"The most predominant issue for women in prison is the lack of job training or education available to them. The women are incarcerated in a one-size-fits-all prison system, designed for men. Women need gender-appropriate programs that will help them succeed when they are released."

"The greatest barriers women face post-release are the ability to find employment and housing. It was hard for me to get a job with a felony conviction even though I was qualified for the position. I was fortunate enough to know people who were willing to rent me a place to live."

"If I could change anything about the Texas criminal justice system, I would change the idea that going to prison is not punishment, but a time out for self-improvement. From the moment women arrive they should be screened for their educational abilities and offered training they can use once they are released."

The impact on society when a woman is incarcerated is multifaceted. The biggest issue is the children. Children of incarcerated mothers struggle with developing a sense of security. I feel there were a lot of women in prison similar to me. The only difference was the sentence or length of time served. We all have children and families and made poor choices."