

East Africa Criminal Justice Civil Society Network  
e-newsletter

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# EAST AFRICA CRIMINAL JUSTICE CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK



*Civil Society Organizations for Criminal Justice Reform*

E-newsletter 9: March 2015

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## INTRODUCING THE EAST AFRICA CRIMINAL JUSTICE CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the March edition of the East Africa Criminal Justice Civil Society Network newsletter. In this edition we give a round-up of criminal justice news and resources from East Africa and worldwide. This edition also highlights results of the call for participation in exchange visits between NGO's working in the areas of Juvenile Justice and justice for women and girls in conflict with the law. The e-network promotes best practice, information updates and dialogue on criminal justice reform in the region, including specific initiatives on *alternatives to imprisonment*, *juvenile justice* and the *UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)*.

Please send any news items and information that you would like included for the next

issue to Diva at FHRI: [mukisadiva@gmail.com](mailto:mukisadiva@gmail.com) by 20<sup>th</sup> April.

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## JUVENILE JUSTICE

### NEWS AND EVENTS

#### **East Africa: Exchange visits between East African NGOs working on juvenile justice issues**

In May, NGOs in East Africa working on juvenile justice issues will participate in a learning exchange visit in Uganda. The exchange visit which will be hosted by Ugandan NGOs including FHRI, Passion for Community and Uganda Children Center with participation from other NGO's from the network including SEMA from Tanzania. The aim of the exchange visit is to enable organisations to improve programme quality and effectiveness by learning from each other. The visit is being co-ordinated and funded by the East Africa Criminal Justice Civil Society e-network (facilitated by FHRI and with funding from PRI and UK Aid). We would like to thank the organisations that have sent applications to participate in the programs as hosts or visitors. This initiative is part of two exchange visits planned by the network and we hope to hold a second visit later this year. For more information on the exchange visit contact Diva at FHRI:

[mukisadiva@gmail.com](mailto:mukisadiva@gmail.com)

#### **World Congress on Juvenile Justice**

From 26th to 30th of January, 900 delegates from over 90 countries and Civil Society Organizations attended the very first World Congress on juvenile justice. The congress was co-organized by the government of Switzerland, in collaboration with the Terre des Hommes. It provided a forum for dialogue to encourage stakeholders on the international stage to work together for the improvement of responses to the issue of children in conflict with the law. The congress concluded with the adoption of a final declaration promoting the principles of a child-friendly and restorative justice. Read more about the congress [here](#).

#### **Uganda: NGOs call for rehabilitation of Kampiringisa Rehabilitation Centre**

A joint monitoring exercise to the juvenile rehabilitation center led by the Gulu Resident

judge, probation officers and members of children's rights NGOs within Acholi (northern Uganda) revealed a number of challenges and shortcomings. Congestion seems to be the least of the problems affecting Kampiringisa, which is the only government juvenile rehabilitation facility in Uganda. Stakeholders expressed fear that the children would return home and become hardcore criminals, since they are not rehabilitated due to the challenges they face in Kampiringisa. This article gives a close look at life within the facility. Read more [here](#).

### **Uganda: The 4th International Study Week on Children of Prisoners 2015**

[Wells of Hope](#) invites you to the 4th International Study Week on Children of Prisoners 2015 which will be held from 22nd to 27th June 2015 in Kampala, Uganda. The study week is an annual avenue for stakeholders to consolidate their experience, to share new knowledge and skills, and to discuss and jointly develop an action agenda for Children whose parents are in prison. The study week also aims at promoting friendship and solidarity among organisations working with children whose parents are in prison from all over the world. The study week also aims at educating participants about the effects of parental imprisonment. Read more [here](#). You can also find out more about PRIS's work on children of incarcerated parents [here](#).

**Zambia:** [More cells for juveniles](#)

## **BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES**

[Child Rights and the Law in East Africa](#): A book by Prof. Mohammed S. Hussain and Dr. Clement Julius Mashamba in the area of child rights and law, not only in East Africa, but also across Sub-Saharan Africa, It stimulates debate on effective domestication and implementation of international child rights in East Africa.

[Child protection factsheet \(UNICEF\)](#): According to the UNICEF fact sheet, in 2011 over 1400 children were held in adult prisons in Tanzania, 75 percent of whom were awaiting trial.

