



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Correctional Programs Division

Central Office
320 First Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20534

July 25, 2022

Kevin Ring
President
Families Against Mandatory Minimums

Tara Libert
Co-founder and Executive Director
Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop

Dear President Ring and Executive Director Libert:

This letter is in response to your correspondence addressed to the Deputy Attorney General regarding procedures for incoming publications at various (BOP) institutions. Your letter was forwarded to the BOP for response. In your letter, you express concern that four BOP facilities are restricting the sources from which inmates can buy books, in some cases to just one reseller. You also requested information about the security concerns which result in this policy in these facilities. BOP shares in your desire to make books as accessible as possible given security constraints so that individuals in our custody can engage in what you correctly describe as a "safe, productive and life-changing activity."

At the direction of the Deputy Attorney General, BOP has reviewed the basis for the institution-specific restrictions referenced in your letter and instructed the wardens of those facilities to lift those restrictions and to expand the sources from which inmates can order books. Further, BOP will also issue a reminder to agency leadership that they must not limit the sources of books to one vendor nor implement wholesale restrictions on book clubs from providing books to inmates.

Sincerely,

Catricia Howard

Catricia Howard
Assistant Director
Correctional Programs Division