

①

My name is Adam Allen Dryke, and here in the Minnesota Department of Corrections I am known as Inmate # 207890. This numeric identification has been a part of me since I was just 12 years old when I was committed to the commissioner of corrections for the first time. It is now 2022, soon to be 2023 and I find myself being called by this self-same inmate identification number.

It would be a safe estimation to say that I have been raised by the state of Minnesota, seeing as it and I have had an intimate relationship since I was 12 years old.

Being in prison at such a young age would have some lasting effects on many a young man, for me however it was simply another place that I had to be. The lasting effects that being institutionalized has left with me is a greater resistance to the authoritarianism of the prison industrial complex.

Incarceration at that age did little to "reform" me, or provide me with the tools necessary to become a successful member of modern society. In retrospect as I

②

look back, I was only taught how to manipulate the system and the people that make up its complex moving parts. Much like these moving parts manipulated me and others like me. I think its funny that way, the way that the system actually works that is. I am ever grateful for this gift of foresight and human psychology that I picked up in the corrections system.

Fast forward some almost 23 years later; here I am sitting in a maximum security facility wearing an inmate badge with my photo and inmate identification number upon it. Inmate number 207896, or should I conform, the new term being "incarcerated persons": another cry for false virtue by the state and those supposing to wield its power.

As I have grown in knowledge, experience and wisdom I can now deduce fact from fiction, truth from falsehood and all those examples of nuance we find in the spaces in between these absolutes.

The problems the criminal justice system faces is that of artificially creating change through half hearted attempts to show

③

"criminals" and drug addicts the error of their ways or facilitating and sensitivising real change for themselves and their families.

Currently I am in St. Cloud, Minnesota at MCF - St. Cloud founded in 1889; these cold granite and iron walls whisper songs of sadness and loss. Men seperated by their actions, their addictions and their mental health issues unresolved. These new years have invited the uninvited guest of COVID-19 only shutting down any and all programing that was geared towards helping the men who come through the cold iron gates of St. Cloud AKA "Castle Grey Skull". The prison is severely understaffed, over populated and inmates and guards alike suffer at the hands of administration who are detached from the inner workings of the facility and the spirits of the men trapped in it by its four corners and their actions.

I have written to the Minnesota ACLU, not to bring a case but to inquire into why it is barred from persuing any kind of legal action relating to COVID-19 and its effects on the prison, its population or the

(4)

overwatch of security staff. I have also written to the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Sen. Corey Booker in regards to my personal concerns as to how prison oversight is lacking and considering the high rates of recidivism continue to rise along side the number of incarcerated persons in the United States of America.

I have found that the more we treat the incarcerated population more like animals rather than human beings, the more we act in an animalistic manner.

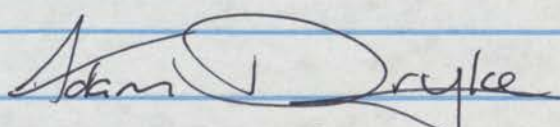
The guards in the prison I am at are overworked and understaffed. There is a disconnect from any sort of personal relationship based on mutual respect between prisoner and guard.

Inmates are often locked in their cells for 23 hours a day without having elective programming and religious services to help them utilize their time in prison in a productive way. Without these programs and incentives we are simply warehousing inmates and creating the conditions for the very recidivism that the criminal justice system is trying to reduce. Seems counterproductive to me and a great waste of tax payers money.

5

A large percentage of the incarcerated population does not receive enough elective programming or education such as job training, life skills, meaningful education or how to re-enter society with the skills necessary to become a positive statistic rather than another vector in the recidivism wheel. I believe we as a nation need to look at our criminal justice system and re-think the model that has lead us to have the largest incarcerated population on the planet. We would do well to learn from countrys like Iceland, Sweden and Norway who are taking a more human centered approach to their criminal justice system. Inmates and guards working together to effect real positive and lasting change both inside of prison and outside of prison. we are after all human beings and should strive to treat one another as such, because its only when we come alongside eachother that we capture what it truly means to be human.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, 
Adam Dwyke #2078960