[Protecting children's rights in criminal justice systems: a training manual and reference point for professionals and policymakers \(PRI\)](#): A practical approach to addressing issues

that arise for children in criminal justice systems. Now available in English, Arabic and Russian. The manual can be downloaded from PRIS's website or, to request hard copies contact [info@penalreform.org](mailto:info@penalreform.org)

[A short guide to General Comment No.1: Children of incarcerated and imprisoned parents and primary caretakers \(PRI-ACERWC\)](#): A summary of the General Comment by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on *Children of incarcerated and imprisoned parents and primary caregivers* (Article 30 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child)

## ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

### NEWS AND EVENTS

#### **This issue's Featured NGO: Product of Prison (POP)**

Product of Prison is a non-profit organization assisting prisoners in Uganda to rebuild their lives during and after imprisonment. POP aims to assist prisoners with their successful rehabilitation and reintegration by giving them the skills and opportunities necessary to rebuild their lives and to return to their communities. Product of Prison has a Memorandum of Understanding with Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) and currently works in 15 prisons in Uganda. Over 400 prisoners take part in POP projects every year, which are set up in cooperation with the prisons service, prison staff and prisoners. To get involved contact Product of Prison by visiting their [website](#)

If you would like to be featured in the next edition please contact Diva at FHRI:

[mukisadiva@gmail.com](mailto:mukisadiva@gmail.com) by 20<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **Uganda: The 10th anniversary and conference on social relations and after care of prisoners**

[Mission after Custody](#) will hold an international conference on social relations and after care of prisons from 30 to 31 October 2015. Part of the conference will focus on the involvement and contributions towards the welfare of prisoners and ex-offenders in the

reformation and rehabilitation process from a civil society perspective. The conference will be held under the theme “*Deepening and strengthening Pastoral care towards forces.*” For more information about the event, please contact [annteddie@yahoo.com](mailto:annteddie@yahoo.com)

### **Kenya: Give non-custodial sentences to petty offenders- National Crime Research Centre (NCRC)**

The [National Crime Research Centre](#) has called for improved utilization of non-custodial sentences to all first time petty offenders as a long term method of dealing with crime in the country. The state crime research agency says that besides saving wastage of public funds on maintaining thousands of offenders in prisons, community-based sentences have long term benefits including reconciliation, rehabilitation and reintegration of accused while assisting in maintaining family ties. this is part of regional [EXTRA](#) project by PRI with Probation departments in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda Read more [here](#).

### **Fair and effective criminal justice systems enable and underpin sustainable development**

A blog by PRI’s Executive Director, Alison Hannah highlighting the relationship between criminal justice and development – from those caught up in the criminal justice system in developing countries. Read the blog [here](#).

**Somalia:** [How to better reintegrate detainees into society](#)

## **BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES**

[Detention focus:](#) A new database on prison issues by the Association for the Prevention of Torture which pays specific attention to [situations of vulnerability](#) – to certain groups of detainees who face enhanced risks of abuse, ill-treatment or discrimination.

## **WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

### **NEWS AND EVENTS**

**Uganda: Research in Uganda on Women Prisoners**

FHRI, with support from PRI, has conducted research into the needs and characteristics of women prisoners in Uganda. Interviews were conducted with 198 women prisoners, over 10 percent of the total female prison population in Uganda, from nine prisons around the country. Preliminary results from the survey show that over half of the women surveyed were in pre-trial detention while 40 percent were already convicted. The most common consequences of imprisonment included depression, family breakdown and loss of employment. PRI and FHRI will discuss findings from the research with government officials and other stakeholders to identify priority areas where women offenders will benefit most from changes to law, policy and practice. A final report from the research will be published in April. Read more about PRI [research into characteristics of female offenders](#) inspired by Rule 67 of the [UN Bangkok Rules](#).

**Kenya:** [Woman jailed for 6 years over burglary.](#)

**Senegal:** [For a better inclusion of women's rights in detention in Senegal.](#)

**Ghana:** [NGO inaugurated to better lives of female prison inmates and officers.](#)

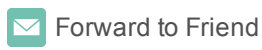
## BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

[Women in pre-trial detention in Africa](#): A report from [Promoting Pre-trial Justice in Africa](#), a project of the [Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative](#) of the [Community Law Centre](#) of the University of the Western Cape.

[The UN Bangkok Rules on Women Offenders and Prisoners: A short guide.](#) (PRI)

Bangkok Rules e-course: You can still enrol for the Bangkok Rules e-course. This is a free, online training course for professionals, practitioners and anyone working with women in the criminal justice system. Watch the introduction video and register [here](#).

Read more about developments and issues affecting women in the criminal justice system in the [latest edition of PRI's quarterly e-bulletin](#) on women in detention and the Bangkok Rules. To sign up email [info@penalreform.org](mailto:info@penalreform.org)



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