



Equality Junction

Where ideas and people come together for Women's Equality

January 26, 2015

Sheriff Joe Arpaio
Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Headquarters
550 West Jackson Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Dear Sheriff Arpaio,

Pink jumpsuits for male jail inmates seem like a cute idea. Shame them by making them wear pink. We see that Gary Jones in Groveton, Georgia, is now following your lead, and there is no telling how many others have adopted pink uniforms across the nation.

Pink is a favorite color for little girls and when pink is put on criminal males, it is demeaning to these little girls. In effect, it is calling these offenders 'little girls.' Or weak women. Either way, it is indicating that these males are by birth superior to women and that you are bringing them down a notch or two by making them wear pink.

Now, we are sure you did not intend to demean women. More than likely, it is just that you did not realize the message you are sending to daughters, granddaughters, wives and mothers, and to all women in the United States.

Since others have followed you, we are asking you to again lead out. Stand up for women. Put male offenders in jumpsuits that do not have demeaning significance to little girls and women.

We plead to your sense of justice to not categorize all women beneath male criminals in your jail system.

Sincerely,

Shirley Taylor
Jocelyn Andersen
equalityjunction@gmail.com