

PRI's Bangkok Rules E-bulletin: March 2014

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Bangkok Rules E-Bulletin

Women in the Criminal Justice System

March 2014



**Toolbox
on the UN
Bangkok
Rules**

Welcome to Penal Reform International's quarterly Bangkok Rules E-Bulletin, a round-up of news and developments from PRI and others around the world on women in detention, and the implementation of the UN Bangkok Rules. The views expressed in the news items are not necessarily those of PRI.

We welcome contributions to the e-bulletin and do let us know what you think by emailing publications@penalreform.org

What's in this issue?

- [In the spotlight](#)
- [New publications from PRI](#)
- [A look back at PRI's main recent activities](#)
- [A news round-up from our Bangkok Rules network](#)
- [Other news relating to women in criminal justice systems](#)

WHAT ARE THE BANGKOK RULES?

The Bangkok Rules are a set of standards adopted by the UN General Assembly on 21 December 2010, which supplement existing standards for the treatment of prisoners by addressing the specific needs of women in the criminal justice system for the first time. For more information on the Rules see PRI's [short guide](#) on the Rules.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

'Why don't they chat as they work?' A visit to Lo Wu Correctional Institution, Hong Kong

This month, PRI's Policy Director, Andrea Huber, visited Lo Wu Correctional Institution in Hong Kong, a newly built women's prison near the border with the Chinese mainland. The visit took place as part of the Women in Prison International Symposium (see below).



[Read this blog](#) which describes the visit to the prison and considers the challenges of moving from punitive to rehabilitative penitentiary systems.

NEW FROM PRI

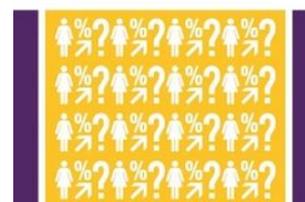
Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan Женщины в тюрьмах – кто они?

On International Women's Day (8 March) PRI launched a new report based on research carried out in September 2013 on the profiles and backgrounds of women in prison in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. [In this blog](#), PRI's Programme Officer, Olivia Rope, outlined the importance of this research. You can also read the blog in Russian [here](#).

Key findings from the research include:

- 40 per cent of women said treatment for health problems was their biggest need while in prison
- Half of the women surveyed in Kazakhstan experienced depression in prison
- 75 per cent of the women surveyed are mothers, and the vast majority of women are either single, divorced, separated or widowed.

Who are women prisoners?
Survey results from Kazakhstan
and Kyrgyzstan



Towards a gender-sensitive penal policy

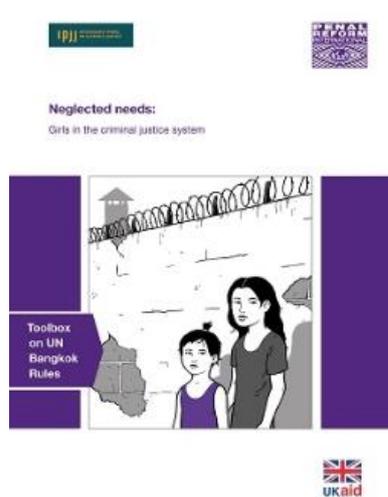
This is the second report in a series of three, from PRI's [multi-regional research project](#) inspired by the Bangkok Rules. The project aims to improve the evidence-base on the characteristics of women offenders and highlight priority areas where women would

most benefit from changes in law, policies and practice. The first report (published in 2013) profiled women in prison in [Armenia and Georgia](#). A third report on Jordan and Tunisia will be published in the next couple of months.

Filling the Research Gap: Women Prisoners and their Families

In a special edition publication by [Children of Prisoners Europe](#) (formerly Eurochips), PRI's Programme Officer, Olivia Rope, discusses the need to increase knowledge about the characteristics and backgrounds of female offenders and the impact of their imprisonment on their lives and families. She describes how PRI's [multi-regional research project](#), funded by the UK Government, is aiming to do just that.

Neglected Needs: Girls in the Criminal Justice System



This month, PRI also published a new briefing paper jointly with the [Inter-agency Panel on Juvenile Justice](#) (IPJJ), examining the specific challenges faced by girls in contact with criminal justice systems and making recommendations to strengthen the protection of their rights.

Specific challenges addressed in the paper include:

- protection from violence
- access to adequate healthcare
- rehabilitation and reintegration services
- access to an effective remedy.

This briefing paper concludes PRI's [series of briefings](#) on justice for children and also forms part of PRI's [Toolbox for Implementation](#) of the UN Bangkok Rules.

