

# Foreword

I was once a child prisoner. It was terrifying. I put up a front and I survived, but I know many children that didn't. This book tells our truth.

It speaks truth to power, and it speaks truth to all of us. The truth is that few people really understand the suffering of incarcerated children.

After reading these accounts I was angry. Then I was thoughtful. Then I stood up and said something must be done. I was both moved and inspired at the same time.

I have waited many years for a book like this to be published. Not only will it aid academics and students in their research, but, because it is written in a straightforward, uncomplicated way, it can be understood by dyslexic plebs like me.

This powerful collection of experiences and facts should serve to remind us all that we must never neglect the human rights of our children, regardless of where they are. It goes where others have not and will not. It shines a light on the dark areas of our 'civilisation'.

Carolyn Willow brings together a wealth of knowledge and research. She has created a very important book, but most importantly she has done this with genuine concern, compassion and understanding.

I'm not an academic, an intellectual, or professional book reviewer, but after my personal experiences as a child prisoner I cannot recommend this book highly enough.

It is a necessary reality check and I'm glad it's out there.

You need to read this.

Increase de peace.

*Benjamin Zephaniah*  
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