



HEAR FROM HER

Cathy Marston

**System-Impacted Women Speak Series
Brought to you by the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition**

Those of us who are survivors of battering and rape are extremely resilient. When I write a woman on the inside who is a survivor, I tell her that she is strong to have survived her batterer and what she had done to her was a criminal act.

Unfortunately, one of the biggest barriers in stopping wrongful arrest of battered women and having clemency granted to battered women is that our society is still not fully behind the idea that when men beat or rape women, it is wrong. Nor are women recognized as equal human beings with rights.

Those of us who are survivors do not have a disorder. And those of us who defended ourselves against our attackers do not have a syndrome. We were exercising our right to defend ourselves under the law.

"I had dreamed about testifying to the legislature when I was in prison. It was one of those things that kept me going."

Cathy's testimony to the House Corrections Committee
in the Texas Legislature, April 4, 2019



Who is Cathy Marston?

While I was incarcerated, I founded Free Battered Texas Women. FBTW empowers incarcerated survivors and their loved ones by telling them that their lives are worth something, validating their experience, and giving them the language of the law -- instead of handling them like a disease that needs to be treated. We need EVERYONE working to prevent battering and create restorative justice and a safe, supportive community that actually makes a difference for those of us who are re-entering!

**For more information about women in Texas' justice system,
visit TexasCJC.org/Womens-Justice**