



PRISON EMPATHY?

Still on lock-down! We had a big "townhall" meeting today with the AW (associate warden) over security in attendance--giving prisoners a chance to voice their concerns and/or opinions.

Our largest complaint is that we no longer get to go outside, and what that's doing to our health! Most of the guys, however, keep quiet--some simply due to their lack of education or communication skills; with some indifferent; while others are afraid to voice what they're thinking out of fear of retaliation, from SCDC or even other prisoners which is, in truth, what prison (most) prison administrators prefer, reticent INMATES....

One prisoner expressed his opinion about the negative image about South Carolina prisoners that people like the governor have purposely perpetuated: that ALL prisoners are criminals, violent animals, that get what they deserve! With all of the news coverage, there's no side of the story that portrays those of us that are taking it upon ourselves to do positive things. So, I asked the associate warden how he would feel about a journalist visiting this prison, coming to the Character-Based Unit (CBU), to do a piece about this particular program and its members. Let the public see that--while we may be a minority in the total population--there are some of us in here that pose no threat whatsoever to society.

We have to plant seeds of change.