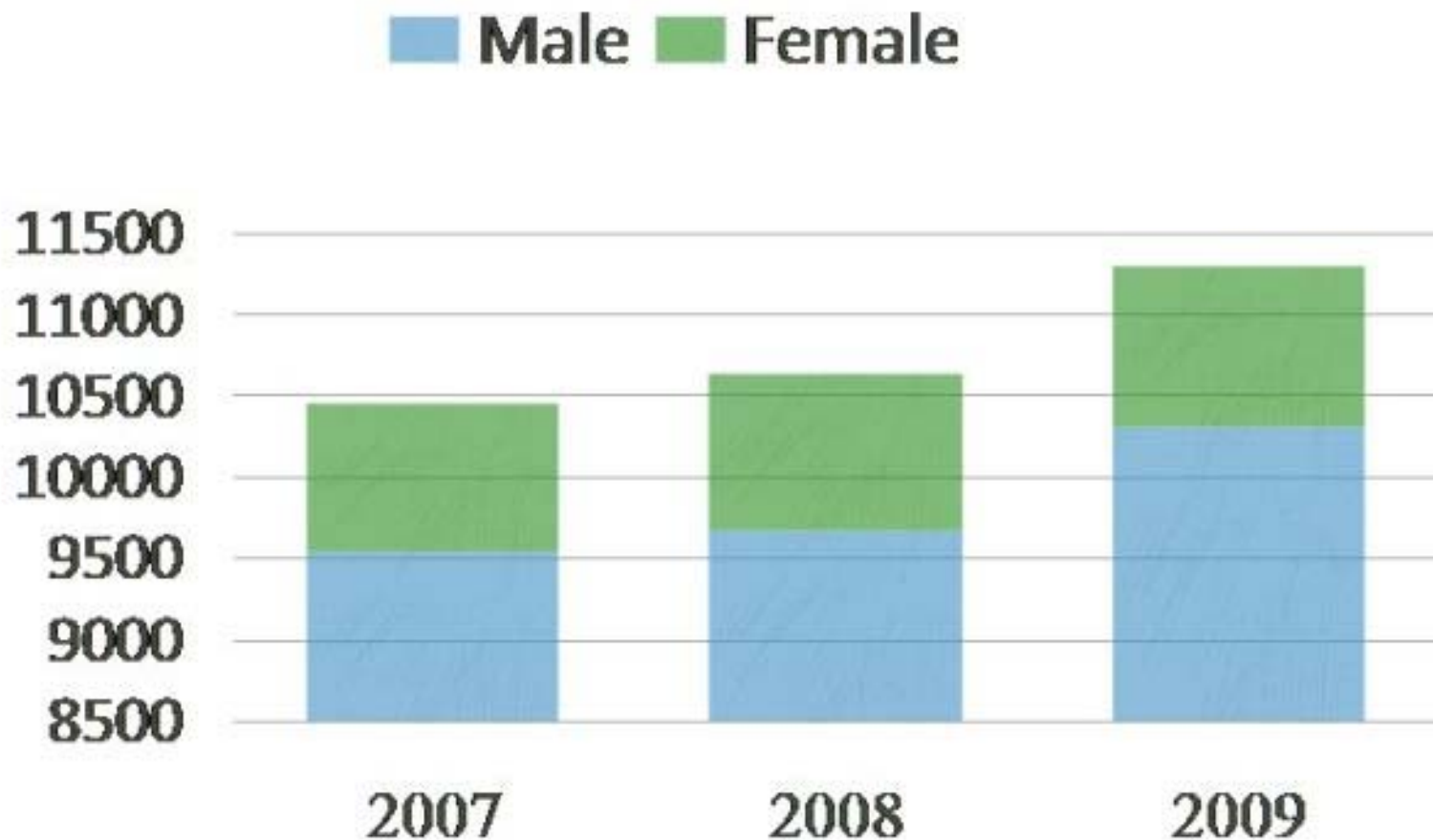
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Convicted Penal Population

