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*“Gender should always be considered with respect to anti-social behaviour and offending.....”*

(The Mental Health Foundation, The Mental Health Needs of Young Offenders, 2002)

# WHAT WE NEED!!!

Young girls in secure units and in Cornton Vale Prison say they need the following (3 main points):

- We need staff and officers to understand our behaviour and don't just see us as criminals
- We need good transition packages when we leave the institutions
- We need support from workers who can help us understand some practical things we need to do

And Finally.....we need.....

HOPE

# Resettlement!!!

## 6 Key differences in offending

1. Young women have different pathways into offending that young men
2. Criminal justice responses compound young women's problematic behaviour
3. Women's ability to maintain positive relationships is damaged by custody
4. Vulnerability and mental health difficulties make prison life particularly arduous
5. Women need an interpersonal focus to their resettlement support
6. The barriers to desistance from offending are different for young women

(Bateman, T and Hazel, N, *Beyond Youth Custody, Resettlement of girls and young women*, 2014)

# Theoretical Frameworks

## ***RESILIENCE THEORY:-***

*‘Resilience ....may be seen as the essential quality which care planning and provision should seek to stimulate as a key outcome of the care offered.’*

*(Gilligan, 1997:14)*

## ***RELATIONAL THEORY:-***

*“Crick defines the term as “behaviors that harm others through damage (or threat of damage) to relationships or feelings of acceptance, friendship or group inclusion”.*

Relational theory suggests that the social, emotional and behavioural problems faced by girls can often be traced to disconnections or violations within relationships, whether in their families, with personal acquaintances, or in society at large (Miller, 1986, 1990).

# What Works??

The gender-responsive researchers .....  
assert that existing risk assessment tools have been developed based on male populations, and thus, do not adequately measure factors unique to girls' delinquency (Covington & Bloom, 2003; Hannah-Moffat, 1999).

Second, they refute the idea that girls are high “risk” and in need of secure settings; rather, they argue that girls are high “need,” present more danger to themselves than others, and can best be served through treatment provided in the community (Bloom, 2000; Covington & Bloom, 2003; Hannah-Moffat & Shaw, 2003).

# What Works?

- Females were more apt to engage in self-debasing distortions (e.g., self-blame, negative thoughts about self) and internalizing behaviors, while boys were more likely to engage in self-serving distortions (e.g., externalization of blame, rationalizations) and externalizing behaviors (Achenbach, Howell, Quay, & Conners, 1991).
- Excessive sociotropy (i.e., concern about disapproval and acceptance) has been found to be more characteristic of girls, and has been found to lead to higher rates of depression and other problem outcomes (Kolts, Robinson, & Tracy, 2004; McBride, Bacchiochi, & Bagby, 2005).
- Females have been found to be more likely to engage in a ruminating, or emotion-focused coping style that makes them more prone to anxiety and depression, while boys were found to be more likely to engage in active problem solving that leads to impulsive, antisocial behavior (Hankin & Abramson, 2001; Nolen-Hoeksema, 2001). *(As cited in Mathews and Hubbard, 2008, Moving Ahead)*



# Getting It Right For Girls/Young Women

- Using assessment to guide programme planning and evaluation;
- Building a helping alliance;
- Gender-responsive cognitive-behavioural approach;
- Promoting healthy connections;
- Recognising within girl differences.

(Matthews and Hubbard, *Moving Ahead*, 2008)

“None of the recommended elements require a significant investment of financial resources; they do, however, require a significant investment of human resources, and a commitment to developing programs “as if gender mattered” (Chesney-Lind, 2001, p. 38).

# QUESTIONS??