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1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

Dean Wanda Hughes - Dean of Adult and Continuing Education  
Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College  
P O Box 260  
Burdon Street  
Basseterre

Dear Dean Hughes

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to address a matter of significant concern regarding the state of the learning facilities at the new prison currently under construction. I would have studied the plans (ground floor sketch attached) and realize that there is no space outlined specifically for classes to continue our prison outreach academic programs. We have had multiple discussions on the inadequate space currently allotted at His Majesty's prison that seriously excludes uniquely abled inmates. Although our current academic program has demonstrated the significant impact particularly in relation to ensuring a decrease in repeat offenders (see attached), this new plan does not address the inclusion and rehabilitation of disabled inmates. As the Dean of Adult and Continuing Education, I believe your leadership and expertise could greatly contribute to addressing this pressing issue.

It is widely recognized that our prison system plays a crucial role not only in punishing offenders but also in rehabilitating them for successful reintegration into society. However, it has become increasingly evident that there are substantial shortcomings in the current approach, particularly concerning the treatment of disabled inmates. This is a matter that deserves urgent attention due to its far-reaching implications for both individual inmates and society as a whole. This issue becomes even more pressing as we are currently in the midst of constructing a new prison facility and this is the opportune time to address this matter.

One of the key principles underlying this issue is that of ableism, which refers to discrimination and prejudice against individuals with disabilities. Despite our efforts to promote equality and inclusivity, disabled individuals, especially those within the prison system, continue to face significant barriers to accessing education, rehabilitation, and other essential services. As a result, they are disproportionately affected by recidivism rates, with many becoming repeat offenders due to a lack of adequate support and resources.

In light of this, it is imperative that we take immediate action to address the lack of learning facilities at the proposed prison and ensure that disabled inmates are fully included in the rehabilitation process. This requires a comprehensive approach that addresses both physical and systemic barriers to access and participation.

Specifically, I would like to propose the following measures:

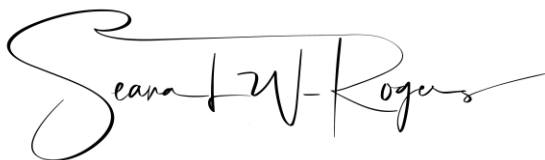
1. **Infrastructure Upgrades:** The prison's learning facilities should be included in the plans and equipped to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals, including wheelchair accessibility, adaptive technology, and sensory-friendly environments.
2. **Specialized Training:** We should craft an in-house program around sensitivity training for disabled inmates. Our volunteers would then receive this training on disability awareness, inclusive teaching practices, and effective communication strategies to support the diverse needs of disabled inmates.
3. **Curriculum Development:** Our educational programs should be tailored to meet the specific learning styles and abilities of disabled inmates, with a focus on developing skills that are relevant to their reintegration into society. These of course will be based on Friere's Pedagogy of Freedom and Bloom's Taxonomy.
4. **Collaborative Partnerships:** We should seek partnerships with disability advocacy organizations like DPI NAC and UNESCO, educational institutions, and community stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise in supporting disabled inmates' rehabilitation.
5. **Policy Reform:** We need to advocate for policy reforms at both the institutional and governmental levels to ensure that the rights and needs of disabled inmates are fully recognized and protected within the criminal justice system.

By implementing these measures, we can create a more inclusive and effective rehabilitation system that addresses the root causes of recidivism among disabled offenders. This is not only a matter of social justice but also one of public safety and community well-being.

I urge you to consider raising this issue and prioritize it within your Division's agenda. I also kindly request that you bring this matter to the attention of the Board of Governors via the university president, as well as the Ministers of Education and National Security, as their views support and collaboration will be essential in driving meaningful change.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am confident that with our collective efforts, we can make a positive impact on the lives of disabled inmates and contribute to building a more inclusive and equitable society. Please do not hesitate to reach out so that we can discuss this further. I look forward to it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Seana Williams-Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and 'W'.

