

"Now Who's to Blame?"

So now since there has been no contact visitation here at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women for one year, who is to blame for the prison being flooded with drugs? Seems to me like those of us incarcerated aren't the only criminals here.

We never really were, but now this truth is more evident than ever before as drug usage surges through these concrete walls. In every direction I turn, there is someone under the influence of some substance. If you're not a user or a dealer, you've become a minority. I am a minority. Surrounded by many lost souls and people broken by their circumstances sadly.

And the saddest part of it all is the fact that this is

supposed to be a place of collection. But what or who is being collected? Nothing and no one at all! Behavior of any kind is accepted with no consequences, so this has become an environment of chaos instead of correction. Hindrance instead of help. The only help provided is self-initiated and carried out individually. If one is not pro-active in their own healing, they definitely cannot rely on the carceral system for help.

This system is one in which is based solely on punishment instead of the rehabilitation of America's community members, because in short, that is who we were prior to becoming a seven-digit number. We were your neighbors, and believe it or not, not all of us are

bad people.

We are not all criminally-minded. One only has to take a gander around a prison to make that assurance for themselves. The only difference in some of them, (staff), and some of us, is the uniforms. And if they are not careful enough with their own activity, their uniforms will change and they will trade those bars for cell bars.

It has happened before so not any one of them should feel any superiority over us. We are all human beings. Only we were caught for our iniquities, but their day has yet to come. The line to be crossed is a thin one and it would behoove them to be mindful of such as they treat us as less

than human!

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