**Angela Davis**

“Race and Criminalization” *The House That Race Built*

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| **Text** | **In My Own Words** |
| …Most debates addressing the crisis resulting from overcrowding in prisons and jails focus on male institutions. Meanwhile, women’s institutions and jail space for women are proportionately [growing] at an even [faster] rate than men’s.  |  |
| If race is largely an absent factor in the discussions about crime and punishment, gender seems not even to merit a place carved out by its absence.  |  |
| Historically, the imprisonment of women has served to criminalize women in a way that is more complicated than is the case with men. This female criminalization process has had more to do with the marking of certain groups of women as undomesticated and hypersexual, as women who refuse to embrace the nuclear family as [the best model]. |  |
| The current liberal-conservative **discourse** around welfare criminalizes black single mothers, who are represented as deficient, manless, drug-using breeders of children, and as reproducers of [a related] culture of poverty. |  |
| The woman who does drugs is criminalized both because she is a drug user and because, as a consequence, she cannot be a good mother. In some states, pregnant women are being imprisoned for using crack because of possible damage to the fetus.  |  |

**Important Vocabulary:**

**\*discourse**: conversation about a topic

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| According to the U.S. Department of Justice, women are far more likely than men to be imprisoned for a drug conviction.  |  |
| However, if women wish to receive treatment for their drug problems, often their only option, if they cannot pay for a drug program, is to be arrested and sentenced to a drug program via the criminal justice system…” |  |

WHAT IS THE AUTHOR SAYING?

The **main idea** of this writing is…

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