Sending women to jail for failing to pay fines or bylaw tickets costs our community for incarceration, children placed in care and social benefits for those who can no longer access employment due to a criminal record.

About 80% of women we help are mothers. In most cases, our priority is to help reunite them with their children.

“I’m a single mom with three kids. We had an apartment and I was working. My car insurance expired and I didn’t have the money to pay it. I got caught and couldn’t pay the fine. Now I am in jail. I lost my kids, my place and my job. Now what do I do?"
– EFry client

How You Can Help

We need your help in creating a more hopeful future for at-risk women. Together, we can break the cycle of criminalization and poverty.

Advocate:
Join us in voicing our support for initiatives that help provide housing and employment for at-risk and criminalized women.

Donate:
Financial donations can be made online or by sending a cheque or money order to our main office. All donations above $10 are eligible for a tax deductible receipt.

Volunteer:
The gift of time is welcome from volunteers 18 years and older in a variety of roles. Visit our website to learn more.

Membership:
Our members assist in the growth and community promotion of our programs. Members are invited to our events, receive our newsletter and have voting rights at our Annual General Meetings.

When it feels like you are alone in the world, who do you talk to? When your circumstances are overwhelming, where do you turn? When you feel like there is no hope, how do you find another chance? Imagine what it is like to be in prison, struggling without a job or home in our community, or going through unimaginable trauma. It is a lonely, scary experience filled with uncertainty and despair. This is where we can help. The Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary (EFry) provides a chance for change and a start at a better future. Since 1965, we’ve offered help, healing and hope to thousands of vulnerable women and youth impacted by poverty, legal and justice issues. At-risk and criminalized women can start again with practical programs, basic necessities and connections to community resources.

The women we serve are mothers, sisters, daughters and friends. They have faces, names and stories that matter. They are brave and resilient, but unsure about their future.

Criminals of poverty are common for the majority of women we serve.

Poverty should not be punished. To prevent criminal behaviour, homelessness, addictions and poverty must be addressed in our community. A simple change in policy or a law to be taken for granted can bring about pivotal change. A home and a job can help to break the cycle of poverty for marginalized women and their families.

“Poverty was the cause of my criminality. My mother always explained that she didn’t have the money to pay it. She would’ve paid it if she could. It’s a way of out doing what done. I need to take care of my kids, my place and my job. What do I do?”
– EFry client

We have all made choices we regret. The reality is there can be another way.

“When I had nowhere else to turn, EFry was there for me. Being in prison is hard and lonely. They listened and helped me figure out what to do once I was free.”
– EFry client

Crimes of poverty are common for the majority of women we serve.

For more information or to help the women and youth we serve, connect with us at:

Main office:
1731 – 10 Avenue, SW Calgary, Alberta T3C 0K1 (across the street from the Sunalta LRT station)

Online:
www.elizabethfrycalgary.ca

Telephone:
(403) 294-0737
Toll Free:
1 (877) 398-3656
Fax:
(403) 262-0285
Email: reception@elizabethfrycalgary.ca

We are honoured to carry on the legacy of Elizabeth Fry, a passionate advocate for those without a voice and champion of prison reform for women.

The women we serve are mothers, sisters, daughters and friends. They have faces, names and stories that matter. They are brave and resilient, but unsure about their future.

For many, abuse and trauma in early childhood leads to addictions in their youth, and subsequent homelessness, poverty and criminal engagement. This cycle needs to be addressed and broken so women and their families can create new lives.

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**Prison Community Outreach Program**

Women on conditional release from the federal correctional system are supported in their efforts to reintegrate into the community. Through the “U.N.L.O.C.K” Functional Skills Program, we provide them with emotional support and practical support through counselling and resources. We also encourage them to use their time while incarcerated to develop new skills and prepare for their transition into the community.

When women are released into the community, we are there to provide intensified case management supports, functional life skills, and assist with the preparation and planning towards their future.

**SAGE: Emotional Wellness and Employment Readiness Program**

Our program provides individualized mentorship to 18+ who are motivated and ready to start working on emotional wellness, Aboriginal cultural connection and supports, functional life skills, and assist with the preparation and planning towards female youth. SAGE targets women who are at-risk youth, and assistance with information and navigating legal processes to female youth. **New Chances, New Choices**

This program is specifically for women with barriers to employment because of their involvement in the justice system or other challenges. SAGE targets women 18+ who are motivated and ready to start working on emotional wellness, Aboriginal cultural connection and supports, functional life skills, and assist with the preparation and planning towards their future.

**Youth Mentorship and Legal Information**

Youth without supports are often misinformed and confused about the legal processes and options for their charges. Aboriginal and immigrant youth in particular have unique barriers to them that are often overlooked. Our program individualizes the information to the at-risk youth, and assistance with information and navigating legal processes to female youth.

**Thank you EFry for everything you have done for me. It has made a huge difference and helped me reach and set my goals.** — EFry client

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