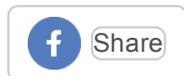


PRI's Bangkok Rules E-bulletin: July 2015

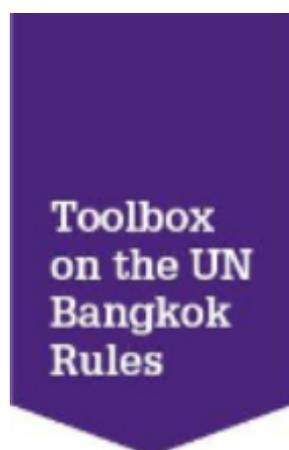
View this email in your
browser



Bangkok Rules E-Bulletin

Women in the Criminal Justice System

July 2015



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: Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Uganda](#)
- [PRI news](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Blogs and webinars](#)
- [In the media](#)
- [Job opportunities](#)

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



Who are women prisoners?

Survey results from Uganda



Towards a gender-sensitive penal policy

Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Uganda

The [Foundation for Human Rights Initiative](#) (FHRI) and PRI have published a new research report, '[Who are women prisoners?: Survey results from Uganda](#)'. The report provides data on the characteristics and needs of women prisoners in Uganda and highlights the need for gender-specific policies. It identifies key areas to be addressed and makes recommendations with reference to the Bangkok Rules.

A snapshot of the report's results:

- Women make up 6 per cent of all prisoners in Uganda; of these women, 53 per cent are in pre-trial detention.
- 37 per cent of women surveyed said they had experienced domestic violence.
- 76 per cent of women surveyed identified themselves as poor or very poor; 32 per cent had never been to school.
- As a result of their imprisonment, 43 per cent of women had lost their job, 35 per cent their home and 31 per cent had had their children taken away.

For more information see a [blog post](#) written for PRI last year by Diva Mukisa and Denis Angeri, from FHRI, or check out [the other publications](#) in PRI's 'Who are women prisoners?' series.

The report was launched on 9 July at a roundtable session in Kampala, Uganda, bringing together key stakeholders including representatives of the prison service, judiciary, Human Rights Commission and civil society. The keynote address was given on behalf of Hon. Justice Lameck Nsubuga Mukasa, and outlined the importance of the Bangkok Rules for Uganda, noting in particular the large number of women in prison who do not pose a continuing threat to society.





Representatives at the launch of PRI and FHRI's new report: Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Uganda.

PRI NEWS

[The revised Standard Minimum Rules \(SMR\) for the Treatment of Prisoners: the 'Mandela Rules'](#)

PRI is delighted that the UN Crime Commission adopted [the revised Standard Minimum Rules \(SMR\) for the Treatment of Prisoners](#) at its 24th session in May, marking the end of a four-year revision process which PRI was intensively engaged in.

The revised rules, to be known as the Mandela Rules, represent a historic moment for the treatment of prisoners and improvement of prison conditions. The Bangkok Rules are supplementary to these Rules and provided a crucial benchmark in the negotiations. The Resolution at the Crime Commission on the Mandela Rules encourages states to comply with the Bangkok Rules, and advocates for non-discrimination against women in detention.

For more information see:

- A [joint NGO briefing](#) on the revision process.
- A [podcast](#) of PRI's Policy Director, Andrea Huber, introducing the new rules.
- A [blog post](#) by Sir Nigel Rodley, Chair of the Human Rights Centre at Essex University and Member of the UN Human Rights Committee, on the significance of the new rules.

[Our joint statement with the Quakers to the UN Human Rights Council highlighted the role of domestic violence in women's pathways to prison](#)

This [statement](#) was delivered on the Annual Day of Women's Rights in June and was produced jointly with the [Friends World Committee for Consultation](#).

[A joint submission to the OHCHR with Harm Reduction International focused on the disproportionately harsh impact of drug policies on women](#)

The [Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights](#) (OHCHR) will issue a report to the [UN Human Rights Council](#) in September 2015 on the impact of the world drug problem on the enjoyment of human rights in preparation for the UN General Assembly special session ([UNGASS](#)) on the world drug problem in April 2016. Our submission to the OHCHR calls for gender-sensitive non-custodial sentencing and adequate healthcare programmes for women in compliance with the UN Bangkok Rules.