as at 31st December



Source: Singapore Prison Service annual report 2009



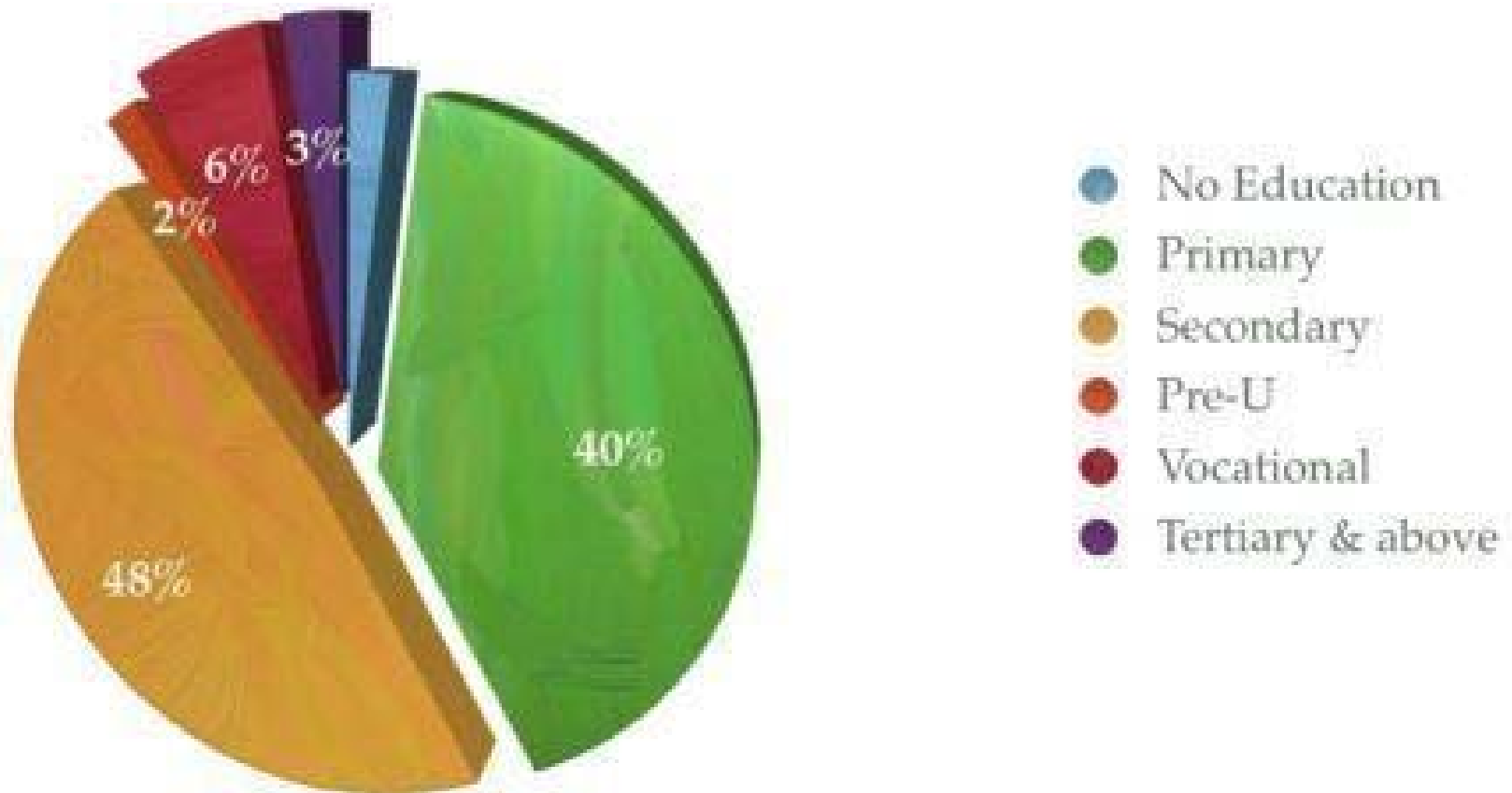
Age Group

| | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009 | |
|----------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| < 21 | 554 | 5% | 553 | 5% | 570 | 5% |
| 21- 30 | 2,467 | 24% | 2,367 | 22% | 2390 | 21% |
| 31 - 40 | 3,540 | 34% | 3,465 | 33% | 3483 | 31% |
| 41 - 50 | 2,775 | 27% | 2,922 | 27% | 3203 | 28% |
| 51 - 60 | 984 | 9% | 1,186 | 11% | 1463 | 13% |
| > 60 | 126 | 1% | 135 | 1% | 179 | 2% |
| Total | 10,446 | | 10,628 | | 11,288 | |



