

## Women Beyond Walls Podcast, Season 2 Fact Sheets Women's incarceration in Indonesia

*This factsheet was compiled by Aisya Humaida, Indonesian lawyer, in September 2025*

There are approximately 13,919 women in prison in Indonesia. Despite comprising a small proportion of Indonesia's total prison population, women are incarcerated at a higher annual rate than men.

### The impact of the “war on drugs”

- As of February 2020, more than half of women in prison were imprisoned for drug offences. Although women are less likely to use, possess or sell drugs compared with men, they are more likely to be targeted by the police.
- Women tend to experience harsher treatment than men, especially unlawful abuses such as rape, violence, and extortion of money. In a research study of 307 women, 78 women (25.4%) reported having experienced torture during their legal proceedings, 57 reported physical torture, 35 reported psychological torture, and 3 reported sexual torture. The main perpetrators were law enforcement investigators (1).

### Overcrowding

Many prisons suffer from overcrowding. Two women's prisons, in Bali and Surabaya, experience overcrowding of up to 89% and 202%.

### Access to Medical Care

- Some women shared that although medical check-ups are technically available, getting further examinations can be challenging (2). The cost of treatment must be covered by themselves or through any insurance they might have.
- The majority of incarcerated women suffer from mental-ill health. A study found that 44.1% of incarcerated women suffer from moderate depression and

<sup>1</sup> Arinta Dea dkk., *Yang Terabaikan: Potret Situasi Perempuan yang Dipenjara Akibat Tindak Pidana Narkotika*, (Jakarta, LBH Masyarakat), 2019,

<sup>2</sup> Testimonies of LBHM's clients.

<sup>3</sup> Safitri, Arintan & Andriany, Megah. (2019). Gambaran Tingkat Depresi Warga Binaan Pemasyarakatan Perempuan Menjelang Bebas. *Jurnal Perawat Indonesia*. 3. 183. 10.32584/jpi.v3i3.353.

## Pregnant women and women with children

- Out of 12 women's detention facilities, only three provide dedicated toilets for pregnant women. Access to doctors is available in only seven prisons (4)
- Due to overcrowding, incarcerated mothers do not have separate cells for themselves and their children.
- Meals are not adjusted for pregnant or postpartum women. Vitamins are typically prescribed by doctors during check-ups, while baby formula is often purchased by the parents themselves.

## Women on death row

As of August 2025, there are 10 women sentenced to death for drug offences or murder. Adequate gender-responsive legal representation and fair trial rights are key issues. A research study highlighted how few women on death row had gender-responsive mitigating circumstances raised during their legal proceedings.

## Organisations and Links to Find out More\*

Komnas Perempuan (National Commission on Violence Against Women)  
LBH Masyarakat (Community Legal Aid Institute)  
CJR (Institute for Criminal Justice Reform)  
SPINN (Suara Perempuan Indonesia Network for Justice)  
PPRI (Persatuan Perempuan Residivis Indonesia)

<sup>4</sup> Satyawanti Masyhudi, dkk., Peta Situasi Perempuan Terpidana Mati di Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Perempuan di Lampung, Jawa Barat, Banten, Bali, 2024, (Jakarta, Komnas Perempuan), 2024.

<sup>5</sup> Ayomi Amindoni, Kisah Narapidana Perempuan Membesarkan Anak di Dalam Penjara: Sudah Sengsara di Dalam Perut, Masa di Luar Disia-siakan?, BBC News Indonesia, 4 Juli 2019.

<sup>6</sup> Fatmawati L. S. & Riski, I. (2023). Pemenuhan Hak-Hak Warga Binaan Wanita Hamil Pasca Melahirkan Dilembaga Pemasyarakatan Perempuan Kelas III A Kendari. Arus Jurnal Sosial dan Humaniora, 3(1), 54-67.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> <https://sdppublik.ditjenpas.go.id/dwh>

<sup>9</sup> Adhigama A. Budiman, dkk., Yang Luput Dibahas: Perempuan dalam Pusaran Pidana Mati, ICJR (Jakarta, Oktober 2021), p.23.

*\*Please note that the actions and viewpoints of these organisations do not necessarily represent those of Women Beyond Walls and nor do we bear any responsibility for materials published on their websites.*