



**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**



Penal Reform International  
Annual Report 2015

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Penal Reform International's audited accounts  
and accompanying report for the year 2015 can  
be found on our website: [www.penalreform.org](http://www.penalreform.org)

*Photography:*

*Cover: Community service tree nursery project,  
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*PRI would also like to thank the other  
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Nadia Bettega, Scott Langley, Karla Nur, as well as  
PRI staff and colleagues.*

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# Message from the Chair

Dirk van Zyl Smit

For penal reformers everywhere, one event stands out above all others in 2015: the adoption on 17 December by the General Assembly of the United Nations of the Nelson Mandela Rules, the new name for the much revised United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. PRI campaigned tirelessly for the amendment of these Rules. We are delighted by the outcome.

The Mandela Rules are important both for their substance and for what they reveal about the willingness of the international community to embrace penal reform. Among the many substantive changes, I would highlight the firm restrictions that the Rules now place on the use of solitary confinement. These restrictions represent the clear recognition of the harmful effects of such confinement and a determination to reduce this harm as far as possible.

The unanimous adoption of the revised Rules indicates that there is still widespread acceptance of the need for penal reform as a key component in recognising the fundamental human dignity of everyone, including those who come into contact with criminal justice systems. However, the battle to ensure a positive outcome is a reminder of the difficult climate within which we operate and challenges that we are likely to face.

As the new Chair of the PRI Board, I believe that PRI is particularly well placed to meet these challenges. One reason, certainly, is the extent to which PRI's work is grounded in practice. It does not only campaign for the improvement of international instruments, it also has offices in Moscow, Tbilisi, Astana and Amman, and latterly Kampala – from where it assists with specific penal reforms that are designed to make an actual difference on the ground. This practical work informs interventions at the international level by bringing to the table grounded knowledge of what is required in new international rules. At the same time, the regional offices provide a framework for propagating the best practices that these rules describe. This is something we will be doing with the Mandela Rules in years to come.

Secondly, PRI, as its name suggests, concentrates on penal reform. This relatively narrow focus is sometimes criticised, as there are many wrongs in the world that need to be righted. However, the specific focus allows us to work in an area where the danger of deprivation of basic rights remains, once other, more high profile, problems have been resolved.

Finally, the structure of PRI allows it to embrace wider ideas and to apply them in its area of undoubted expertise. A good example is the sensitivity to issues of gender that PRI has sought to include in all its work. Quite rightly, a great deal of energy has been focussed on the difficulties that women face in a system designed for men. However, there is also room to reflect that the essentially male preoccupation with punishment as



*"There is still widespread acceptance of the need for penal reform as a key component in recognising the fundamental human dignity of everyone."*

a solution to social problems causes enormous and often unacknowledged difficulties for both men and women. Men continue to make up the vast majority of prisoners. If their numbers could be reduced to that of women prisoners as a proportion of the overall population, the impact on penal systems would be profound. Overcrowding of prisons would cease and the budget would be there for the rehabilitation initiatives that penal reformers can hardly envisage now. Of course, this would require a major change of attitude to the use of violence, amongst men in particular, but PRI is uniquely placed to envisage the penal reforms that would be a major component of such change.

*Above: Dirk van Zyl Smit, PRI Chair.*

## About us

Penal Reform International (PRI) is an independent non-governmental organisation that develops and promotes fair, effective and proportionate responses to criminal justice problems worldwide.

We believe that in criminal justice systems that are fit for purpose: offenders are held to account, sentences are proportionate, and the primary purpose of prison is rehabilitation not retribution.

Over 10 million men, women and children are in prison around the world, a large proportion for minor, non-violent offences. Around 3.2 million people in detention are awaiting trial. We advocate for the rights of defendants to a fair trial without delay, and an end to the unnecessary use of imprisonment. We promote alternatives to prison which support the rehabilitation of offenders and reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

We promote the rights of detainees to fair and humane treatment. We campaign for the prevention of torture and the abolition of the death penalty, and we work to ensure just and appropriate responses to children and women who come into contact with the law.

We work with inter-governmental organisations to bring about reforms that balance the rights of offenders

and of victims, and we provide practical assistance to national policy-makers, criminal justice authorities and civil society to reform legislation, policy and practice.

Our Head Office is in London. It leads and coordinates cross-regional programmes, international policy and advocacy activities, and is responsible for organisational and financial management. Our regional offices in the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus implement practical programmes and provide technical assistance at a national and regional level. We also work with partner organisations in South Asia.