PRI NEWS

PRI to hold side event on the Bangkok Rules at the Crime Commission in Vienna

The twenty-third session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will place in Vienna from 12-16 May. PRI will hold a side event at the Commission, in conjunction with [UNODC](#), [Thailand Institute of Justice](#) (TIJ) and the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the UN. The event, *The Bangkok Rules on women offenders and prisoners: towards implementation*, aims to equip delegates with the facts, resources and inspiration to put the Rules into practice. Look out for the invite to the event, coming soon.

Women in Prison: The Bangkok Rules and Beyond

Earlier this month, PRI's Policy Director Andrea Huber attended a colloquium in Bangkok organised by the [International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation](#) (IPPF) and [Thailand Institute of Justice](#) (TIJ). Some of the main emerging themes included violence against women, legal representation for women and the role of the judiciary in implementing the Bangkok Rules. Look out for a book due to be published shortly on the colloquium and its outcomes!

Women in Prison: International Symposium on the Bangkok Rules



An international symposium took place in Hong Kong from 24-27 February, organised by [Dui Hua Foundation](#), in cooperation with PRI, [Hong Kong University](#) and [Renmin University](#). The symposium brought together Chinese and international experts to discuss the situation of imprisoned women and to consider how implementation of the Bangkok Rules can serve as a means to guarantee their rights. PRI was represented by Policy Director, Andrea Huber, who presented on the 'Added-value of the Bangkok Rules and Tools to Implement Them'.

Notably, research carried out on women in two Chinese prisons and three Chinese detention centres was presented at the symposium by Professor Cheng Lei, who led the project at Renmin University. [Read more about this research](#), due to be published soon.

Dui Hua Foundation publish a quarterly newsletter, *Dialogue*. [Read the latest edition](#) which includes a report on the symposium.

Best practice example: HMIP 'Expectations' for women in prison

In March PRI attended a consultation organised by HM Inspectorate of Prisons (an independent inspectorate body in the UK) on a new 'Expectations' document which is specifically to be used for appraising and inspecting women's prisons. Currently there are Expectations for adult prisons generally (for both men and women's prisons), but the HMIP are developing this new criteria which take into account the specific needs and unique characteristics of women prisons, based on the Bangkok Rules.

Get this bulletin in Russian or Arabic!

This bulletin will shortly be available in Russian and Arabic. For translations of previous versions of the newsletter, [click here](#).

NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

[Justice Matters for Women](#)

This new initiative of the [Centre for Crime and Justice Studies](#) (CCJS) is said to represent a radical 'thought experiment', bringing together those advocating for criminalised women and those working to combat violence against women, to explore the case for alternatives to criminal justice for women. Last week, PRI attended a workshop to discuss downsizing criminal justice for women and its implications for long term strategies to reduce the harms faced by women. Read more or watch a video introducing the initiative [here](#).

[Nar Yu Right - Music video promotes the Bangkok Rules](#)

Sierra Leone charity [Advocaid](#) teamed up with leading hip-hop artist Star Zee to produce a song and video educating women in prison about their rights, including the Bangkok Rules... A must watch!

[Abusive Body Searches: Inhumane Treatment of Prisoners and Their Relatives](#)

Brazilian NGO [Conectas](#) co-hosted a side event at the Human Rights Council in Geneva this month, where women, whether imprisoned or visiting a relative, were identified as particularly vulnerable to humiliating and degrading body searches. PRI's [gender-sensitive guide to monitoring](#), developed with the [Association for the Prevention of Torture](#) (APT) was available at the event. For more from the day and the current situation in Brazil, [read this news report on the event](#).



[UNODC Handbook on Women and Imprisonment](#)

This Handbook has been updated to include reference to the Bangkok Rules. It details the special needs of women in relation to access to justice, safety, accommodation and healthcare needs in prison. It also provides a guide to gender-sensitive prison management and suggests legislative and practical measures to reduce female prison populations.

[Brighter Futures: Working together to reduce women's offending](#)

This new briefing by the [Prison Reform Trust](#) (PRT), supported by [The Pilgrim Trust](#), profiles innovative approaches to reducing women's offending and calls for the development of coordinated services to help women to turn their lives around.

[International Good Practice: Alternatives to Imprisonment for Women Offenders](#)

This comprehensive new resource from the UK-based [Prison Reform Trust](#) (PRT) and [The Pilgrim Trust](#) presents a wide range of international examples of alternatives to custody for

non-violent women offenders. In doing so, it aims to inspire and support efforts to reduce the unnecessary imprisonment of women.

