

"Carceral Violence"

By Mr. Patrice Lumumba Daniels-Joliet Treatment Center

The joy & anticipation of having a visit with loved ones is a very unique thing. What I often dread though is the fact that both going & coming I have to be strip searched. Alone...in a room with an officer in the most vulnerable state one can imagine. He gets to examine my naked body under the cover of safety & security. He gets to see parts of my body I myself have never seen. He has no clue about the fact that I have been sexually assaulted numerous times in my life. As one officer put it "I'm just doin' my job." The strip search is violent. It is also traumatic. But since I wanna have access to my loved ones & friends that is the trade off. I wonder how many folks in society even know that this is a part of our lived reality. Wanna know something else that's even more triggering? Odds are that same officer will be working the unit I live on. Crazy right?
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