We have consultative status at the United Nations (ECOSOC), the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Council of Europe.

PRI is an independent organisation, with no religious, political or governmental affiliations.

## Our themes

Our work encompasses the rights and treatment of suspects, offenders and prisoners throughout the criminal justice process.

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

LEGAL AID

WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

PRE-TRIAL JUSTICE

VULNERABLE GROUPS

ENDING THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY

LIFE AND LONG-TERM IMPRISONMENT

PREVENTING RADICALISATION

OVERCROWDING

NON-CUSTODIAL ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE

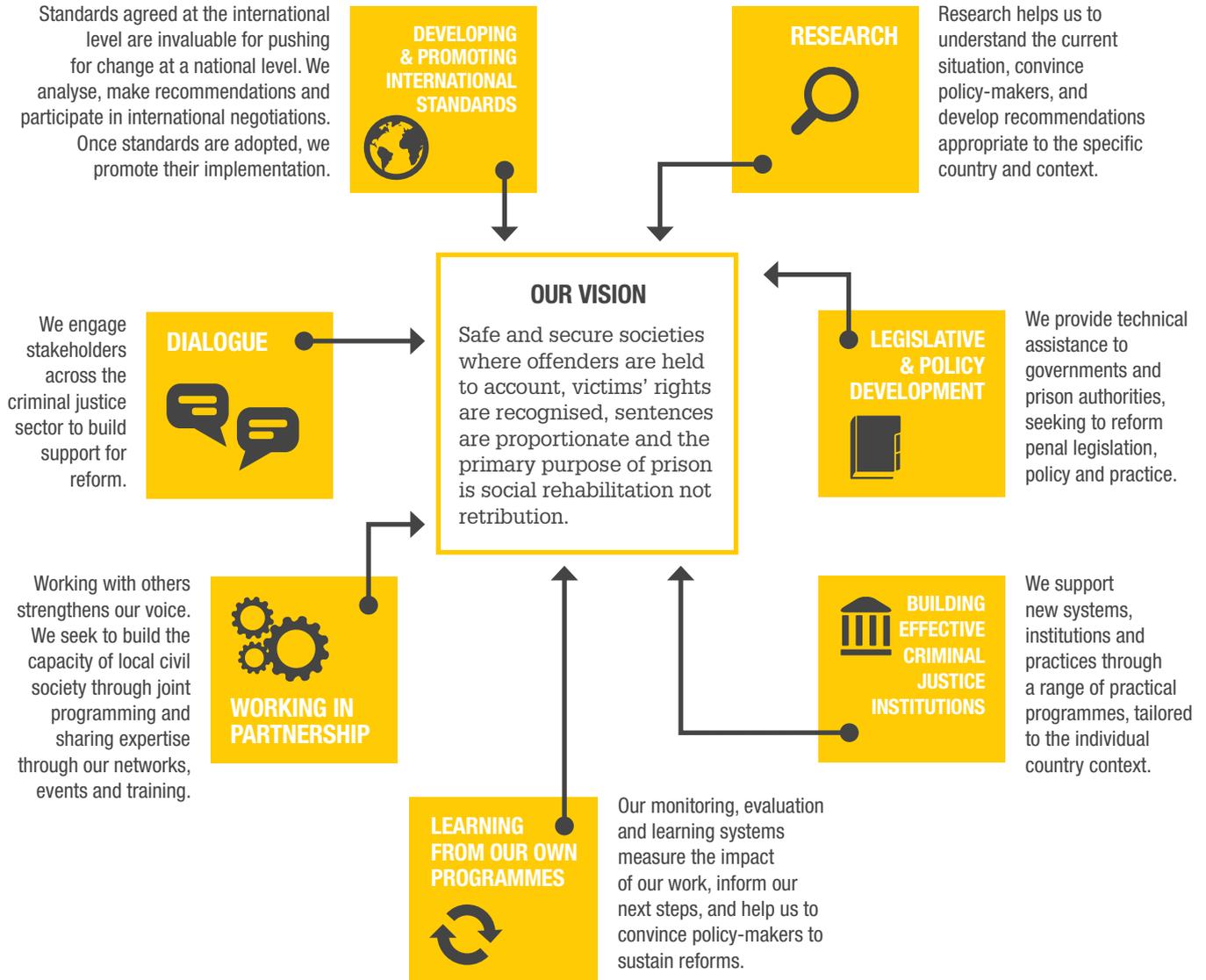
PRISON CONDITIONS

GLOBAL ADVOCACY

HEALTH IN PRISONS

# How we work

We work as a catalyst for change through a smart mix of advocacy and practical programmes for reform. We work nationally, regionally and internationally.



