

The Women



LaKeisha is 25 years old. She has served 4 years and is scheduled for release in 2019.

"If...someone would have cared enough



Jackie is 44 years old and has one child. She has served 15 years and is serving

a life sentence (three strikes).

"If...my parents were to show my sister and I more love and discipline."



Marriam is 22 years old. She has served 8 years and is scheduled for release in 2023.

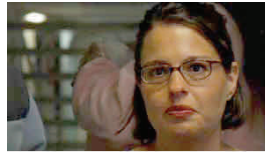
"If... I get out, I still have to live with this for the rest of my life."



Filomena is 40 years old and has one child. She has served 15 years and is serving a life sentence.

She has no release date.

"If... I would have met someone that has been where I've been to share their mistakes."



Ginger is 33 years old. She has served 8 years and is scheduled for release in 2016.

"If...someone had told me how molesters lie to their victims, I wouldn't have believed him and lived in fear."



Andrea is 42 years old and has 3 children. She has served an 11 year sentence and is scheduled for release in 2026.

"If...I only admitted to myself that I was broken."

Co-Founder/Producer Detective Kim Bogucki



Detective Kim Bogucki has been a member of the Seattle Police Department (SPD) for more than 21 years. Kim became involved in community outreach work to form a closer bond between the SPD and the people it serves, as a means of effecting positive change. In 2004, Kim was the co-creator of the Youth Outreach Unit. She is currently assigned to the Department's Community Outreach Unit.

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► The If Project

Inmates at the Washington Corrections Center for Women answer the question posted by Detective Kim Bogucki,

"If there was something someone could have said or done that would have changed the path that led you here, what would it have been?"

The hope and belief of the IF Project is that through their voices and writing, a documentary, interactive website and class presentations will be created to reach and educate both youth and adults.





It Started with a Question

“If there was something someone could have said or done that would have changed the path that led you here, what would it have been?”

Detective Kim Bogucki posed this question to a group of prisoners at the Washington Correction Center for Women. Initially, it was just posed randomly to the group and inspired some discussion. On her next visit to WCCW, Detective Bogucki was surprised to find this question had incited great inspiration with one inmate, Renata Abramson. Renata had taken it upon herself to share this question with her fellow prisoners.

She asked them to take time, really consider the question and write down what they felt. The question had sparked something in them. Not just a desire to search themselves to find what could have changed their own lives, but a larger desire to impart this information to help others. Through them, we will search for answers as to how to break the chain of felonies that have brought them all here, in the hopes of preventing others from doing the same. To date, we have collected over 240 essays.



The Reason: Fulfilling a Need

The United States has the largest prison population of any country in the world. There are over 7.3 million people in prison, jail, on probation or parole. That is 1 in every 31 adults. Of these adults, the majority have children of their own. **For these children, the chance that they will end up in prison like their parents is 70%.**

Though these numbers are staggering, we believe there is hope. There is hope in listening to the stories of these marginalized individuals. Just the simple knowledge that their voices actually matter has already had a profound effect on the women participating in The If Project.

By listening to the experiences of the inmates themselves, we hope to glean some information that can be used to break the cycle—

to get to a child in need before they head down the path to prison and empower already incarcerated women with esteem so after they're released, they don't return.

The If Project and the women participating do not intend to excuse or dismiss responsibility for any of the crimes committed. Rather, they intend to take full responsibility and choose to look deeply into their past to learn what led them to this place.

