



Bangkok Rules E-Bulletin

Women in the Criminal Justice System

May 2015



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

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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

Women in the criminal justice system: the added value of the UN Bangkok Rules

This new article by PRI's Policy Director, Andrea Huber, outlines aspects of discrimination faced by female suspects, defendants and prisoners in criminal justice systems, their number, profile and characteristics, and the offences they are typically charged with or convicted for. It covers certain key conditions in detention as well as programmes in place for rehabilitation and reintegration. The report draws on data, country examples and findings from a number of recent research studies in different countries, including Argentina, Armenia, China, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa and Tunisia.



PRI NEWS

UN Crime Congress discusses the implementation of the Bangkok Rules five years on

PRI gave a presentation on the value of the Bangkok Rules and their implementation five years on during Workshop 1, which was dedicated to international standards, specifically those relating to meeting the unique needs of women and children (watch the [webcast](#): PRI's intervention is at 1hr).

Various other ancillary/side-event meetings addressed aspects of the detention of women and women offenders including a meeting co-organised by PRI and Raoul Wallenberg Institute on [gender-sensitive monitoring and oversight of prison systems](#). The panel outlined:

- The gender specific needs of women in detention, such as reproductive health needs and the responsibilities women have as primary caregivers to children.
- The requirement for monitoring bodies to focus on and incorporate gender perspectives in their work and activities, using the Bangkok Rules as a framework.
- Examples of monitoring practices used to review the situations and needs of women who are detained, ranging from regional human rights bodies and Public Defenders' Offices to National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and internal inspection mechanisms.
- Initiatives to provide guidance and training to prison administrations and other relevant authorities to implement the Bangkok Rules.

See the summary of the meeting hosted by the Government of Thailand on ['Implementing Non-custodial Measures for Women in Relation to Drug Offences'](#).

The [UN Crime Congress](#) is a forum held every five years bringing together governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, and criminal justice professionals and scholars, to discuss common concerns, share experiences and seek viable solutions to problems related to crime prevention and criminal justice.

[New PRI report: Global Prison Trends 2015](#)

PRI launched a new podcast and annual report [Global Prison Trends 2015](#) at the Crime Congress. The report describes key global trends in the use and practice of imprisonment, and includes a section on women prisoners. The report gives an overview of the types of offences that are prevalent among female offenders and outlines how drug policies impact women specifically.

PRI also produced a special [podcast](#) to accompany the new report. Guests include: Bryan Stevenson (Director of the Equal Justice Initiative and PRI Board Member), Alison Hannah (PRI Executive Director), Dr Marayca López (US corrections analyst and justice planner) and Rob Allen (criminal justice expert). Topics covered include: sentencing trends, prison technology - opportunities and threats, architectural design and rehabilitation.

[Summer school for monitoring bodies on gender-sensitive monitoring](#)

PRI is co-organising a Summer School for members and staff of National Preventive Mechanisms on '*Preventing torture and ill-treatment of female detainees through gender-sensitive monitoring*' - based on the Bangkok Rules. It will take place from 10 to 13 August 2015 in Bristol, UK and is co-organised with the University of Bristol, in partnership with the Association for the Prevention of Torture. It is sponsored by the Danish Government within the Convention against Torture Initiative.

[See here](#) for more information and [register through submitting this form](#) to pkeeling@penalreform.org.

PRI's face-to-face training on the Bangkok Rules

In March PRI together with the Kenyan Probation Service ran a workshop on the Bangkok Rules for probation and prison staff in Kenya. Read more about [the workshop in Kenya](#). Over the past year, PRI has delivered face-to-face training to some 80 prison, probation and NGO staff, with a particular focus on Training of Trainer sessions. For instance, PRI trained the staff of our partner organisation in Pakistan, the DOST Welfare Foundation, who are currently rolling out the training to hundreds of staff who work in prisons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa border province. A similar trainers' workshop was facilitated for prison staff from eight Indian states.

PRI has also run two training sessions and a Training of Trainers for the United Nations Prison and Probation Officer Course (UNPriProC) run by [the Swedish Prison and Probation Service](#) for future UN peacekeeping corrections officers as part of their pre-deployment training. The UNPriProC course will now include a Bangkok Rules training component on a permanent basis.

Find out more about PRI's [resources on the Bangkok Rules](#).



Bangkok Rules E-Course now available in Arabic and Russian

PRI has released Arabic and Russian versions of its free online e-course on the Bangkok Rules. The course provides both an analysis of the rules and guidance on how to apply them to real-life situations.

[Watch a short trailer in English or Arabic or enrol here.](#)

NEW RESOURCES

Reproductive Injustice: the state of reproductive health care for women in New York State prisons

A [new report](#) published by the [US Women in Prison Project](#) and the [Coalition for Women Prisoners](#). Conducted over a 5-year period, this research details the low standard of reproductive healthcare experienced by women in New York State prisons and offers concrete recommendations for change.

UN report on women in detention in Senegal

Launched on International Women's Day, this [report](#) by [the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Regional Office in West Africa](#) and [the Women's Lawyers Association \(AJS\)](#) analyses the causes of detention of women in Senegal and emphasises the discriminatory nature of certain offences. The report also makes recommendations to address this issue including the decriminalisation of abortion.

Working it out - employment for women offenders

A [new briefing](#) published by [Prison Reform Trust \(UK\)](#) highlights the challenges faced by women in England and Wales in finding employment after being released from prison. The report profiles good practice in custody and in the community, and calls on the government to help increase employment opportunities for women with a criminal record.