## Our new strategy 2015-2020

Alison Hannah

At the end of 2014, PRI agreed a new strategic plan for the period 2015 – 2020, to adapt our priorities to a changing environment.

Increasingly, PRI works in a political environment which is focused on issues of public safety and security rather than human rights. Threats of terrorism and political violence, refugee and humanitarian crises and economic uncertainty all change the context in which we operate.

*“Threats of terrorism and political violence, refugee and humanitarian crises and economic uncertainty all change the context in which we operate.”*



Yet the need for our work has not diminished. The global prison population continues to increase. Prisons remain crowded with poor and marginalised people, often with little education or work experience, and many with drug and alcohol dependencies and mental health issues. The ‘war on drugs’ in particular is a driver of lengthy prison sentences, even though most people serving sentences for drug offences are convicted of possession rather than dealing or trafficking. The overuse of prison comes at a heavy price – for society as well as prisoners. The cost of maintaining prisons is high, while the rehabilitative benefits for prisoners are low.

There will always be a role for prisons. However, while imprisonment is too often the first response of the justice system, research consistently shows that the use of alternative sanctions can be more effective in reducing re-offending. There are still too many people unnecessarily remanded in custody pending trial, running the risk of losing their jobs, homes and families as they wait for a slow and inefficient justice system to run its course.

There are many links in the penal chain and reform of one section alone will not lead to overall reform of the system. PRI reviews each stage of the criminal justice process to ensure that introducing good practice in one area will provide a firm foundation for change in the next. The outcomes PRI seeks to achieve through our Strategic Plan reflect these stages.

*Left: Alison Hannah, PRI Executive Director.*

A criminal justice system that respects the rule of law, upholds the rights of suspects and defendants and prevents the unnecessary use of pre-trial detention.

To promote peaceful and inclusive societies, and provide access to justice for all (Goal 16 of the new UN Sustainable Development Agenda), people must have faith that the justice system will treat people fairly and equally in the face of the law. Laws themselves must be seen to be fair and non-discriminatory and people should not be subject to arbitrary arrest and detention. Fair trial procedures and access to legal aid and advice are essential to protect suspects’ and defendants’ rights.

Our work to achieve this outcome includes:

- advocacy and practical programmes to reduce pre-trial detention;
- promoting legal aid, including through paralegal services;
- wider use of diversion and restorative justice, particularly for children and other vulnerable groups.

Fair and proportionate sentencing that takes account of the circumstances of both the offence and the offender.

Prisons have no choice about who comes through their gates; it is the courts that make these decisions. However, there is wide variation between countries in the extent and nature of behaviour subject to criminal law, and in the length of sentences similar offences may attract. While the concept of proportionality is often a key principle of sentencing, there is in practice great scope for states to take some very minor offences out of the criminal law altogether, to be dealt with as administrative matters or through some other means.

In addition, imprisonment is extremely damaging for children, bringing with it long-term negative effects. It has a disproportionately negative effect on women, a small but growing minority of prisoners globally, and wide repercussions for their children and families.

**Our work to achieve this outcome includes:**

- developing child-friendly justice systems, which use detention only as a measure of last resort;
- developing and supporting probation and community service orders for minor or non-violent offenders;
- applying a gender perspective to take account of the special needs of women offenders and their caretaking responsibilities.

Humane treatment and conditions for prisoners and prevention of torture in all places of detention.

Torture and ill-treatment are most likely to occur in places that are closed to public scrutiny. For this reason, public oversight and inspection of places of detention is necessary to ensure humane treatment and conditions for prisoners. This is also why it is extremely important for police and prison personnel to be carefully recruited, trained and work to professional standards. Pay should be sufficient to attract and retain suitable staff. Clear guidance for prison staff to support them in carrying out a highly stressful job is essential.

**To achieve this outcome, we are:**

- promoting and implementing the revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) adopted by the UN General Assembly at the end of 2015;
- promoting safety and security for staff as well as prisoners;
- promoting accountability and transparency in penal and corrections systems through external and independent monitoring systems.

Safer communities through rehabilitation, reintegration interventions and interventions to reduce re-offending.

Most prisoners are poor and marginalised, with few resources and life skills. Unless prison can help them to change, they are likely to return to the same situation that led to crime in the first place. This is why it is good practice to start planning for rehabilitation of the offender from the sentencing stage, to deal with the problems that led to criminal behaviour, and support the offender to turn their lives around.

