



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1110

October 20, 2023

**TO:** All Staff Prisons

**FROM:** Don Holbrook, Assistant Secretary [Signature on file]  
Men's Prisons Division

Jeannie Darneille, Assistant Secretary [Signature on file]  
Women's Prisons Division

**SUBJECT: Removal of Gender Designation from All Religious Items**

The Department acknowledges the inherent and constitutionally protected rights of incarcerated individuals to believe, express, and exercise the faith and religion of their choice. DOC Policy 560.200, Religious Programs Attachment 1 identifies a variety of items that are approved to help support individuals in the practice of their chosen faith.

Historically, items such as head coverings, ceremonial dress & earrings could only be purchased or in the possession of a specific gender. To ensure these items are available to all individuals moving forward, the gender designation has been removed.

Union Supply Faith Items catalog has been updated ensuring all approved religious items are available to all individuals regardless of gender. Updates to DOC 560.200 Religious Programs are currently in draft and will be published in the upcoming release. In the interim, all prison facilities will ensure the religious items are issued when received in accordance with policy.

For questions concerning the religious program property, please contact Lisa Flynn, Director of Correctional Services at [ljflynn@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:ljflynn@doc1.wa.gov).

cc: Lisa Flynn, Director of Correctional Services  
Eric Jackson, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Jams Key, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Jeff Uttecht, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Jo Wofford, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Sara Sytsma, Director, Correctional Industries  
Brandon Marshall, Chief of Security Operations  
Billie Peterson, Policy Program Manager  
Michelle Duncan, PREA Coordinator