

Prison Reading Groups

Promoting reading and shared books with prisoners and their families

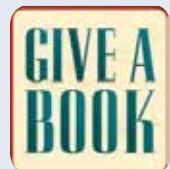


‘In the reading group everyone is given a voice, all have an equal say’

Reading group member

‘This is such a good initiative’

David, Lord Ramsbotham, former HM Chief Inspector of Prisons



Books connect people: with friends and family, with strangers and with ourselves.

This belief is at the core of PRG's two areas of work: reading groups for prisoners inside and support for family reading initiatives in prisons.

There is no single model for PRG reading groups: their target membership may be experienced readers or emergent ones, young offenders or those with mental health or addiction problems. Where possible, groups are run by outside volunteers.

Membership is voluntary, meetings are informal and members choose the books they read. The copies are theirs to keep or pass on to other prisoners or visiting family.

The groups encourage reading ambition and stamina and discussion helps develop social skills, critical alertness and self-reflection.

“When I read Kes at school, I identified with Billy but when I re-read it in the group I realised I was more like his bullying brother Jud”

“I have learned from my experiences in prison, but I've gained a new life in books thanks to the reading group”

PRG currently supports over 45 groups in more than 30 prisons nationwide and provides around 3000 books a year.



45
groups



30
prisons



3000
books a year

PRG also supports family reading initiatives in prisons. With Give a Book we supply books and book bags for children visiting parents inside on Family Days. We work in over 25 prisons and provide books for over 1200 children a year.

“Very thoughtful to have a gift to take home that came from seeing Daddy”

“Thank you for my book, I love it. A great way for my dad to see what books I like and to hear me read”

“I loved reading with my boy”



25
Prisons



1200
books for children



‘It’s the most grownup discussion I have in prison’

Prison Reading Groups is part of Give a Book

*To find out more about our work including how to
get involved, contact info@admin.prg.org.uk*

www.prison-reading-groups.org.uk
www.giveabook.org.uk