For more resources on drug policy, women and criminal justice systems, see:

- **[The impact of drug policy on women](#)**: This [new report](#) by the [Open Society Foundations](#) says women often face harsher penalties than men for drug-related offences and worse treatment for drug problems.
- **[Women and drugs in the Americas: a policy working paper](#)**: This [paper](#), published by the [Organisation of American States](#) (OAS), outlines international treaties relevant to drug policy and women, as well as giving an overview of the situation of women in each of the countries of the Americas with respect to drug policy and incarceration.
- **[Global Prison Trends 'Drugs and imprisonment'](#)**: The special pull out section on 'Drugs and imprisonment' in PRI's [Global Prison Trends report](#) discusses the impact of drug policy on the criminal justice system, and has a section on gender disparities.
- **[Failed drug policies in Latin America: the impact on prisons and human rights](#)**: a [blog post](#) written for PRI by Luciana Pol, Senior Fellow on Security and Human Rights at [Center for Legal and Social Studies](#) (CELS) in Argentina, describing the impact that drug policy has had in Latin America and highlights some promising reforms in the region.

At the UN this quarter, we also:

- organised a side-event with the [UN Office on Drugs and Crime](#) (UNODC) at the UN Crime Commission on **progress towards the implementation of the UN Bangkok Rules**, five years since their adoption in 2010. PRI noted they have observed a number of implementation efforts and an increase in research on women offenders, but generally implementation of the Bangkok Rules remains sporadic.
- co-hosted a side-event with Defence for Children International, the Permanent Mission of Switzerland and the United Nations OHCHR on **girls in detention**,

their increasing rates of incarceration, abuse of girls in society and in prison, lack of rehabilitation and poor implementation of international standards. See a report of the event [on our website](#).

- made a [submission](#) to the [UN Human Rights Committee](#) for General Comment No. 36 which gives further guidance on implementing Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the right to life. The submission on death-penalty related issues devotes a section to **pregnant women and the mothers of small children**, and draws attention to international treaties that explicitly prohibit the **death penalty** being imposed on these women.
-

NEW RESOURCES

[Two reports find that a high proportion of girls in the criminal justice system have suffered abuse](#)

A report by the [Human Rights Project for Girls](#), [Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality](#), and the [Ms. Foundation for Women](#), on '[The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story](#)', reveals that sexual abuse is one of the primary predictors of girls' entry into the juvenile justice system in the US. The report describes some of the ways that sexual abuse leads girls to end up in detention, as well as highlighting the disproportionate risk that girls from racial and ethnic minorities face. See an [article](#) in the New York Times on the report.

A [2014 report](#) from the [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#) has found that the increasing number of girls in the US justice system is due to changes in mandatory sentencing and law enforcement policies. The report notes the high rate of girls who have been exposed to traumatic events who find themselves in the criminal justice system, and says that some studies show Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is three times more prevalent among girls than boys.

[HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales Annual Report 2014–15](#)

The [Annual Report](#) contains a section on women's prisons, which provides data and statistics from prisons in England and Wales. While it notes some areas in which women's prisons have made progress, the report also notes that over three quarters of the population in Low Newton women's prison were receiving mental health treatment, and expressed serious concerns over prison being an inappropriate setting for women who had serious mental health needs.

[Austrian Ombudsman Board's \(AOB\) report highlights need for gender-sensitive training](#)

The [Austrian Ombudsman Board's](#) (AOB) report on the activities of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) for 2014 quotes Rules 25-29 of the UN Bangkok Rules

and drew the attention of the Austrian government to the requirement for prison personnel to receive gender-sensitive training on the specific needs of women and children in detention. The Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice has responded by announcing it will consider the development of a female-specific training module.

[Article on soaring female prison population in China](#)

In a [new article](#), the [Dui Hua Foundation](#) analyses statistics from female prisons in China, and it estimates that the female prison population in China is set to overtake that of the US within 5 years. It highlights the effect this increase has on overcrowding in female prisons, and says that the government's approach of building more women's prisons does not tackle the root causes of women in conflict with the law.

Read a related [BBC blog](#) which discusses the article and describes some of the challenges that female detainees face in China.

[UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture's Annual report – focus on women](#)

In its [annual report](#), the [UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture](#) (the SPT) references the particular risks of torture and ill-treatment faced by women in the criminal justice system. The Subcommittee has established a working group which will draft a series of thematic papers, one of which will cover the relationship between discrimination and the prevention of torture, with a focus on women as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

[An analysis of the situation of women in detention in Panama](#)

A new report commissioned by the government of Panama has interviewed 137 women in detention from 5 different detention centres across Panama, an overall representation of 13 per cent of all women detained in the country, to determine the problems and needs of women in detention in Panama and how they can be addressed. The report identified health needs and the backlog of cases as the primary problems facing women detained in Panama, followed by damage to family relationships (81 per cent of women detained in Panama are mothers, the majority to young children). Read more about [the report in Spanish](#).

[New LICADHO report: Mothers behind bars in Cambodia](#)

Cambodian human rights NGO, [LICADHO](#), has released a new report on mothers in prison. [Mothers behind bars](#) calls for the interests of dependent children to be taken into account when arresting, detaining and sentencing women, as well as highlighting the high and unnecessary rate of pretrial detention in Cambodia and the pressing need for non-custodial measures.

[New video – Stop shackling women during childbirth campaign](#)

The [Correctional Association of New York](#) (CANY) has released [a video](#) as part of their [#stopshackling](#) campaign, to raise awareness of the shackling of female

detainees in New York State during childbirth. The practice has been outlawed in the state since 2009, but a recent report by CANY on [Reproductive Injustice: The State of Reproductive Health Care for Women in New York State](#) reveals that the practice still continues.

Women's human rights app

The [women's human rights app](#) now includes "Women in detention/ as defendants and suspect" as search terms. The app was commissioned by the Swiss government and provides guidance on UN approved language and treaties concerning women's rights.

A song from women imprisoned for life

This [song](#) was filmed at an independent TEDx event inside Muncy State Prison, and shares the experiences of 10 women, all of whom are serving sentences of life without parole.

Scotland: Edinburgh fringe festival theatre production about women prisoners

A new play titled Key Change will make its debut at this year's Edinburgh fringe festival. The play was put together by detainees from Low Newton's women's prison in County Durham and the Open Clasp community theatre group, and draws on personal experiences to build a fictional narrative of several women's paths into prison. See [here](#) for event details.

New resources from the US on gender-specific policies and best practices:

Meeting the needs of women in California's County Justice System

This [toolkit](#) provides county justice systems with information on gender-sensitive approaches to criminal justice, with a focus on non-custodial sentences for women in the criminal justice system who have committed minor non-violent offences. The toolkit talks about rehabilitation and reintegration, as well as approaches to reduce crime and recidivism among women.

Moving beyond incarceration for women in Massachusetts: the necessity of bail/pretrial reform

[Massachusetts Women's Justice Network](#) (MWJN) has published a [policy brief](#) outlining their concerns over Massachusetts's bail and pre-trial practices for women. The brief provides data on the characteristics of women at the pre-trial stage as well as recommendations on gender-sensitive approaches.

New e-learning courses – justice involved women

The [National Institute of Corrections](#) has developed a series of [five e-courses](#) that highlight the importance of using gender-sensitive approaches to women in the criminal justice system. The five courses are on; who are justice involved women?, interpersonal violence, effects of trauma, effective gender-responsive practices and building individual and organisational resistance.

[Santa Maria path to recovery program successfully rehabilitating women](#)

A [new article](#) from the [Council of State Governments](#) describes the challenges and successes of the Santa Maria recovery programme in the USA. The programme provides women who have been in detention with educational and vocational training services, as well as residential facilities and transitional housing for them and their children.

[Tedx talks from the Washington Corrections Center for women](#)

This [series of talks](#) from the Tedx conference at the Washington Corrections Center for women includes talks from both professionals in the criminal justice system and women in detention themselves.

[The new mothers of Bedford Hills](#)

The [Marshall Project](#) has published a [selection of photos](#) of mothers in prison from the Children's Center at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in Westchester County, New York. The photos were taken in 1993 at the Center, which was the first of its kind in the USA, and still exists today.

[Summer camp for children of incarcerated parents](#)

A [recent news release](#) by the [Washington State Department of Corrections](#) (DOC) gives an insight into the first summer camp organised for children of incarcerated parents. The DOC, in partnership with the Girl Scouts of Western Washington, hosted the Kids United By Incarceration camp in June.

