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Stories 4 Wings

2024-1-ES01-KA220-ADU-000255317

Additional Stories

Technology Literacy





This document offers a series of additional stories to work on the concept of **TECHNOLOGY LITERACY**.

Technology literacy refers to the ability to use, understand, and evaluate technology effectively and responsibly. It combines technical skills with critical thinking and ethical awareness to navigate the digital world. For inmates, it may have limited impact inside the prison settings, but it is essential for preparing for reintegration, improving employability, and fostering responsible digital behaviour. After release, technology literacy helps individuals stay safe online, access opportunities, and reduce the risk of reoffending, equipping them to fully participate in the digital society.

The selected stories are:

Framing Silence, Holding Trust

This story, through the work of photographer Eddy Meijs, highlights digital literacy as the responsible and ethical use of technology to document human experiences in sensitive contexts such as a prison. It shows how images and digital tools are not neutral, but carry consequences related to privacy, consent, and representation. The story emphasizes critical awareness in the use of technology, the importance of ethical decision-making when sharing information, and understanding the impact that digital content can have on individuals and society.

Mrs. Martha and the Invisible Button

This story highlights digital literacy through the importance of human support in navigating technology. Mrs Martha struggles with online banking due to physical limitations and complex digital systems, but succeeds thanks to María's patient, step-by-step guidance over the phone. The story emphasizes that true digital literacy is not only about using technology, but also about accessibility, inclusion, and empathy, showing how human understanding is essential to bridge the gap between people and digital systems.



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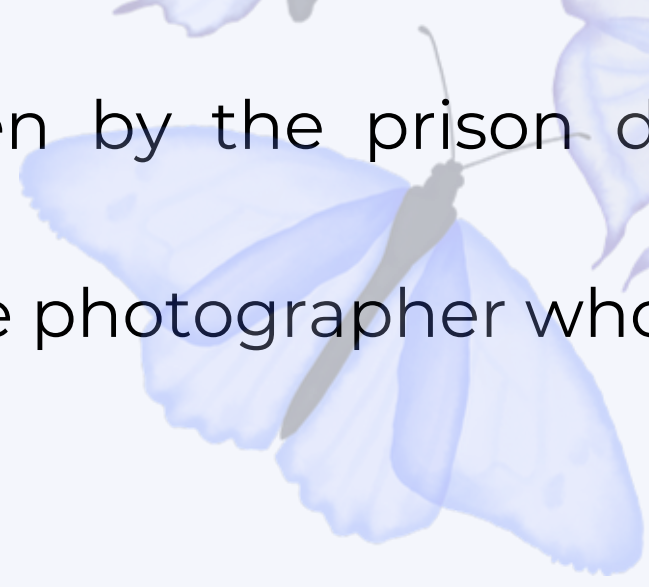
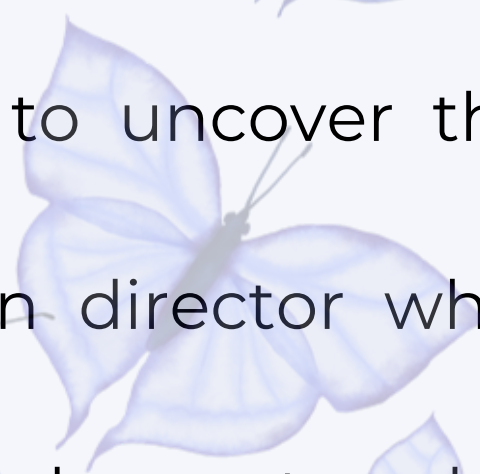
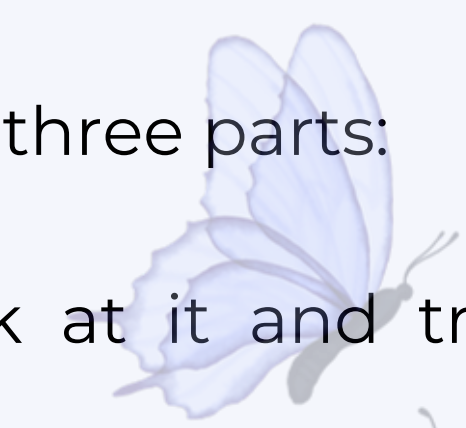
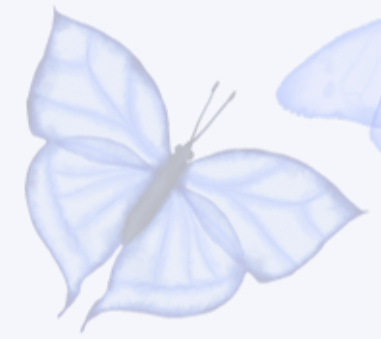