Educational Level

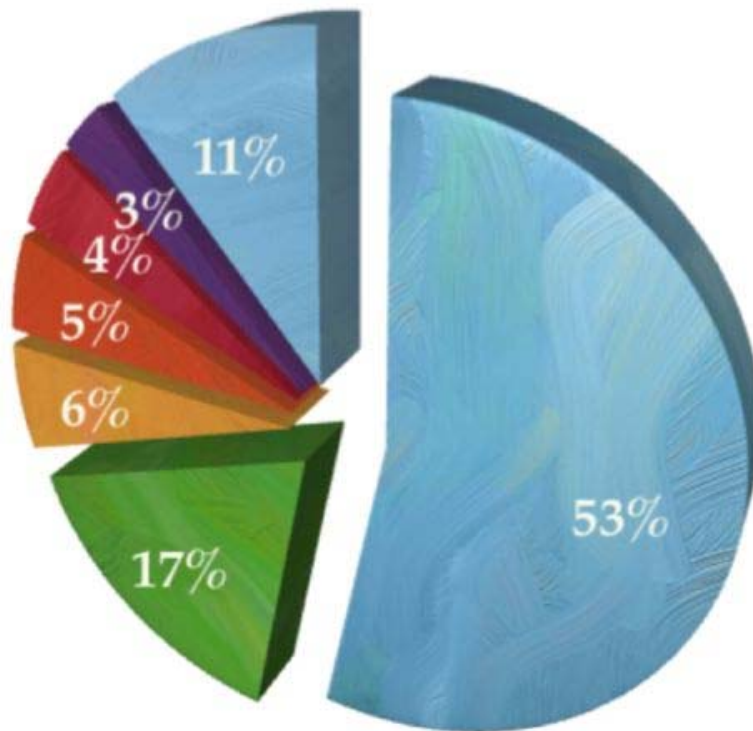
as declared by inmates upon admission





Main Offence Group

based on most serious offence



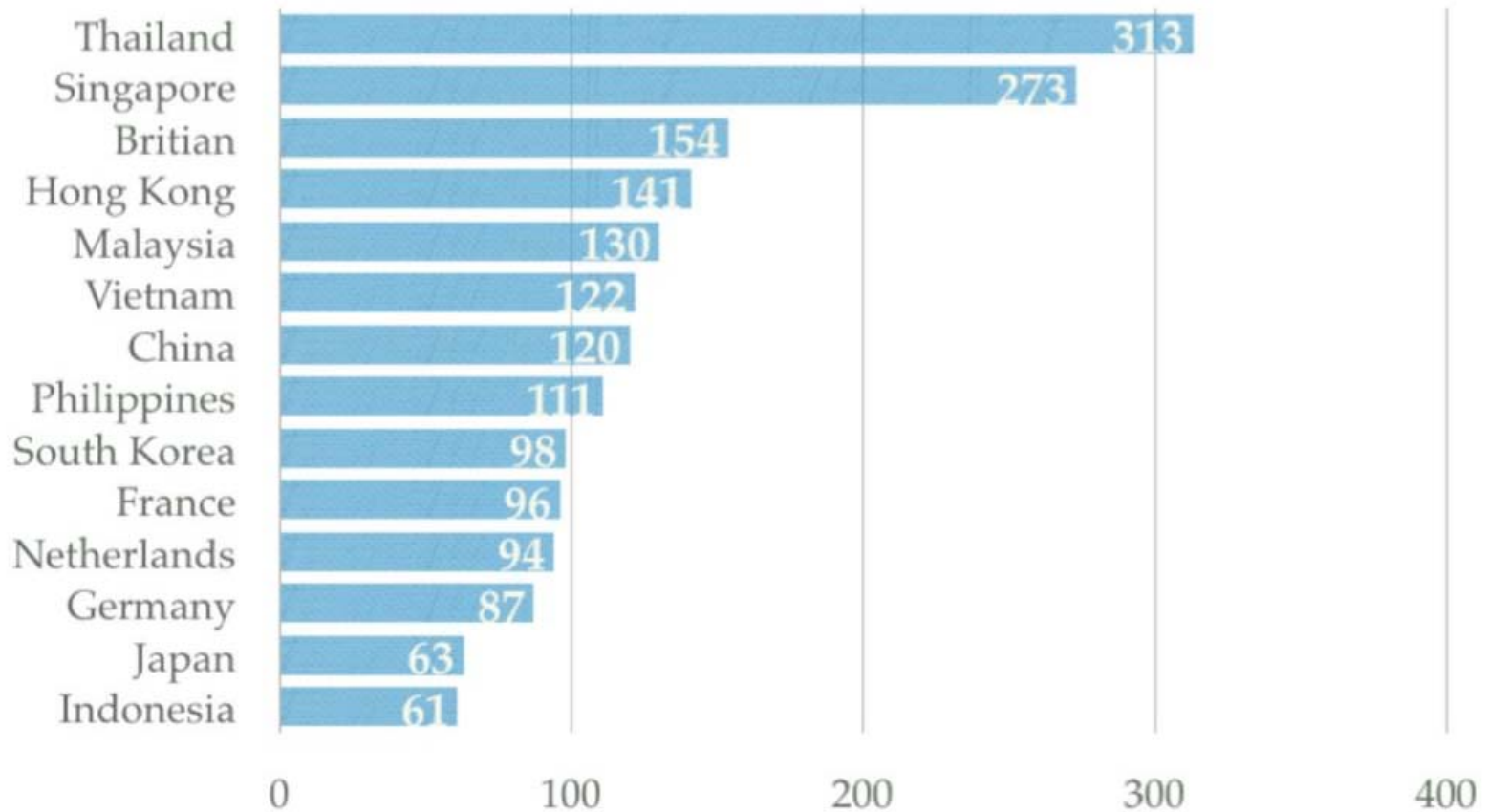
- Drug Offence
- Property Crime
- Commercial Crimes
- Crime Against Person
- Immigration Offences
- Crime against Public Order
- Others



Inmates per 100,000 population

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■ Selected countries, 2010 or latest available