**To achieve this outcome, we:**

- promote healthcare, education and vocational training to prepare prisoners for release;
- encourage contact between prisoners and their families;
- promote probation hostels and half-way houses to give former prisoners somewhere to go immediately on their release and support to find a job.

*To read our 2015-2020 Strategic Plan in full, visit: <http://www.penalreform.org/resource/pri-strategic-plan-2015-2020/>*

# Why criminal justice reform is essential to the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development

In September 2015, the international community agreed a new set of development goals, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, comprising 17 goals and 169 targets, to replace and build on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, 2000-2015).

The number of people behind bars, whether on remand or serving sentences, has increased in most countries over the last 20 years, placing an enormous financial burden on governments and at great cost to the social cohesion of societies. In many countries, criminal justice systems are unfair and discriminatory. Instead of protecting society from crime and safeguarding the rights of those accused or convicted, they can cause, drive and deepen poverty and hinder social and economic progress.

PRI believes that justice and prison reform will underpin the achievement not just of Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice and accountable institutions, but several of the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda.



## No poverty

People who come into contact with the criminal justice system disproportionately come from poor and marginalised backgrounds. The social stigma of criminalisation often creates an inter-generational cycle of deprivation that people cannot break out of. Systems that use a variety of sanctions proportionately, with imprisonment used only for serious offences, are not only fairer but can help people to break the cycle of crime and poverty.



## Zero hunger

Many countries do not allocate sufficient budget to adequately feed their prison populations. Where food in detention is insufficient, unhygienic and lacks nutrition, prisoners face serious, if not permanent, health issues and even starvation. Adequate nutrition is of particular importance for vulnerable groups, including pregnant or breast-feeding women, sick prisoners, and children held in prison with a parent.



## Good health and wellbeing

Many prisoners receive healthcare of a far inferior standard to that available in the community, if they receive it at all. Existing medical conditions may be ignored or neglected, and prisoners often develop health problems in prison due to unhygienic conditions, lack of healthcare and poor control of infectious diseases, such as HIV or tuberculosis. Providing medical care not only contributes to the health of detainees, but also to the protection of public health because the vast majority of prisoners return to the community.



## Quality education

Lack of education and training opportunities causing unemployment and poverty are often drivers for offending. Developing self-worth and a chance of earning a livelihood after release are essential requirements for successful rehabilitation. Access to education, work and training while in prison – or while serving non-custodial sanctions – contributes not only to Goal 4, but also to Goals 1 and 8.

*"There is no peace without development, no development without peace, and there is no lasting peace or sustainable development without respect for human rights and the rule of law."*

United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon



## Gender equality

Women and girls face discrimination in criminal justice systems in various ways, from gender-specific offences to lack of consideration of their particular circumstances (including children) and in their treatment in detention. Many systems fail to recognise the role that sexual abuse and domestic violence play in women's offending, and fail to protect women from violence when detained. Efforts to address gender inequalities have largely overlooked women offenders and prisoners.



## Clean water and sanitation

In many prisons poor infrastructure prevents sufficient access to clean water for drinking and hygiene. Water may also be withheld as a disciplinary measure and/or as a form of ill-treatment. Provision of water and sanitation in prisons also contributes to health and well-being (Goal 3).



## Decent work and economic growth

Providing work and training opportunities for prisoners is important to provide meaningful activity during the day and improve their job prospects following release. However, in many countries, there may be no opportunity for prisoners to work, the work may be of little vocational value, and prisoners may be required to work in unsafe or exploitative conditions. Former prisoners often struggle to find work on their release.



## Reduced inequalities

The Sustainable Development Agenda pledges to 'leave no one behind'. Prisoners often come from the most marginalised sections of the community and their needs are not always recognised by the criminal justice system. Indigenous people, foreign nationals, older persons, persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons all face particular discrimination.

Stigma and discrimination towards former prisoners – for example, limiting their civil rights or access to employment – reinforces their marginalisation. Ensuring access to justice for all and upholding the rule of law require the law to be applied in a non-discriminatory way.



## Peace and justice. Strong institutions

Access to justice for all requires criminal justice systems to be fair and effective. Prisons, by their very nature, are closed institutions hidden from public view, and therefore require particular attention with regard to external scrutiny, transparency and good governance. Prisons can also be part of more inclusive societies if they create prospects for rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders back into society.