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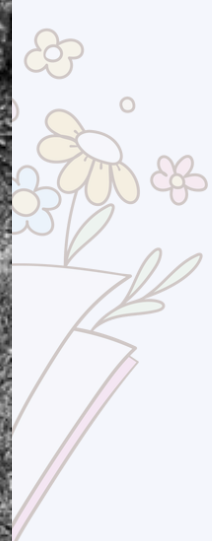
Framing Silence,
Holding Trust

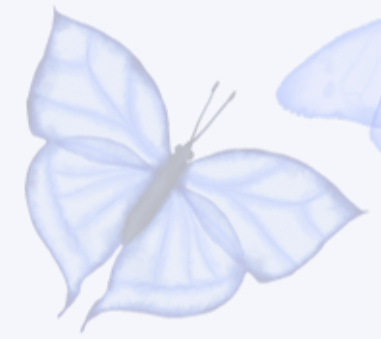


This is a peculiar story, told in three parts:

- Part one: A picture. Look at it and try to uncover the story behind it.
- Part two: A poem written by the prison director where the photo was taken.
- Part three: The story of the photographer who captured it.

Let your emotions run freely.





On bleach and bodies.

Corrosive as bleach

*Such is the weight prison lays upon human encounters
This mysterious thriving of people together longs for touch*

