

my pen-pals

addresses (need name and #):

questions to ask ourselves

Why do I want to write to someone in prison? It's really important that we all take some time to ask ourselves what we want to get out of this pen pal friendship. It is absolutely okay to not have a complete answer, but it is good to ask yourself what your motivations are.

What is my capacity? For many prisoners receiving one or two letters from someone promising to correspond regularly, but failing to follow up with further correspondence can be difficult. Please be upfront about the regularity that you will be able to write —if it's only once a month, simply say so.

tips for writing your pen-pals
Use your first and last name in letters. Mention you found them through Black and Pink. Place your address both in the letter and on the return address piece of the envelope (because they might not be given the envelope). Avoid things with adhesive, like stickers. Be clear about your friendship boundaries, and write to us with any questions or concerns. Know that prison guards often read the mail and, unfortunately, can censor things.



GLBTQ PRISONER PEN-PAL TIPS
members@blackandpink.org

abolition now!

why we write gltbq prisoners
reason number two:
Many GLBTQ prisoners do not have support systems, having been cut off by family and friends. Many are forced to live in isolated housing, such as solitary confinement, with no human contact for 23 hours per day. Many experience harassment and abuse in a variety of forms. Letters from the free world can boost spirits, and provide crucial connections to the larger queer/trans community.

Black & Pink is an open family of GLBTQ prisoners and “free world” allies who support each other. Our work toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex is rooted in the experience of currently and formerly incarcerated people. We are outraged by the specific violence of the prison industrial complex against GLBTQ people, and respond through advocacy, education, direct service, and organizing.

why we write gltbq prisoners
reason number one:
Receiving mail can reduce the harm and violence experienced by GLBTQ prisoners from others or from themselves. Mail Call often happens in public space. When someone hears their name called during mail call it is a reminder that people on the outside care about that person. It is also message to the guards and other prisoners that this person has support and is not forgotten.

reduce harm

