

YOUNG MOTHERS' * BILL OF RIGHTS

ONE We have a right to be treated with dignity and respect.

TWO We have a right to be mothers, and not to be discriminated against because of age or offense.

THREE We have a right to regular check-ups and proper prenatal care and nutrition.

FOUR We have a right to have somebody with us while we are giving birth.

FIVE We have a right to not be hand-cuffed and shackled during labor.

SIX We have a right to recovery in the hospital after birth.

SEVEN We have a right to see, touch, and speak with our children.

EIGHT We have a right to be informed about our children's well-being and safety.

NINE We have a right to have support and advocacy while incarcerated and to be informed of our rights as parents.

TEN We have the right to access information and education, such as prenatal and parenting classes, so that we are able to be the best parents we can be.

*The "Incarcerated Young Mother's Bill of Rights" was the concept of the Young Mothers Organizing Project (YMO) a support group for previously incarcerated young women who met weekly to discuss the issues young parents and their children face post-incarceration. According to the National Center for Crime and Delinquency, 83% of young mothers in the system report they had been separated from their infants within the first three months of their child's lives. 54% of those young women had not had a single visit with their children while in operation.

*These rights are for both young women and young men in lock up.

If you feel any of your rights have been violated or you need support the following organizations can assist you or provide you with the needed resources:



The Center for Young Women's Development
832 Folsom Street Ste# 700
San Francisco, CA 94107
(415) 703-8800
www.cwyd.org

Legal Services for Children
12 54 Market St. 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 863-3762
www.lsc-sf.org

Legal Services for Prisoners With Children
1540 Market St., Suite 490
San Francisco, CA 94102
www.prisonerswithchildren.org

DON'T LEAVE YOUR FRIENDS BEHIND



ISSUE #4

concrete ways to support
caretakers & children in your scene

Call for Submissions

Don't Leave Your Friends Behind is a book geared toward the non-parent radical community about how to be an ally to the parent(s) in their midst.

We're looking for activists, allies, & radical parents to help make this the best book ever for getting down to business: Let's make a better world WITHOUT leaving out the mamas, papas, partners, child-care providers & children this time!

We want to know how you support children & their caretakers in your collectives, organizations or communities.

Parents: What concrete things can those around you do to support you and your family? Send us your list of suggestions!

Radical Childcare Collectives: How do you organize childcare?

We are especially interested in experiences that also take into account factors such as race, class, gender, single parenthood, immigration, disability, and/or mental health issues.

Word limit: One sentence suggestions to 5,000 word essays.

Contact us with questions and submissions!

China Martens
PO Box 4803
Baltimore, MD 21211
china410@hotmail.com

Vikki Law
PO Box 20388
New York, NY 10009
vikkimL@yahoo.com

For more information about *Don't Leave Your Friends Behind*, including links to download past issues, go to <http://dontleaveyourfriendsbehind.blogspot.com>

Deadline: March 15, 2011

Critical Garden *front cover image*

Bec Young is a Detroit-rooted, Pittsburgh-based artist who seeks to inspire—and draw inspiration from—movements for social justice. She is co-editor of *Firebrands: Portraits from the Americas*.

Young Mothers' Bill of Rights *(back cover)*

Melanie Cervantes is a Xicana activist-artist whose role is to translate the hopes and dreams of justice movements into images that inspire and galvanize people to action.

Her work includes black and white illustrations, paintings, installations and paper stencils, but she is best known for her prolific production of political screen prints and posters. Employing vibrant colors and hand-drawn illustrations, her work moves those viewed as marginal to the center -- featuring powerful youth, elders, women, and queer and indigenous peoples.

Prints of the Young Mothers' Bill of Rights can be obtained at:
<http://dignidadrebelde.com/story/view/75>