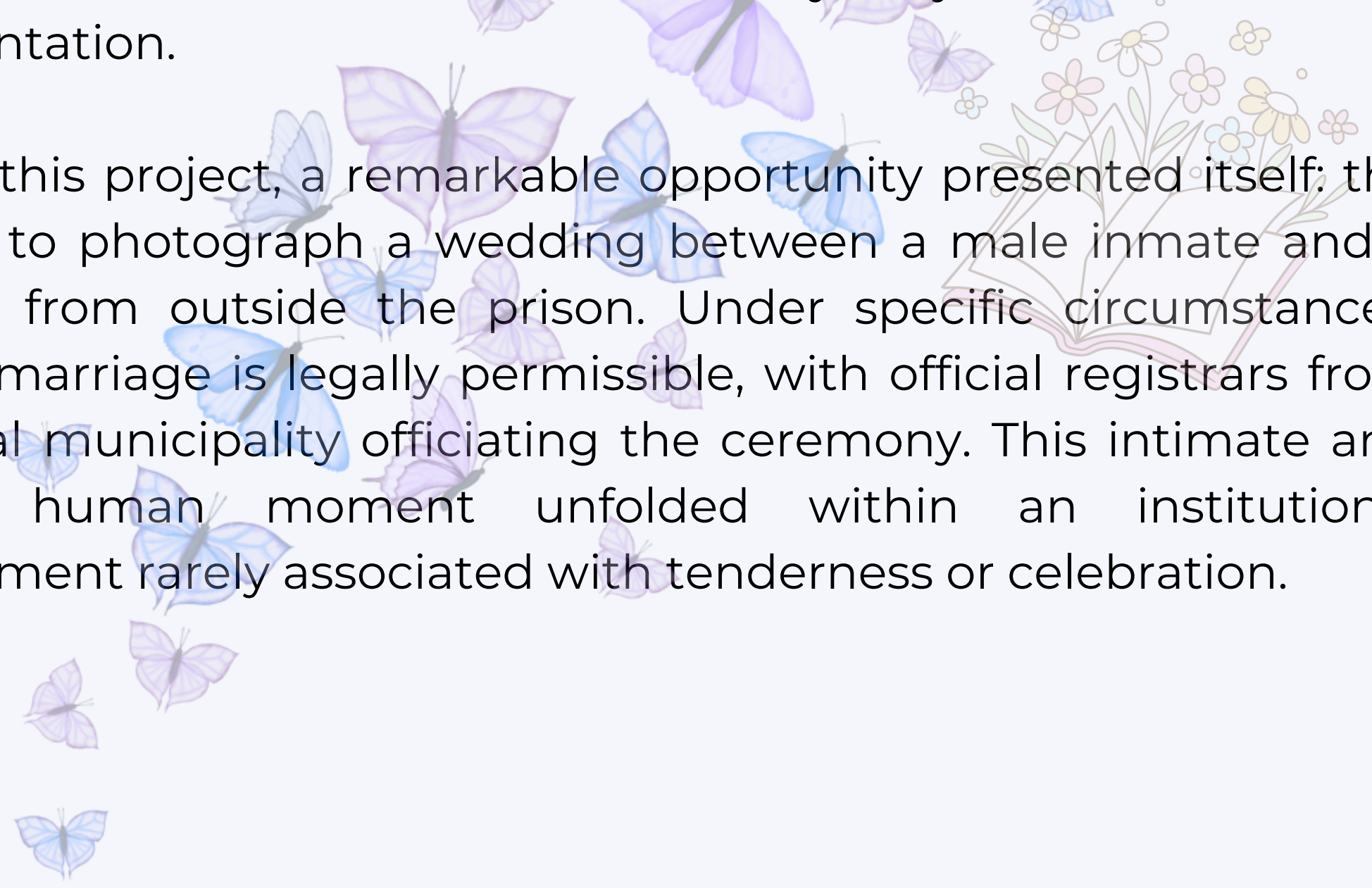
*Such is life
Such is how the future feels
The months-long ban on physical contact was an unprecedented
mistake.*

A disgrace against person and body

*A minute of silence for those who endured it unwillingly
Is all that remains to us
If we can even manage that.*

In the context of my work as an art photographer, I was granted access to a prison facility to conduct a visual study of the emotional experiences of prison staff. The aim of this project was not purely documentary, but interpretive: I sought to visualise emotions as I perceived them during the staff's daily routines. The resulting photo reportage reflected my personal perception of this social reality, with an awareness of the inherently subjective nature of this representation.

During this project, a remarkable opportunity presented itself: the chance to photograph a wedding between a male inmate and a woman from outside the prison. Under specific circumstances, such a marriage is legally permissible, with official registrars from the local municipality officiating the ceremony. This intimate and deeply human moment unfolded within an institutional environment rarely associated with tenderness or celebration.





Although a wedding reportage may initially appear routine, photographing within a correctional facility entails a series of strict protocols regarding privacy, consent, and image usage. Every photographic act carries weight. All actions must be carried out with explicit permission from both the prison authorities and the individuals depicted. In such an environment, trust is not assumed—it must be earned, day by day, interaction by interaction. It is a fragile contract between the photographer, the institution, and the individuals whose lives are being momentarily opened to the lens.

The digital submission of photographic material requires a high level of integrity, particularly given the risks associated with unauthorised distribution. In such a sensitive context, technology becomes not just a tool but a test of ethical commitment. This underscores the importance of having the ability to use technology responsibly and with care. In today's digital society, there is often an assumption that these skills are inherent, especially among younger generations who have grown up surrounded by digital tools. However, familiarity with technology is not the same as understanding its implications. The ease with which we capture, edit, and share images can mask the profound consequences these actions may carry—especially when boundaries are unclear or disregarded.

