Executive Director, Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies

Kim is mother to Michael and Madison. She is a lawyer and teacher by training and is currently completing post graduate work in the area of forensic mental health. Kim has been the Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS) since 1992. She is also a part-time professor at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law. CAEFS is a federation of autonomous societies which work with, and on behalf of, marginalized, victimized, criminalized and institutionalized women and girls throughout Canada.

In November of 2009 Kim Pate was the recipient of Canadian Bar Association’s Touchstone Award in recognition of her outstanding achievements in promoting equality in the legal community in Canada.

Poverty, Violence, Mental Health and Corrections

Kim will discuss the current trends in the increased criminalization of women, especially poor and Indigenous women and girls and those who have mental health issues. She will further elucidate some of the issues that contribute to the over classification and limited programming and treatment options which contribute to women being the fastest growing prison population in Canada and internationally. Kim will identify some key challenges and future opportunities for communities and service provision systems.