

**PRESS RELEASE OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup> 2004**  
**DEATH OF ANOTHER WOMAN IN PRISON PUSHES TOLL UP TO TWELVE THIS YEAR**

The self-inflicted death of Mandy Pearson a stark reminder of the rising number of self-inflicted deaths in women's prisons – twelve already this year and ten since April. The total number of self-inflicted deaths in prison this year is 80, nearly 15% of which are women who make up only 6% of the total prison population. Mandy was found in her cell early on Tuesday afternoon.

In 2003 there were 14 self-inflicted deaths of women in prisons across England and Wales a 64% increase on the previous year and a number that has by far exceeded any year since INQUEST's monitoring began.

Deborah Coles, co-director of INQUEST that works with the families of people who die in custody and campaigns around the issues the deaths raise said:

“This shamefully rising death toll exposes a crisis in women's prisons and the numbers of women being sent to prisons that cannot protect their right to life. These deaths are an indictment of a criminal justice system that uses prison as a dumping ground for some of the most vulnerable people in society and raises serious concerns about the systemic failings of the prison service and their ability to keep women in their custody safe. Following each death there is an individual investigation and inquest and yet lessons are clearly not being learned. The government response to these deaths is riddled with contradictions – on the one hand saying prison should be used as a last resort – on the other announcing the building of new women's prisons.”

**Self-inflicted Deaths of Women in Prison 2004**

Name	Date of Death	Ethnicity	Age	Remand/Convicted	Cause	Classification	Establishment
Mandy Pearson	12/10/2004	UK White	37	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Newhall
Marie Walsh	29/07/2004	UK White	29	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP New Hall
Rebecca Turner	28/07/2004	UK White	22	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Low Newton
Rebecca Smith	01/06/2004	UK White	40	Convicted	Suffocation/Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Buckley Hall
Heather Wait	08/05/2004	UK White	28	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Holloway
Sharon Miller	08/05/2004	UK White	45	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Durham
Paige Tapp	18/04/2004	UK White	23	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Send
Louise Davis	18/04/2004	White	32	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP New Hall
Julie Hope	17/04/2004	White	35	Remanded	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Holloway

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Name	Date of Death	Ethnicity	Age	Remand/Convicted	Cause	Classification	Establishment
Sheena Kotecha	03/04/2004	UK Asian	22	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Brockhill
April Sherman	13/01/2004	UK White	27	Remanded	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Edmunds Hill (HMP Highpoint female)
Tina Bromley	04/01/2004	UK White	37	Convicted	Hanging	Self-Inflicted	HMP Edmunds Hill (HMP Highpoint female)