

Greetings!

This is a letter to introduce you to **NYC Books Through Bars**. We are an all-volunteer collective that sends free literature to incarcerated people across the country. All our books, postage, and packing materials are donated by community members, publishers/bookstores, and grants. We typically respond to requests within 4 to 8 weeks depending on our backlog. Please share information about NYC Books Through Bars with others in your facility.

When you write to us, it will be helpful if you can follow these guidelines in your letter:

**1. Let us know what restrictions your prison places on reading materials.** For example, can you receive hardcover books? Used books? Is an invoice required? Is there a maximum number of books/magazines you can receive?

**2. It is easiest for us to fulfill your request if you list subjects/genres, rather than specific authors/titles.** All our books are donated, and we do not have a catalog.

We usually have books on the following subjects:

<b>Fiction:</b>	African-American/POC	Mystery/Thriller
	Comics	Poetry
	Contemporary	Romance
	Classics	SciFi
	Historical	Theatre/plays
	Fantasy	Young Adult
<b>Non fiction:</b>	Activism	LGBTQIA
	American History/Civil Rights/Native American	Memoir/biography
	Art and photography	Music
	Business and economics	National Geographic
	Crafts: Chess, Food, Knitting, Puzzles	Philosophy/Political Science
	Dictionaries and Thesaurus	Science and Environment
	Health/Fitness/Self-Help	Sports
	Gender and Women's studies	Test Prep
	Language studies	

World History/Politics: Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, Middle East

English dictionaries are among our most popular requests, and the demand often exceeds our supply. Therefore, we sometimes send dictionaries only to people who don't ask for other items.

We do not carry religious literature (i.e. the Bible or the Quran), although we have some scholarly books on religion. We rarely have almanacs, materials related to computers or vocational training, or legal resource materials. But we can provide a resource guide where some of those other materials may be requested.

**3. Write your name, address, ID number, and any other necessary information clearly and legibly on your envelope and in your letter.** Send your request to us at:

NYC Books Through Bars  
c/o Bluestocking Bookstore  
116 Suffolk Street  
New York, NY 10002

Unfortunately, we are not able to send you a personal note with your books. But we assure you that a volunteer will carefully read your letter and do their best to match your request with books we have available and those that are not censored by your facility. We hope you enjoy the reading material!

Yours in solidarity, NYC Books Through Bars