

# THE REAL COST OF PRISONS COMIX

**Lois Ahrens, Editor**

This volume collects the three comic books published by the Real Cost of Prisons Project. The stories and statistical information in each comic book is thoroughly researched and documented.

*Prison Town: Paying the Price* tells the story of how the financing and site locations of prisons affects the people of rural communities in which prison are built as well as urban communities from where the majority of incarcerated people come from. Illustrated by Kevin Pyle; written by Craig Gilmore and Kevin Pyle.

*Prisoners of the War on Drugs* includes the history of the war on drugs, mandatory minimums, how racism creates harsher sentences for people of color, stories on how the war on drugs works against women, three strikes laws, obstacles to coming home after incarceration, and how mass incarceration destabilizes neighborhoods. Illustrated by Sabrina Jones; written by Ellen Miller-Mack, Sabrina Jones and Lois Ahrens.

*Prisoners of a Hard Life: Women and Their Children* includes stories about women trapped by mandatory sentencing and the "costs" of incarceration for women and their families. Illustrated by Susan Willmarth; written by Ellen Miller-Mack, Susan Willmarth and Lois Ahrens.

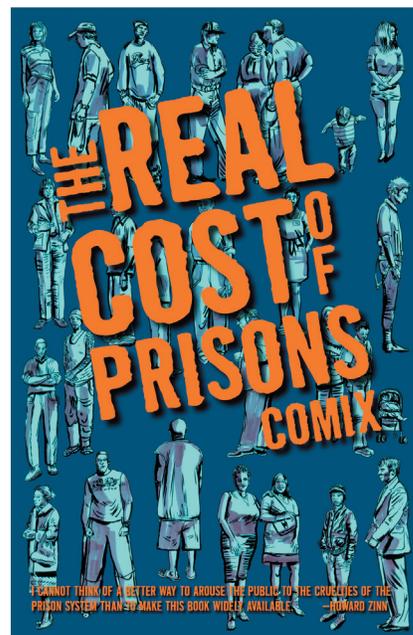
Over 125,000 copies of the comic books have been printed and more than 100,000 have been sent to people who are incarcerated, their families, and to organizers and activists throughout the country. The book includes more than 30 responses from activists, teachers, health practitioners, prisoners and others about how they have used the comic books in their organizing. The preface describes the national impact of the project and an introduction by Ruth Wilson Gilmore and Craig Gilmore provides a political context for the book.

## REVIEWS

"I cannot think of a better way to arouse the public to the cruelties of the prison system than to make this book widely available."  
—Howard Zinn

"*The Real Cost Prisons* comics are among the most transformative pieces of information that the youth get to read. We take it with us to detention centers, group homes, youth shelters and social justice organizing projects. Everywhere we go we see youth getting excited to see their reality validated in print. The comics help youth know what's up and gives them the push they need to get active in the struggle to make interpersonal and community-wide change."

—Shira Hassan, Co-Director Young Women's Empowerment Project



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