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

# A look at key moments in 2015

PRI's Executive Director, Alison Hannah, took part in a United Nations High Level General Assembly debate on criminal justice and the post-2015 development agenda. Her contribution emphasised why fair and effective criminal justice systems are a vital foundation for sustainable social and economic development.



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FEBRUARY

MARCH



Eighteen officers from the Kenyan Probation and After Care Service participated in a three-day PRI 'training of trainers' course on the UN Bangkok Rules on women offenders and prisoners. Many participants reported changes in their practice and treatment of women offenders following the training.



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PRI participated in the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, organising four side-events and speaking on seven other panels.

Our new flagship annual report, **Global Prison Trends**, was launched. Over 3,400 copies have been downloaded from our website so far.

APRIL

MAY



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The United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (the 'Crime Commission') adopted the revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the 'Nelson Mandela Rules') at its 24th session. PRI was intensively engaged in the four-year revision process.

JULY

AUGUST

Our report **Sharia law and the death penalty: would abolition of the death penalty be unfaithful to the message of Islam?** was published. The findings were presented in September and October to politicians, diplomats and NGOs at the UK Parliament and at a meeting of the UK Foreign Office.

Members of Public Oversight Commissions in Russia started a three-month monitoring mission to assess conditions in detention in police and pre-trial detention in 20 Russian regions. The mission was part of a three-year project funded by the MacArthur Foundation.

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Read more on the page indicated in the square 00

30



PRI Central Asia held a regional conference – a Central Asian Dialogue – on preventing violence against children in Central Asia. Criminal justice and children’s rights experts including from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan discussed common issues, heard from international experts on standards and good practice, and subsequently developed proposals for improved protection of children in conflict with the law in their respective countries.

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PRI and our partner, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), presented joint research on children of prisoners in Uganda at the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child conference on the Status of Children’s Rights in Africa. This was the first such research on this issue in Africa.

20

PRI’s South Caucasus office ran intensive workshops for social and probation workers from across Georgia on the new juvenile justice code and pre-sentence reporting system, developed by PRI with support from UNICEF.

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Our international expert roundtable on radicalisation and prisons was attended by over thirty representatives from 15 countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER



PRI and the Kenya Probation Service started work on a new joint project funded by the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) to study and develop gender-sensitive community service and probation orders in Kenya. Findings will be used to develop gender-sensitive offender assessment tools for use in Kenya and elsewhere.

OCTOBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

PRI’s Executive Director gave a presentation on the Nelson Mandela Rules at a high-level event at the United Nations in New York, co-organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Permanent Mission of South Africa. PRI was the only NGO to speak.

PRI’s MENA office cooperated with the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) in Bahrain to provide training for future judges on alternatives to imprisonment and rights of vulnerable groups. PRI continues to work with the NIHR on facilitating a national debate about the use of alternatives in Bahrain.

The United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, renamed the ‘Nelson Mandela Rules’. PRI launched an animated film to introduce the Rules. Over 1,800 people have watched it so far.



# The Nelson Mandela Rules: why they matter

Olivia Rope

PRI was intensively engaged in the revision process for the 1955 Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners from the start to their final unanimous adoption by 193 countries at the UN General Assembly on 17 December 2015 as the 'Nelson Mandela Rules'. The 1955 Rules were often regarded by states as the primary source of standards on the treatment of prisoners. The adoption of an updated version was described by world leaders as 'historic' and 'significant' – a view shared by PRI. Here are three reasons why:

## Right to dignity

First and foremost, the Rules recognise that a human rights-based approach that reinforces the rule of law is a prerequisite of any good prison system. It is therefore no coincidence that the first sentence of Rule 1 enshrines the right to inherent dignity for all prisoners. Dignity is a red thread throughout the 122 Rules on all areas of the prison regime, from basic human needs such as food, water, clothing, bedding and healthcare, to effective inspection and complaint mechanisms. Minimising

*Above: Olivia Rope, Programme Officer.*

*Opposite: PRI Policy Director, Andrea Huber, moderating a UN General Assembly side-event on the Nelson Mandela Rules, New York, October 2015.*

the differences between prison and the community and individualising treatment according to need are both overarching principles in the Rules and supportive of the right to dignity.

## Prison staff

Secondly, the Rules not only strengthen protection for prisoners' rights, but also have a strong focus on issues relating to prison staff. Rule 1 requires the safety of prison staff to be ensured at all times. Furthermore, the guidance they provide on the employment, remuneration, training and recruitment of prison staff recognises that professional staff are essential for the implementation of the majority of the Rules, which promote a dynamic security-approach based on positive staff-prisoner relationships and fair treatment.