Many people don't fully realise how dangerous it is to use technology without clear ethical or contextual boundaries, because the threats are often invisible, delayed, or dispersed. A single photograph shared without consent can travel across platforms in seconds, stripped of its context, and potentially harm the dignity, privacy, or safety of those depicted. In an age where virality is valued over verification, and where digital permanence overrides personal control, the misuse of technology isn't just a technical error—it's a moral failing.



Moreover, the boundary between public and private has become increasingly blurred. What one person sees as "content" might be, for another, a deeply personal moment not meant for mass consumption. When photographers—or any digital storytellers—fail to recognise this, they risk turning human experience into spectacle. This is why a critical and conscious approach to information and technology usage remains essential, particularly given the speed and scale at which images and data are disseminated—and potentially misused.

The inmate only wanted his wedding to be captured and, of course, had no interest whatsoever in making it go viral. No one in prison wants to be in the spotlight, so he demonstrated a profound level of trust—in me as a photographer, and in the system that permitted this ceremony to be visually recorded. Despite the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, including a mandatory two-week quarantine after the ceremony, he chose to have his wedding documented. That decision was not casual. It reflected a willingness to be seen and remembered, even within the strict confines of incarceration. This event underscores the necessity of careful action within sensitive contexts, and the role that technological literacy and ethical responsibility play in documenting the emotional depth of human experience—even behind prison walls.

Photo and Story: Eddy Meijs
Poem: Serge Rooman





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Technology Literacy

Mrs Martha and the
Invisible Button



Mrs Martha was 78 years old, her fingers stiff with rheumatism. Her vision, a soft haze, no longer allowed her to read letters or distinguish the tiny icons that glowed on the phone her grandson had given her. She lived alone in a quiet neighbourhood where time seemed to pass more slowly. But everything else—the world, technology, bureaucracy—moved on like trains with no station.

Martha needed to make a money transfer to help her daughter, but the local bank branch had closed. “Now everything is done through the app,” the boy at the supermarket told her. She tried to open the application; the phone buzzed and gleamed, but to her it was just confusion. “Where’s the button to talk to a real person?” she murmured.

On the edge of frustration, she dialled the customer service number printed on a wrinkled flyer. After a few rings, a warm voice responded: “Online Banking, this is María speaking—how can I help you today?”

Martha was surprised. It wasn’t a recording—it was a real woman. Hesitantly, with sighs and pauses, she explained her trouble. María didn’t get impatient. “Don’t worry, Mrs Martha. I’m here for you. We’ll do this together.”

The teleoperator described each step as if telling a story: “Now imagine you’re pressing a magic key—the one that says ‘access.’ Do you see it?” Martha smiled, following the instructions with a mix of clumsiness and courage. María wasn’t just helping with a bank transaction—she was weaving patience and trust with every word.

It took nearly forty minutes, but in the end, Martha made the transfer. “Is it done?” she asked, incredulous. “It’s done,” María replied, celebrating as if they had conquered a mountain together.

Martha hung up the phone, tears of relief in her eyes. She realized that, although machines may seem cold, behind them still beat living hearts. Technological barriers do exist, yes—but they crumble when someone listens, when they don’t rush you, when they walk with you.



The next day, Martha wrote a letter—with shaky yet firm handwriting—thanking María for showing her that not everything is lost in this digital world. “I don’t understand phones,” she wrote, “but I understand humanity.”

María works at an ethical bank with a team of coaches dedicated to training professionals who swim against the tide—who devote the time each client truly deserves. In their latest training, Juan, her coach, shared this reflection:

“Technology is human creation. And as creators, we have the responsibility to make sure no one is left behind. Its purpose should not be to build walls of exclusion, but to lay bridges between generations, abilities, and hearts.”

Mrs Martha didn’t need a bigger screen or a faster app: she needed María. Because sometimes, a human gesture holds more value than any technical advancement. Because sincere help, patience, and empathy... are priceless.





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