

## 4 THINGS YOU CAN DO BEFORE THIS YEAR'S ELECTION

1. Become more aware of crime and prison issues affecting people in New Zealand and in your own electorate.
2. Find out if there are Salvation Army Reintegration Service workers or prison chaplains in your local community and ask them about their work.
3. Meet with your local parliamentary candidates and tell them about your concerns.
4. Read up on the criminal justice policies on each political party's website.

And then (if you're eligible to do so) ... **VOTE!**

### FURTHER READING

*The Little Book of Biblical Justice: A Fresh Approach to the Bible's Teaching on Justice*, by Chris Marshall.

*Compassionate Justice: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue with Two Gospel Parables on Law, Crime, and Restorative Justice*, by Chris Marshall.

*Beyond the Prison Gate: Reoffending and Reintegration in Aotearoa New Zealand*, a Salvation Army Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit report (December 2016). Online at [www.salvationarmy.org/PrisonGate](http://www.salvationarmy.org/PrisonGate)

*Beyond the Holding Tank: Pathways to Rehabilitative and Restorative Prison Policy*, a Salvation Army Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit report (February 2006). Online at [www.salvationarmy.org/HoldingTank](http://www.salvationarmy.org/HoldingTank)

[www.justspeak.org.nz](http://www.justspeak.org.nz)—representing the youth and rangatahi voice in the criminal justice conversation

**PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS:** [www.prayeratparliament.org.nz](http://www.prayeratparliament.org.nz)



*'It's like they are setting you up to fail and punishing you again cos you are homeless. I saw guys inside who were back in [prison] for not reporting to probation. I would be back inside too if it wasn't for [The Salvation Army].'*

SALVATION ARMY RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, 2016

*'I wish that people would apply that saying about books to us. Don't judge a book by its cover. You don't know what people have gone through and why they ended up in prison, what childhood they had.'*

SALVATION ARMY RESEARCH PARTICIPANT, 2016

SOURCE: BEYOND THE PRISON GATE REPORT, [SALVATIONARMY.ORG/PRISONGATE](http://SALVATIONARMY.ORG/PRISONGATE)

### WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

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[www.salvationarmy.org.nz/socialpolicy](http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/socialpolicy)



**Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit**

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

Te Ope Whakaora

# ELECTION

SERIES 2017

Make your vote count

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

“WHILE MEN GO TO PRISON, IN AND OUT, IN AND OUT, AS THEY DO NOW, I'LL FIGHT.”

WILLIAM BOOTH



**Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit**

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

Te Ope Whakaora

**“FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU INVITED ME IN, I NEEDED CLOTHES AND YOU CLOTHED ME, I WAS SICK AND YOU LOOKED AFTER ME, I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME.”**

MATTHEW 25:36 (NIV)

## SOME FACTS

Since 1985, prisoner numbers in New Zealand have more than tripled. Defying previous records, New Zealand's prison population exceeded 10,000 inmates in early 2017.

In late 2016, further Government spending with a price tag in the billions was announced to build new prisons to accommodate unexpected increases in prisoner numbers.

A rising prison population does not necessarily mean that crime is on the rise. Overall, crime rates and criminal offending in New Zealand have continued to fall in the past few decades, in line with other Western nations.

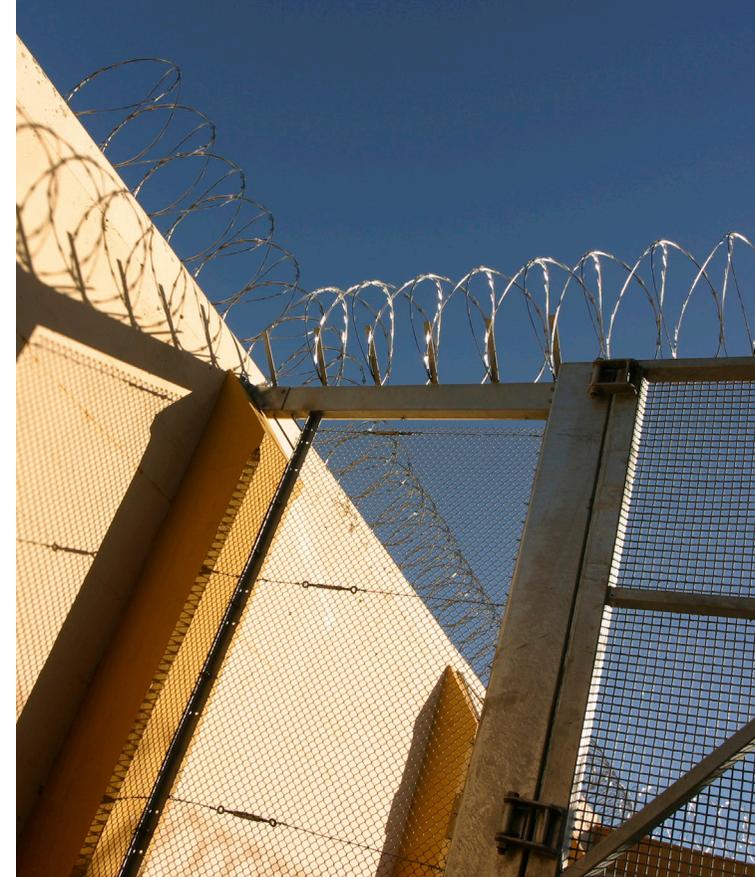
Recent laws making it harder to get bail and parole have contributed to New Zealand's growing prison population.

Re-offending rates have changed very little in the past decade. In 2015, 57% of ex-prisoners had been reconvicted within two years of their release. In 2006, this figure was 56.4%.

At any one time, more than 20,000 children in Aotearoa have a parent in prison. Children of prisoners are often from already very vulnerable families. Having a parent in prison also increases the risk that a child will enter the system themselves later in life.

51% of the New Zealand prisoner population is Māori.

83% of under-20-year-olds in prison had a care and protection record as children.



## SOME PRINCIPLES

*‘In dealing with issues of crime and law and order, the Church has to proclaim the age-old message that Jesus came to bring the world: “Good news to the poor, liberty to captives, new sight to the blind, healing for the sick, freedom for the oppressed.” That is our mandate.*

*The teachings of Jesus can bring new light to bear on the difficult issues of conflict and crime in the community. They offer grounding principles to deal with them.*

*These principles will include promoting processes based on justice, equity, fairness and accountability. Such an approach should always be guided by wisdom, tempered by mercy, and allow for the possibility of healing, forgiveness and reconciliation for both victims and offenders.’*

PRISON FELLOWSHIP NZ