

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC)

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milwaukee Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC-Milwaukee) reporting on the situation in Wisconsin prisons.

**MILWAUKEE, WIS. – March 14, 2019 –IWOC-Milwaukee has made public its investigative report cross-referencing official information about Wisconsin prisons with testimonies from people inside. Revealing lack of transparency and accountability on the part of Wisconsin DOC, the report documents a pattern of medical neglect, mistreatment, exploitation, and other forms of abuse.**

People who have no direct contact with the prison system often prefer not to think about the day-to-day life of incarcerated people, embodying Angela Davis' idea that "prisons do not disappear social problems, they disappear human beings." The aim of this report is to give voice to those incarcerated within the Wisconsin DOC in a way that will encourage broader public recognition of their humanity and the dire situation of those held in Wisconsin prisons, and to encourage people moved by what they read to stand in solidarity with them. Titled "Abuse, Indifference and Exploitation: An Assessment of the WI Department of Corrections," IWOC's report investigates five specific issues within the Wisconsin DOC:

- deaths in DOC facilities,
- lockdowns,
- potential misuse of incapacitating agents like pepper spray,
- exploitative canteen prices,
- problems with food service provided by institutions

Demonstrating the importance of listening to incarcerated people, IWOC has utilized public records as well as research by others that corroborate the claims of abuse and exploitation that are so often made by people held in Wisconsin prisons. While many other policy matters include the perspective of multiple stakeholders, including those with first-hand experience and knowledge about the matter at hand, incarcerated people are almost always left out of discussions about the prison system despite them being the most affected by policy decisions. This must be stopped.

To read the report, follow <https://wisconsinprisonvoices.org/actions/report-on-abuse-neglect-and-exploitation-in-the-wisconsin-doc-as-of-march-2019/>. For testimonies concerning these and other issues covered, see <https://wisconsinprisonvoices.org/inside-wisconsin-prisons/>

**Help IWOC to decarcerate Wisconsin:** email [iwoc.milwaukee@gmail.com](mailto:iwoc.milwaukee@gmail.com) or fill out the volunteer form at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jIToClitl8JErcqDRPNdOB\\_FY2jwgXINncV8nVI\\_81E/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jIToClitl8JErcqDRPNdOB_FY2jwgXINncV8nVI_81E/viewform?edit_requested=true)

**Thank you for taking the time to read and spread the word. An injury to one is an injury to all.**