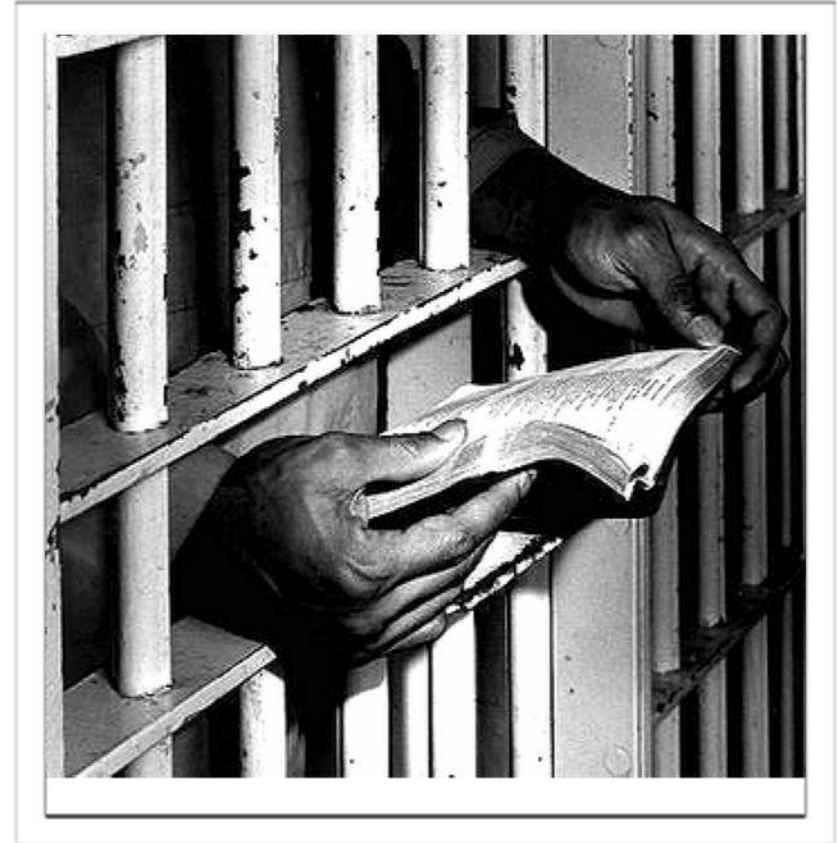




Living Behind Bars

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- ◆ Deprived of personal freedom & privacy
- ◆ Loss of dignity
- ◆ Confined environment
- ◆ Punishment - caging
- ◆ CLD - When will I be released?

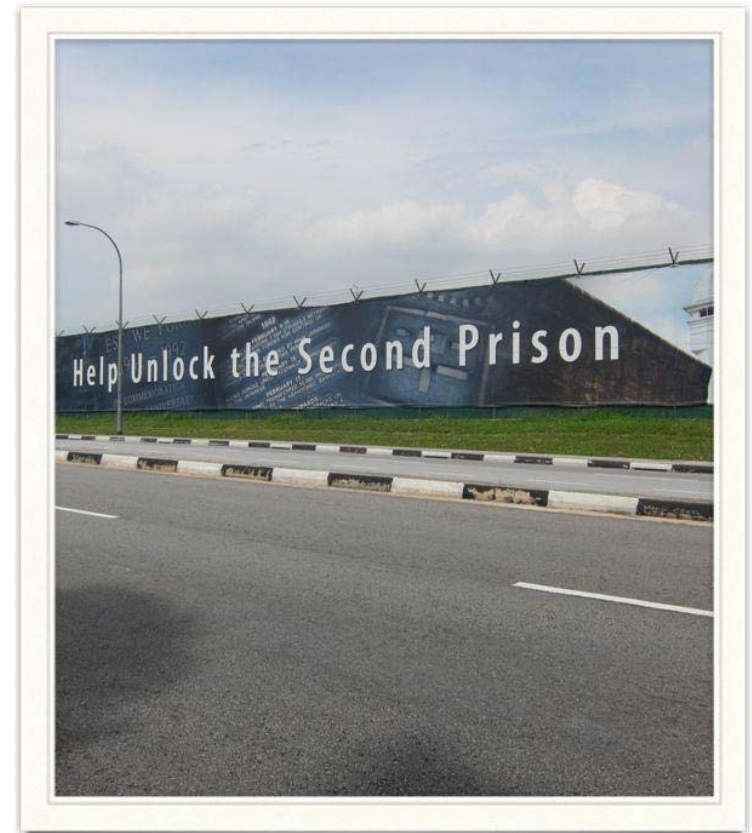




Reintegration Challenges

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- ◆ Recidivism
- ◆ No place of residence
- ◆ No money - no job
- ◆ Disconnected from their families & communities
- ◆ No survival skills
- ◆ Continuous substance abuse/temptations remain





Charity & Justice

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- ◆ Is the Catholic Church and its community doing enough for the prisoners and ex-offenders?
- ◆ Is criminalization in Singapore over done?
- ◆ Does a less punitive punishment system work better for drug addicts?
- ◆ Should we encourage more community-based sentencing and home tagging?
- ◆ Do we have sufficient legal protection to the poor, the migrant workers, the illiterate and the mental patients?
- ◆ What is the cost-benefit of keeping low risk non-violent prisoner in jail?
- ◆ Does this make sense? “Fair wages” for inmates who work in the prison?

