

PRESS RELEASE
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22-YEAR-OLD WOMAN DIES IN PRISON

The self-inflicted death of Rebecca Louise Turner at HMP & YOI Low Newton on 28th July is a stark reminder of the rising number of self-inflicted deaths in women's prisons – ten already this year.

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.

These numbers prove that the government must take responsibility of a radical rethink of sentencing policy and the reasons behind imprisoning vulnerable women for minor offences. Each death of a woman raises important issues none of which are being fully addressed.

The Prison and Probation Ombudsman needs to use his role to its full capacity in order to make a significant contribution in the prevention of further deaths.

INQUEST has been working with many of the families of those who have died.

Self-inflicted Deaths of Women in Prison 2004

Name	Date of Death	Ethnicity	Age	Remand	Cause	Classification	Establishment
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
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)