



Statement for Prisoners' Justice Day

August 10th, 2026

On **Prisoners' Justice Day**, the [Substance Use Health Network](#) stands alongside people who are incarcerated, their families and community members, and the many organizations working to advance justice, human rights, and meaningful criminal legal reform.

We recognize that the criminalization of substance use, poverty, mental illness, and other social issues has caused profound harm while failing to address the conditions that bring people into contact with the justice system. These harms continue to fall disproportionately on Indigenous, Black, and other marginalized communities as a result of colonialism, systemic racism, and ongoing inequities.

We remember those who have died preventable deaths or been harmed while in custody.

We reaffirm our commitment to advancing policies and practices that are rooted in evidence, dignity, autonomy, and compassion.

Lasting public safety and healthier communities require investment in healthcare, a full spectrum of substance use care, housing, employment, income, and other social support. The reliance on punishment and coercion as the response to complex health and social challenges will always fail and create more harm.

Learn about incarceration and health

Tracking (In)Justice. See [their website](#) for resources, reports, and more. Join us for a webinar on Sept. 17th to learn more about their work related to substance use health in custodial settings. [Info and registration](#).

CPEP. [About Prisoners' Justice Day](#).

CATIE. 2025. [Hard Time Persists: Healthcare and Harm Reduction in Canada's Prison System](#)

PASAN. Visit [PASAN's website](#) for resources, and to learn about their important work.

AQPSUD. Read [their newsletter](#) to learn about their work in correctional settings.

INHSU. 2025. [Prisons Hepatitis C Advocacy Toolkit](#).