NEW BLOGS AND WEBINARS

[New PRI blog: how Colorado is reforming solitary confinement](#)

In this [new expert blog post](#) for PRI, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections, Rick Raemisch, discusses reforms to the use of solitary confinement in Colorado prisons. Following the changes, there are currently no women in restricted housing in the state. You can also [listen to a podcast](#) of the blog.

See also [a short video](#) by AJ+ on one woman's experience of solitary confinement.

[Series of webinars on women in the criminal justice by the US National Institute of Corrections](#)

[Women matter!](#) Is a five part webinar series by the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association](#) (SAMHSA) aimed at professionals working with women who have substance abuse disorders. The series focuses on the needs of women and the need for gender-specific services for women with substance abuse problems, as well as providing research and best practice in the field.

[Webinar on implementing gender-informed strategies at the pretrial stage:](#)

[research to practice](#)

This [webinar](#) by the National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women, co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Institute of Corrections, shares research and information on gender-sensitive approaches to pre-trial justice and how they can be employed to achieve better pre-trial outcomes for women in the criminal justice system.

IN THE MEDIA

- **Argentina:** [Prisoners gain new focus though pinhole photography](#)
 - **Brazil:** [Rio to allow transgender inmates to choose male or female prison](#)
 - **Canada:** [Aboriginal women now make up one-third of Canadian female prison population](#)
 - **Canada:** [Women leaving jail face housing problems in struggle to move on](#)
 - **Japan:** [Female prison guards form dance group to improve profession's image](#)
 - **Kyrgyzstan:** [Life on the Outside for Kyrgyzstan's Female Ex-Cons](#)
 - **New Zealand:** [New Zealand prisons under fire in UN report](#)
 - **Rwanda:** [How Nyarugenge Correctional Facility Is Transforming Female Convicts](#)
 - **Scotland:** [Justice secretary urges rethink over jailing women](#)
 - **Scotland:** [Government to fund projects to tackle problems of women in custody](#)
 - **Tanzania:** [Legal body offers free service to over 5 million women](#)
 - **Thailand:** [For female offenders, jail often no solution](#)
 - **The Americas:** [Women across the Americas incarcerated for minor, non-violent, drug-related crimes at an alarming rate](#)
 - **UK:** [Teenage prisoner who killed herself 'could have been saved'](#)
 - **UK:** [Hydebank prison's pop-up restaurant is feeding bellies and young minds in a radical new project](#)
 - **USA:** [In World's Largest Female Prison, Inmates Organize for Health](#)
 - **USA:** ['Orange' is the new problem for jail uniforms](#)
 - **USA:** [Pregnant Woman Jailed, Forced To Give Birth In Solitary, Baby Dies In Cell](#)
 - **USA:** [Prisons that withhold menstrual pads humiliate women and violate basic rights](#)
 - **USA:** [Detention facilities -- is holding families the solution?](#)
 - **USA:** [Black Domestic Violence Survivors Are Criminalized From All Directions](#)
 - **USA:** [Jailers Who Had Female Inmates Dance Nude for Donuts Are Among Many Tales of Recent Abuse in Alabama Jails](#)
 - **USA:** [Mass Incarceration's Invisible Casualties: Women and The Criminal Justice System](#)
 - **USA:** [Risks Are High for Teen Daughters with Jailed Moms](#)
 - **USA:** [CCA Must Face Claims for Menstruation Search](#)
 - **USA:** [Strip Searches of Female Visitors on Their Menstrual Period Addressed at CCA Shareholder Meeting](#)
 - **USA:** [Investigative Series Shows Systemic Abuses of Women in Prisons and Jails](#)
-

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Request for proposals: Evaluation of Penal Reform International's work on Women in the Criminal Justice System at the international level](#)

PRI is looking to contract a consultant to evaluate PRI's international work on the promotion and implementation of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). PRI has developed a theory of change for its work on the Bangkok Rules that covers both advocacy at the international level and implementation at the national level. This evaluation will focus on PRI's work at the Head Office (international) level.

See the full request for proposals [here](#) and view [our website](#) for details on how to apply.

[Research and communications internship](#)

We are looking for a part-time Research and Communications Intern to join our team based in central London. This is an excellent opportunity for either a student or graduate seeking a career in human rights to gain solid experience and develop their skills. Please visit our [website](#) for more information and details on how to apply.

[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.

Follow us on twitter [@penalreformint](#)

Copyright © 2015 Penal Reform International. All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)