

## LETTERS

# Women ARE tough enough to serve time

ONE of the latest demands of feminism is that female criminals shouldn't be sent to prison (Janet Street-Porter, Mail). Allow me to rebuff this very odd demand with some facts.

Janet claims: 'A far higher proportion (of women than men) prisoners self-harm'. In 2009/10, 61 male prisoners committed suicide (the ultimate in self-harm). Only one woman took her own life.

'More than half of the women in jail have been in care'. It is the same percentage for male prisoners, so should they also be spared jail?

'Many (female prisoners) have been victims of domestic abuse.' Yes, and so have a lot of men. Should they also be able to commit crime and avoid jail?

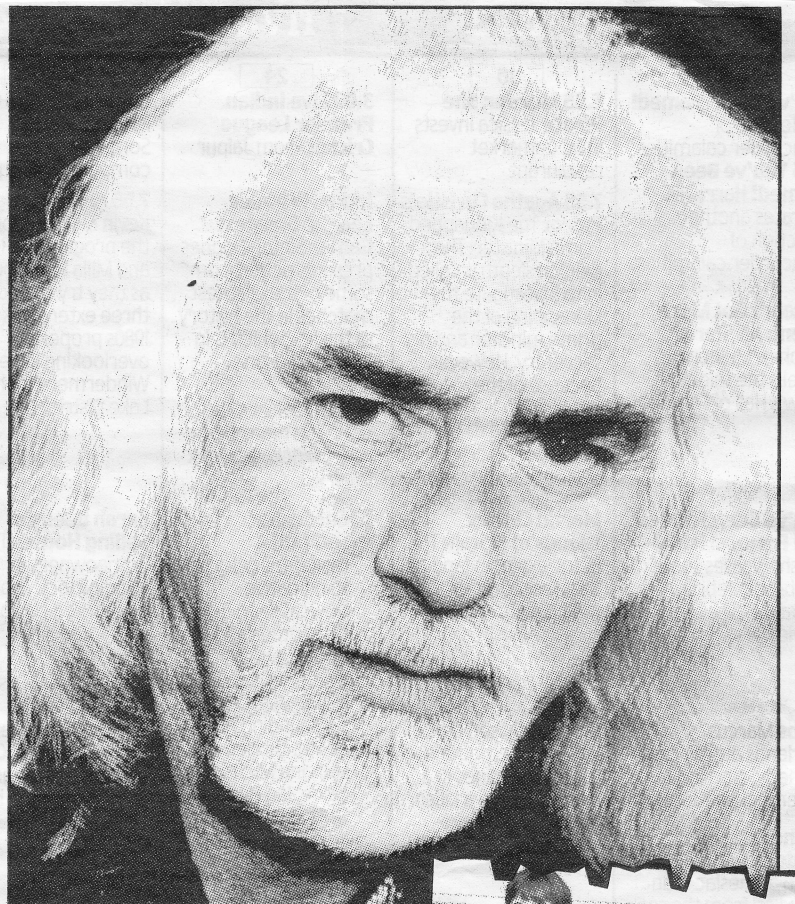
'More than half (of female prisoners) are mums.' Yet when they committed their crime, they knew they might go to jail and be separated from their children. But still they went ahead and offended. So, by definition, they are irresponsible, uncaring and therefore unfit mothers.

'Others (females) have drink and drug habits.' But so do the vast majority of male prisoners, so should they also be spared jailed? Why should females escape jail for committing the same offence as a male?

'The Government has finally listened to the many pressure groups who have been saying for years that sending most women to prison is pointless.' These are feminist political pressure groups, so of course they say this.

Every reason given is spurious or can also apply to male prisoners. What feminists are demanding is the right for women to commit a crime and avoid the punishment laid down by law.

SWAYNE O'PIE, Bath.



Feminist 'special' pleading: Swayne O'Pie takes issue with Janet Street-Porter (inset)

