



For Immediate Release- August 12, 2005

## Incarcerated Young Mother's Bill of Rights Scores a Victory! With Chief Probation Officer

(San Francisco, CA) On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, The Center for Young Women's Development (CYWD), a nationally-recognized training and advocacy nonprofit run by and for young women coming out of the juvenile justice system, and it's allies, Legal Services for Children, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, The Homeless Prenatal Program, The Girls Justice Initiative, and the SF Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership, met with Chief Probation Officer Bill Sifferman to present the "Incarcerated Young Mothers Bill of Rights", a 10 point declaration to improve the human rights conditions of young mothers and their children.

The "Incarcerated Young Mothers Bill of Rights" was the concept of the Young Mothers Organizing Project (YMOP), 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 that they had been separated from their infant within the first three months of their child's lives. 54% of those girls had not had a single visit with the babies while in detention.

After a very productive and intense meeting, where YMOP members took turns presenting each declaration with heartfelt testimony about their own stories of being locked up and pregnant, Sifferman responded by saying "You can walk away knowing that I have embraced the bill of rights and will incorporate this into my work." He also committed to collaborating with CYWD and their allies to create a visitation policy to ensure a "family-friendly" atmosphere for young women to meet with their children while in detention, and implement peer-led advocacy, and prenatal and parenting education for all young parents in Juvenile Hall.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the "Incarcerated Young Mothers Bill of Rights" or you are part of an organization that is interested in working with the Young Mothers Organizing Project, please contact Krea Gomez, CYWD Program Director, at 415-703-8800 x 1022, or [krea@cywd.org](mailto:krea@cywd.org)

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