

# **Just Detention International**

## **Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights**

**<https://justdetention.org/what-your-words-meant-in-2020/>**

## **Campaign and Advocacy**

Over the holidays, you wrote thousands of compassionate Words of Hope messages to incarcerated survivors. Since then, we have received scores of thank you letters from survivors, with more arriving every day. Below are excerpts from some of those letters.

Happy New Year to all the staff who  
work at Just Detention International! :-)  
I just want to take the time to tell all  
of you thank you so very much for  
your services and the thoughtful cards!  
:-) I've been locked up 18 years and it's  
not every day that I've seen people who  
write us cards in their own handwriting!  
You took the time, and from my heart  
to yours, thank you all for making a  
difference. — VERNARD

I'm writing to my wonderful family. Well, I want to  
say thank you all for always remembering me at  
my worst times. I got the beautiful Christmas  
cards and letter you sent to me. Tell everyone that  
Vernon says hello and thanks for the beautiful  
cards. It has been a very difficult 2020.

— Vernon

Hello my JDI family,

I'd like to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you, your families, all survivors of sexual assault while in detention, all LGBTQ individuals, and all of our supporters. I'm staying strong and thinking of you all. I just want you all to know I love you and you mean the world to me along with my community of other survivors of sexual assault. You all are the BEST! I pray all of you, your families, etc. see many, many more happy holidays.

Love always, Dwight, Texas

Thank you, thank you! Thank you for the wonderful holiday cards. Are you kidding? The kind words, art, and beautiful decorations just boosted my feet right off of the floor. Thank you for sending this holiday survival cheer and encouragement. You make such a huge difference - such a positive path to healing. I am so grateful for what you do. Not only have you helped me, but you have given me the tools to advocate for others as well. That equals hope. - Carla, Nebraska

This letter is in regards to JDI and its supporters sending me Christmas cards. It brought tears to my eyes and put a great big warm smile on my face. Words cannot express the gratitude. — Anonymous

Just a quick letter of thanks and warm-hearted thank you's to you and your staff for sending me Christmas cards during this past holiday of lots of craziness. May you, your staff and everyone at JDI have a safe, very peaceful, prosperous, Happy Healthy New Year — 2021.

— Robert, California