

“The systemic failings identified in the Gender Informed Practices Assessment (GIPA) will be familiar reading for anyone who read our own report, “Death by a Thousand Cuts: Stories from Inside Coffee Creek Correctional Facility,” published last month. What each of these reports does is identify a long list of alarming problems at Coffee Creek (CCCF). There is retaliation against people who speak up about their mistreatment, a failure to consider the needs of women with a gender-responsive lens, and the lack of a holistic approach suited to the numerous trauma survivors at CCCF. The ongoing serious issues of harassment, discrimination, and abuse persist and are not being effectively addressed. Staffing shortages have led to repeated lockdowns and a general reduction in quality of life which exacerbates stress and tends to lead to a worse atmosphere and more fights. Addressing women’s pathways into incarceration is essential to helping them prepare for life after prison and avoid slipping back into habits that will lead them to further contact with the legal system. Yet, Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) is failing to provide what people need and is squandering opportunities to address trauma, develop new skills, and create a culture that is healing and empowering. Women are chronically overlooked within corrections systems as a rule and this is apparent at CCCF. Governor Kotek and the leadership of the ODOC must listen to what people incarcerated at CCCF are telling them and take immediate action to avoid prolonging the unnecessary and inhumane conditions those in custody endure and finally accept that ODOC is an agency in crisis requiring urgent attention and accountability.”