Hard Time(s): Women's Pathways to Crime and Incarceration

This report from the Gender, Health and Justice Research Unit of the University of Cape Town considers the inter-relatedness of a range of factors and events that lead to women's offending. It also looks at women's experiences of race and violence in South Africa and explores the gendered nature of crime and incarceration.

Commission on the Status of Women agrees post-2015 equality goal

The Commission on the Status of Women took place in New York this month, where states agreed on a stand-alone equality goal in post-2015 development targets. The Commission also refers to the need to achieve equal and effective access to justice and accountability for violations of the human rights of women and girls. [Read the full agreed conclusions of the Commission here.](#)

Indian prison academy to make Bangkok Rules training mandatory

The [Academy of Prisons and Correctional Administration](#) (APCA) in Vellore, India, are to include [PRI's e-course on the Bangkok Rules](#) as a mandatory element of training for all prison officers, and later this year will include the Bangkok Rules in their training of trainers course. The APCA train prison officers for four states in southern India, so this move is significant in raising awareness of the needs of women in prison in India.

Women, Drug Offences and Penitentiary Systems in Latin America

A new report from the [International Drug Policy Consortium](#) (IDPC) discusses the criminalisation of women for drug offences and the impact that their imprisonment has on the penitentiary system, as well as the lives of these women and their dependants.

The UN's Bangkok Rules: Women Suffer More in Prisons Globally

Interesting article by Gloria J Browne-Marshall, Associate Professor of Constitutional Law at John Jay College in New York City, discussing the particular difficulties faced by women in prison and how the Bangkok Rules can protect them.

A Women's Guide to Security Sector Reform

DCAF's Gender and Security Programme and the Institute for Inclusive Security have developed a guide to encourage and empower women to take part in the security sector. It is available in English, Arabic, French and Bosnian.

The Prison Alphabet: An Educational Colouring Book for Children of Incarcerated Parents

This is the first book in a series of five to be published in the coming years by Goldest Karat Publishing LLC. The books are designed to help children understand the prison experience and to build confidence in minorities impacted by parental imprisonment.

Bonding Through Bars

This five-minute video by Samantha Sarra depicts the struggle of separation for imprisoned mothers and their children.

Women in Prison OPEN Bulletin

The latest issue of Women in Prison's e-bulletin is available online. To subscribe to their mailing list, click [here](#).

OTHER NEWS

- US: [Statistics on Women in the Justice System](#)
- US: [End near for shackling of pregnant women](#)
- Ireland: [IPRT: Accelerating rates of female imprisonment must be addressed with urgency in order to minimise harm to families and communities](#)
- Australia: [Women lose babies while being held in immigration detention](#)
- Canada: [BC Supreme Court judge rules babies born in jail belong with moms](#)
- Canada: [Women prison plans includes rooms for mothers - and children](#)
- Saudi Arabia: [Why Saudi women languish in jail](#)
- Yemen: [Living behind bars with mom](#)
- Uganda: [Luzira prison gets maternity unit](#)
- China: [Women in prison meet their mothers](#)
- UAE: [New women's jail becomes child-friendly](#)
- US: [Court's all-hands approach aids girls most at risk](#)
- South Africa: [Women in prison: ignored and neglected](#)
- US: [Women and Their Children in Prison: An American Tragedy](#)
- Ghana: [Prison officers to be trained in handling female inmates](#)
- UK: ['Epidemic of self-mutilation' in women's prisons in England and Wales](#)
- UK: [Woman who miscarried in prison 'forced to clean up blood in cell'](#)
- Zimbabwe: [Over 60 children living in cells with inadequate nutrition](#)
- Afghanistan: [Inside Kabul's women's jail](#)
- UK: [Lady Edwina Grosvenor presents the Radio 4 Appeal for the Prisoners' Advice Service](#)
- Iraq: ["No One is Safe" The Abuse of Women in Iraq's Criminal Justice System](#)
- UK: [Study could reveal why female victims of domestic violence turn to crime](#)
- Scotland: [Two in three women in Scots prison are on suicide watch](#)
- Albania: [Political change bad news for women in Albania's prisons](#)
- UK: [Choking to death: should we stop sending women to prison?](#)
- US: [Life in shackles: Scottish photographer Scott Houston gains access to an Arizona women's prison](#)
- Hong Kong: [Speech by Commissioner of Correctional Services at annual press conference](#)

Do you have new publications or resources to share on women and criminal justice?

We hope that our newsletter is used to share information and resources among a growing network of individuals and organisations interested in the issue of women and detention, and would like to encourage colleagues to send us materials, feedback, news items, information about events etc to include it in our bulletins. We are also always interested in your feedback on our publications, projects and the bulletin itself. We hope to hear from you! Send your contributions to info@penalreform.org.

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