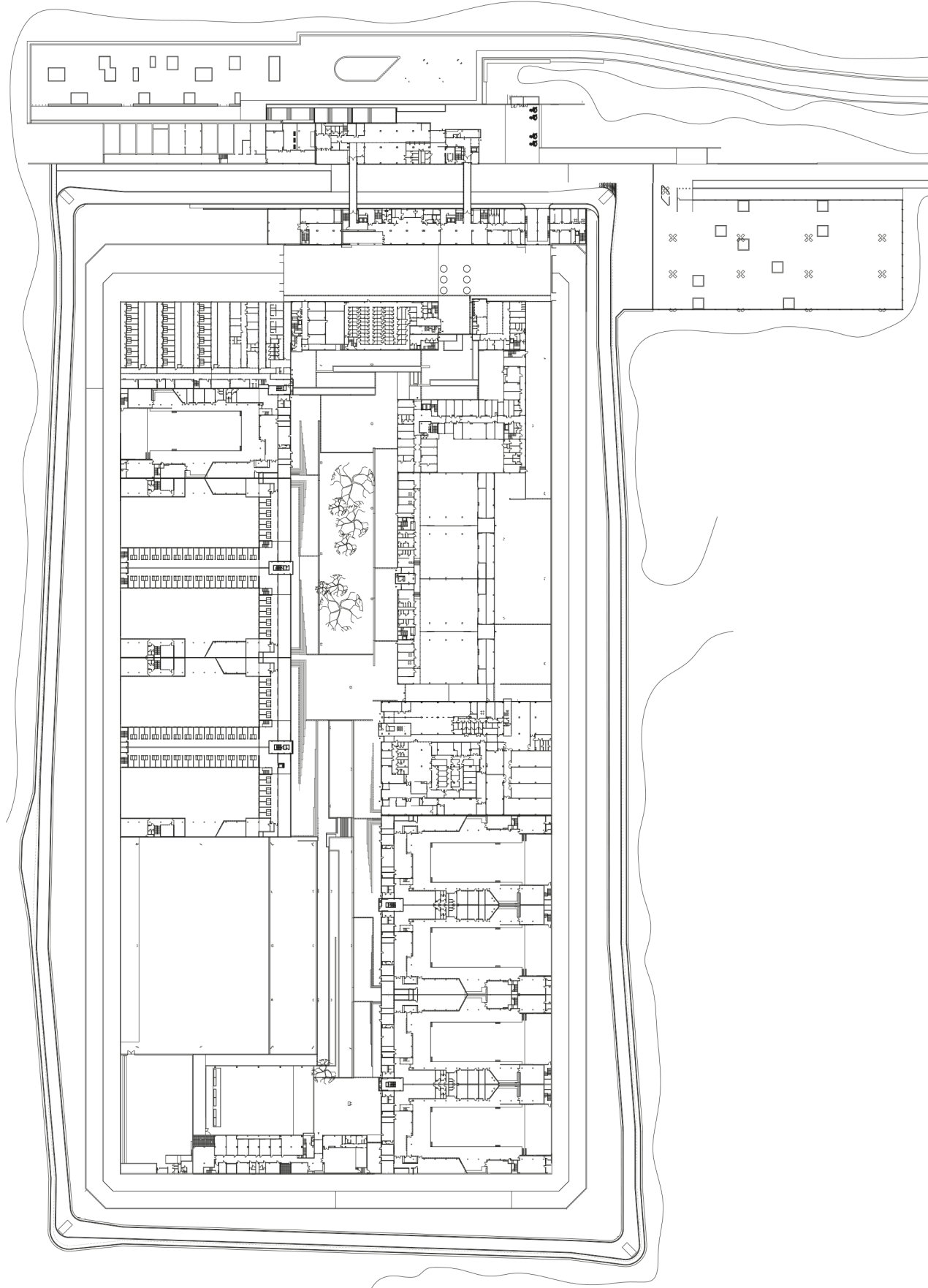
Seana Williams-Rogers  
Lecturer and Organizer of the HMP Academic Rehabilitation Program

\*His Majesty's Prison Statistics for inmates participating in the Rehabilitation Academic program

Year	Number of Inmates Enrolled	Number of Inmates Released	Number of Inmates Returned
2023	10	8	2
2022	7	15	3
2021	10	7	0
2020	9	12	2
2019	12	5	0
2018	6	9	1
2017	13	4	1
2016	12	9	1
2015	15	17	0
2014	20	7	2
2013	28	16	0

\*Received from Officer Jeffers of His Majesty's Prison on March 26<sup>th</sup> 2024

He noted specifically that in 2021 as part of a humanitarian measure in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, 3 disabled inmates were released and unfortunately 2 returned to HMP in less than six months while the other inmate committed suicide citing not being unable to cope.



**ground floor plan**

