

Sentencing



When sentencing a woman, courts should have the power to take into account mitigation factors such as:

- Lack of criminal history (i.e. if this is a first offence)
- The severity and nature of the criminal conduct
- Women's caretaking responsibilities
- The typical background of many women offenders (i.e. Judges should consider the circumstances which led to the offence. For example, many women offenders commit violent offences as they experience domestic violence themselves and are acting in self defence. Many women commit offences because of poverty, drug addiction or other social disadvantages etc)

United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners, rule 61

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