Childhood behind bars: growing up in a Cambodian prison – Dara's story

Cambodian Human Rights Group [LICADHO](#) has published its [second case study](#) in a series of reports on children living with their mothers in prison. These reports describe the physical and psychological consequences for children who grow up in prison, as well as the conditions in Cambodian prisons.

Development! Since the report was published a government committee headed by the Ministry of Justice to address this issue was established. See LICADHO's reaction to this, calling for a long-term strategy on this issue [here](#).

Women in prison in Thailand

This comprehensive [report](#) published by the Thailand Institute of Justice looks at 'Women prisoners and the implementation of the Bangkok Rules in Thailand'.

Report on children deprived of liberty by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture

In this [report](#), UN Special Rapporteur, Juan Méndez, says that girls in detention have different needs from adults and boys and identifies some of the risks that girls in prison face. [See details and register](#) for a webinar on this report to be held on 5 May.

Women offenders: follow up report by the UK Justice Committee

This [report](#) examines the impact of recommendations made and government responses to the 'Women offenders' report published in July 2013.

WSPIC video: gender responsive core guidelines

The [video](#) by US-based organisation [WSPIC](#) highlights core treatment guidelines for gender responsive treatment of women with substance use disorders.

Women in prison and the question of gender

This [report](#) has been published in Argentina by [the Procuración Penitenciaria de la Nación](#). The report is in Spanish only.

Gender responsive discipline and sanctions policy guide for women's facilities

A [guide](#) for corrections professionals on gender-sensitive discipline policies by US based NGO the [National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women](#).

[I am human: refugee women's experiences of detention in the UK](#)

This [report](#) by [Women for Refugee Women](#) details the experiences of women asylum seekers detained at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre.

[Referral decisions in Vermont's juvenile justice system](#)

A [report](#) by the Vermont Center for Justice Research found that the juvenile justice system practises gender bias in the state of Vermont in the United States.

[Black girls matter: pushed out, overpoliced and underprotected](#)

This [report](#) by the [African American Policy Forum](#) and [Columbia Law School's Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies](#), indicates that young black girls are subject to excessive disciplinary measures at school which ultimately leads to them being much more likely to be placed in juvenile supervision facilities.

[Sierra Leone's women behind bars: A new documentary about AdvocAid's work](#)

This new [video](#) documents the challenges faced by [AdvocAid's](#) paralegals and the importance of their free legal aid services with a growing female prison population and shortage of lawyers.

NEW BLOGS

[“Why didn't you just leave your husband?” Responding to crimes by women who are victims themselves](#)

This new blog post by PRI's Programme Officer, Olivia Rope, says that research from around the globe shows that a high number of women in prison have experienced violence in their lives prior to prison, and that it is often an indirect or direct cause of offending. She calls on legislators and judicial authorities to re-think their policies and sentences to reflect the role this violence has played in these women's lives, particularly in cases where women have killed their abuser.

[Failed drug policies in Latin America: the impact on prisons and human rights](#)

In the last of our expert guest blogs for our anniversary year, Luciana Pol, Senior Fellow on Security and Human Rights at [Center for Legal and Social Studies](#) (CELS) in Argentina describes the impact of harsh drug policies in Latin America and the consequences this has had for the human rights of prisoners. She welcomes initiatives in several Latin American countries to start to recalibrate the criminal justice response to drugs and welcomes the inclusion of human rights perspectives into next year's Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS) in April 2016.

See all the [blogs](#) in our expert series!

Introducing a valuable new tool for detention monitors

Jean-Sébastien Blanc, Detention Advisor at the [Association for the Prevention of Torture](#) (APT), introduces APT's newly launched database of international and regional standards, information, guidance and helpful tips to assist prison monitors. The database - [Detention Focus](#) - has a special emphasis on the needs of vulnerable groups, such as women offenders.

IN THE MEDIA

- **Argentina:** [Violence against women in prisons is routinely ignored](#)
 - **Cambodia:** [Prime minister calls for long term solutions for children imprisoned with their mothers](#)
 - **Cambodia:** [Mothers jailed with their children could receive pardons](#)
 - **Canada:** [B.C. Healing centre is a shameful example of how we fail aboriginal women](#)
 - **Canada:** [Federal Government rejects limit on prison segregation time in response to Ashley Smith case](#)
 - **India:** [Over 90 per cent of women inmates in Odisha don't know the reason for their imprisonment](#)
 - **Indonesia:** [Second Chance Foundation offers employment opportunities to released women offenders](#)
 - **Ireland:** [Strategy for women offenders](#)
 - **Israel:** [Women's prison hosts fashion show](#)
 - **New Zealand:** [Prison shower cameras breach privacy](#)
 - **Saudi Arabia:** [Saudi women employed in Riyadh's prison 'hotel'](#)
 - **Saudi Arabia:** [Families refusing to accept their daughters after release from prison](#)
 - **Singapore:** [Changi women's prison, not a place you want to return to](#)
 - **Thailand:** [Surge in women being imprisoned](#)
 - **UK:** [Plan to support children of prisoners in Scotland](#)
 - **UK:** [Scottish Justice Minister scraps women's prison plan](#)
 - **UK:** [Number of women in prison is too high](#)
 - **UK:** [County Durham women's prison praised, but some concerns raised](#)
 - **UK:** [Styal women's prison gets glowing report from watchdog](#)
 - **USA:** [Article describes the Minnesota Prison Doula Project and the experiences of pregnant women giving birth in prison.](#)
 - **USA:** [How former prisoners are set up to fail, especially if they're women](#)
 - **USA:** [Rwandan entrepreneurial model gives hope to New Jersey women ex-offenders](#)
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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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