

# Detention Monitoring Tool

Addressing risk factors to prevent torture and ill-treatment



## User guide

Welcome to the **Detention Monitoring Tool** developed by Penal Reform International and the Association for the Prevention of Torture.

This Tool provides analysis and practical guidance to support monitoring bodies, including National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs), to fulfil their preventive mandate as effectively as possible when visiting police facilities or prisons.

The development of the Tool started with the mapping of factors that contribute to an environment where torture and ill-treatment arise, including at a cross-regional conference on torture prevention held by PRI in Tbilisi, Georgia, in June 2012

### CONTENTS

#### THEMATIC PAPERS

- Balancing security and dignity in prisons: a framework for preventive monitoring
- Institutional culture in detention: a framework for preventive monitoring
- LGBTI persons deprived of their liberty: a framework for preventive monitoring
- Women in detention: a guide to gender-sensitive monitoring

#### FACTSHEETS

- Body searches
- Instruments of restraint
- Pre-trial detention
- Staff working conditions
- Video-recording in police custody

*New resources may be added in the future. All of these resources are also available online at [www.penalreform.org](http://www.penalreform.org) and [www.apt.ch](http://www.apt.ch).*

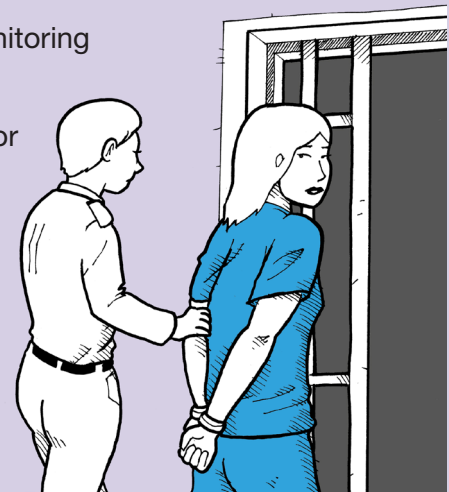
*The Tool is available in English and Russian. Check for other language versions online.*

The Conference discussed the obligation of states to respect the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment and the distinction between measures in *reaction* to allegations of torture and ill-treatment and measures to *prevent* abusive practices. Monitoring bodies are most effective when they focus on a preventive approach, ie when they go beyond the primary documentation of individual cases, and comprehensively analyse situations of risk and recommend systemic changes.

This Detention Monitoring Tool therefore seeks to support monitoring bodies to address systemic risk factors contributing to torture or other ill-treatment, and to help them to refine both their analytical thinking and their monitoring methodology.

We hope that monitoring teams will find the Tool useful in a number of different ways, for example, in:

- developing their monitoring methodology;
- informing planning for their annual programme of work;
- helping to prepare for specific visits;
- informing their reports and recommendations.



# What the Tool contains

## Thematic papers

The Thematic papers analyse broader themes that will benefit from a comprehensive monitoring approach, examining regulations and practices throughout the criminal justice process with a systemic lens, such as gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, or institutional culture.

Each paper:

- introduces the issue in the context of relevant international standards and human rights norms;
- examines in detail the risk factors for torture and ill-treatment;
- includes illustrative cases and country examples;
- makes recommendations on how monitoring bodies could start to, or more thoroughly, address this issue in their work.



## Factsheets

The Factsheets provide practical guidance on how monitoring bodies can focus on a number of systemic issues that are particularly high risk factors for torture or ill-treatment, such as body searches or the working conditions of prison staff.

Each Factsheet:

- lists the relevant international standards;
- identifies types and situations of risk for torture and ill-treatment;
- provides checklists of questions that monitoring bodies could enquire into for each risk factor explored;
- suggests what monitoring bodies can do.



The Tool has been developed jointly by **PRI** and **APT** as part of PRI's three-year EU funded project, *Strengthening institutions and building civil society capacity to combat torture in nine CIS countries*, which aimed to strengthen monitoring mechanisms, including National Preventive Mechanisms, and to develop their capacity to counter torture and ill-treatment.

We would like to thank the members of the Georgian National Preventive Mechanism who piloted an initial set of resources in May 2013. Their helpful feedback informed the final version of this Tool.

We welcome feedback on our resources. Please contact [publications@penalreform.org](mailto:publications@penalreform.org).