



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS
IN AFRICA**

**KADOMA, ZIMBABWE,
24-28 NOVEMBER 1997**

**with the support of the Commission of the European
Communities, The British Council, the Department
for International Development (UK), and the**

**Norwegian Agency for Development
Cooperation (NORAD)**

DECLARATION OF PARTICIPANTS

Preamble

Recalling the Kampala Declaration of 1996 which takes into account the limited effectiveness of imprisonment, especially for those serving short sentences, and the cost of imprisonment to the whole of society;

Noting the growing interest in many countries in measures which replace custodial sentences and the promising developments across the world in this regard;

Further noting with appreciation that the importance of the Kampala Declaration was recognised when it was noted in, and annexed to, a resolution on *International co-operation for the improvement of prison conditions in developing countries* by the United Nations 6th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, Austria (28 April - 9 May 1997);

Bearing in mind the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (« The Tokyo Rules ») 1990 and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (« The Beijing Rules ») 1985;

Considering that in many countries in Africa the level of overcrowding is inhuman;

Recalling the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights reaffirmation of the dignity inherent in a human being and the prohibition of degrading punishment and treatment;

Welcoming the success of the Zimbabwe Community Service scheme and its adoption by the government of Zimbabwe following a three year trial period;

Also noting with appreciation that other African countries including Francophone and Lusophone countries are interested in introducing community service as a penal sanction in their criminal justice systems;

The participants at the International Conference on Community Service Orders in Africa, held in Kadoma, Zimbabwe, from 24-28 November 1997 make the following declaration:

1. The use of prison should be strictly limited as a measure of last resort. Prisons represent a waste of scarce resources and human potential. The majority of prisoners who occupy them pose no actual threat to society.
2. The overcrowding in our prisons requires positive action through - *inter alia* - the introduction of community service.
3. Community Service is in conformity with African traditions of dealing with offenders and with healing the damage caused by crime within the community. Furthermore, it is a positive and cost-effective measure to be preferred whenever possible to a sentence of imprisonment.

4. Community Service should be effectively implemented and supervised and involve a programme of work where the offender is required to carry out a number of hours of voluntary work for the benefit of the community in his/her own time.
5. Governments, donors and civil society organisations are invited to support research, pilot schemes and other initiatives in this important area.
6. Countries that already have community service should take into account lessons learned from elsewhere and review their own schemes accordingly.
7. There should be promotion of community support through sensitisation campaigns targeting public opinion ; and the development of statistical databases to measure the effectiveness of community service.
8. We encourage those countries that have not yet done so to develop non-custodial sentencing alternatives and to this end we commit ourselves to co-operating with, and co-ordinating our action through, other national committees on community service, and/or interested groups, in order better to promote the scheme.
9. We adopt the Plan of Action attached hereto.

Kadoma

28 November 1997

PLAN OF ACTION

Further to the Declaration made by participants to the Kadoma Conference on Community Service Orders in Africa held in Kadoma, Zimbabwe, from 24-28 November 1997

The participants adopt the following plan of action:

1. Network

Establish a network of National Committees on Community Service (NCCS) and other interested groups to provide mutual support and encouragement through:

- providing resource persons to assist at seminars in the sub-region and elsewhere,
- sharing documentation (legislation, guidelines, administrative forms) and ideas,
- co-ordination and support of new projects,
- co-operation and assistance in administering the scheme,
- assistance in staff training,
- exchange visits.

2. Community Service Directory

Compile a Community Service Directory. To this end, a home page will be established on the Internet informing any interested person(s) of any developments in this area; and a book will be produced which will include:

- Contact points and addresses of all National Committees on Community Service (NCCS) and those contacts engaged in community service schemes,

- List of experts and resource persons,
- Contacts in interested countries,
- Interested groups and organisations around the world,
- Donor contacts and government contacts,

to be distributed in other languages including French & English translations.

3. Newsletter

Issue a Newsletter -

- to be produced by each NCCS at regular intervals and circulated to the network,
- to include: initiatives undertaken, problems encountered, solutions found, reports on workshops, calendar of events, requests for support (eg: resource persons), statistics and other information,
- disseminated through the internet or mail (or both).

4. Research and data-gathering

Set up mechanisms for research and data-gathering:

- Research findings and data gathered to be shared through the Newsletter or via internet,
- Research projects identified (eg: on cost-benefit analyses) and funding application supported by the network,
- Joint research projects on the benefits, problems and effectiveness of community service where the scheme is applied — undertaken regionally and internationally.

CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEES ON COMMUNITY
SERVICE

Members of the National Committee on Community Service
in _____ (Country)

AGREE TO BE BOUND by the following Code :

1. Members of the National Committee and other persons co-opted onto the National Committee will provide their services on A VOLUNTARY BASIS and in particular will give their time freely when promoting the scheme whether as resource persons, facilitators or in their official capacity as members of the National Committee, provided however that payment may be made to such members in respect of out of pocket expenses or other expenses necessarily incurred in the attendance of any meetings or other business of the National Committee.

2. Members will actively SUPPORT each other and all other persons working to promote the scheme and upon whom the successful implementation of the scheme depends and, in addition, will respond as soon as possible to requests for support from other National Committees or officials of other countries and provide any such assistance as may be necessary.

3. Members will endeavour to provide TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE to others who seek it. To this end, they will draw up a list of experts and resource persons. These persons will provide their services on a voluntary basis but will be entitled to such out of pocket expenses as may be considered reasonable.
4. Members will commit themselves to SHARING DATA AND INFORMATION with other National Committee members, officials of other countries and interested organisations on a voluntary basis. They will maintain active communication links through such media as the internet and/or newsletter.
5. Members are to maintain FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY and in particular to maintain a clear financial record which accurately reflects all transactions and expenses incurred. Records should be subject to audit and are to be accessible to any members of the National Committee or other interested persons on request.
6. Members will be persons of high moral calibre and are to be accountable to other members of the National Committee for any assignments allocated to them.

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