



*South Jersey NOW – Alice Paul chapter
Program Meeting
on Wednesday April 8, 2020, 7:30 pm
at First Baptist Church,
19 W Main Street, Moorestown*

Incarcerated Women, Oppression and Resistance

with Dr. Gail Caputo

While we tend to hear that women leaving prison and returning to the community is a progressive and rehabilitative, when we examine halfway houses, we find out the reverse is actually true. For 18 months, our speaker, Dr. Gail Caputo, conducted a case study of women inside a reentry halfway house for women which demonstrated how reentry can be harmful to women, and as a private organization contracting with the state, that this abuse can be hidden from public knowledge. Her talk will tell us what life is really like inside, the systematic oppression women face as clients of the criminal justice system, and how they resist the harm to care for themselves and others.

Dr. Gail A. Caputo, Professor of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Camden conducts research into the lives of women in conflict with the law, including those working in the street-level drug economy and women in confinement, all of it tied together by the ideas of patriarchal oppression and resistance. She has authored several books, including *Out in the Storm: Drug Addicted about Women Living as Shoplifters and Sex Workers* (2008), *A Halfway House for Women: Oppression and Resistance* (2015). which reports on the actual experience of women returning from incarceration to rebuild their lives and relationships, and *What's in a Bag? A Shoplifting Treatment and Education Program*.

Dr. Caputo is also the founding Director of Gender Studies at Rutgers University-Camden, the first interdisciplinary major in the region that examines how gender and sexuality shape everyday life. She teaches the introduction to LGBT Studies course at Rutgers, on Ethics and Policy in Criminal Justice, and about Serial Killers. Beyond academia, Dr. Caputo is mother to an 8-year-old daughter and 14-year-old poodle mix, a woodworker, outdoorswoman, and volunteer firefighter.

Please join us—and bring a friend—for what promises to be an enlightening discussion on women in conflict with the law.