LUCY BALDWIN AND LAURA ABBOTT

PREGNANCY AND NEW MOTHERHOOD IN PRISON

POLICY PRESS SHORTS RESEARCH
This book contains painful testimonies of experiences of pregnancy and birth that may be triggering for some.

If you are affected, support can be found with the Birth Trauma Association (www.birthtraumaassociation.org.uk).
This book is dedicated to Aisha Cleary (aka Baby A), and to Brooke-Leigh Powell (aka Baby B), two babies who were born and died in prison, and in tragic and, most significantly, avoidable circumstances. We must never allow it to happen again.

Likewise, to the baby stillborn in an ambulance between prison and hospital, for whom there was no inquiry.

Also to Michelle, Beth and Emma, three mums who lost their babies to local authority care. Following the forced separation from their babies, the impact was such for Michelle, Beth and Emma that they went into a ‘downward spiral’. Subsequently, all three mothers went on to lose their own lives.

We remember you all here and give our promise to keep fighting for better.
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Acknowledgements

We would like to wholeheartedly thank all of the mothers who have contributed to our research. We remain the conduits for your voice and will assist you to be heard. We feel humbled by your bravery, impassioned by your experiences, and are angry alongside you. Together we are stronger.

We would especially like to thank Louise and Paige, and Michelle and Sam, for their invaluable contributions to the book and to our thinking, but more than that, for their bravery and willingness to share their experiences to try to ensure no other mothers go through what they did. We hear you; we are with you.

Finally, we would like to thank Bristol University Press for their patience and for their willingness to publish this important book, the first in the UK on pregnancy, new motherhood and prison. It was a trying and long process, but we got there in the end, and we hope it will be very much worth the wait (much like a pregnancy!).