## Prohibition of torture

Finally, the Rules translate the absolute prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment into practical terms by requiring prison administrations to implement both safeguards/preventative measures and procedures. For instance, the Rules limit the unaccountable power of individuals to use restraints or force and require independent investigations of any deaths. One notable improvement is the addition of unequivocal limitations to the use of solitary confinement and for the first time, an explicit definition of what it constitutes.



*"The adoption of an updated version was described by world leaders as 'historic' and 'significant' – a view shared by PRI."*

As we look ahead to implementation, it is critical to keep the foundation of the Rules in mind: their human rights and rehabilitative evidence-based approach. These transcend the specific complexities and level of resources that each prison system has. They are also a reminder in an age of political insecurity that only a human rights-based approach to prison management will deliver rehabilitation and public safety. The Nelson Mandela Rules are universal in that they are relevant for each and every prisoner around the globe who all share the same rights.

*Olivia Rope is PRI's Programme Officer.*



Implementation of the revised UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Mandela Rules)  
19 October 2015  
UN General Assembly 70th Session

EXIT



**STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1**

A criminal justice system that respects the rule of law, upholds the rights of suspects and defendants and prevents the unnecessary use of pre-trial detention.

## Global level

### Preparing for the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem

The UN estimates that one in five people currently in prison around the world are there for a drug offence. The mass incarceration of low-level drug offenders has led to an overloading of criminal justice systems and contributed to serious levels of prison overcrowding in many countries, including in pre-trial detention, whilst having little appreciable impact on drug use worldwide. Over the last two years, PRI has become increasingly active on this issue, which affects all parts of the criminal justice system from arrest to release, and cuts across our portfolio of work.

In 2015, PRI joined other civil society organisations advocating for the forthcoming UN Special Session (UNGASS) to deliver action on changing international drug policy, representing issues concerning criminal justice and prison policy in the broader reform agenda.

We were pleased to join the International Drugs Policy Consortium (IDPC) as a network member, and to contribute a chapter on the impact of drugs in prisons to the new edition of its Drug Policy Guide.

We were also invited to join the Civil Society Taskforce, a group of 26 organisations, coordinating civil society engagement at the UN Special Session.

*“Since PRI joined the IDPC network they have proven to be highly valuable partners, including contributing a key chapter for the 3rd edition of the IDPC Drug Policy Guide. We consider PRI a key strategic ally.”*

Marie Nougier, Senior Research and Communications Officer, International Drug Policy Consortium.

Together with the IDPC and the Quaker UN Office, we hosted an informal NGO consultation for criminal justice NGOs on the UNGASS. This input was fed into the civil society submission to UN Member States.

In early 2016, PRI stepped up its engagement, speaking on a panel on the world drug problem at the Inter-Parliamentary Union, attending the Civil Society Task Force Hearing in February and attending the UN General Assembly Special Session itself in April.



## National policy and practice

### PRI trained public monitors interview 1,000 pre-trial detainees and staff in 20 Russian regions

Between August and October 2015, members of Russia's Public Oversight Commissions (POCs) visited a total of 55 pre-trial detention centres, 114 police units and 25 pre-trial detention units within prisons and interviewed 1,000 people, including detainees, police and prison officers.

This large monitoring mission is one element of a three-year project funded by the MacArthur Foundation to strengthen the role of civil society organisations in Russia to act as prison watchdogs and to develop legislation to improve conditions for people held in police custody and pre-trial detention.

Monitors found, for example, that: 30 per cent of pre-trial detention centres are overcrowded and in poor condition. Police and prison personnel were found not to take into account the special needs of offenders – few police stations had separate rooms for women or for women and children, people with disabilities or juveniles.

*Opposite: Pre-trial detention centre, Kazakhstan. Photo © Karla Nur 2014 for PRI.*

*Left: PRI Public Oversight Commission training, Rostov, Russia, 2015.*

The results were presented to police and prison administrations in each region. Around 70 per cent of authorities agreed that special cells should be introduced for women, women and children, and people with disabilities. Some regions have already taken action. In Kaliningrad and Altay, the administration has increased provision of hygiene items for women in pre-trial centres. In Tatarstan, some police units have adapted their facilities by, for example, installing handrails and access ramps.

PRI provided six training sessions in 2015 for 170 Public Oversight Commission members from 75 Russian regions on monitoring methodology and practice. Out of this project, a professional network for POC members has developed – involving 102 participants – who regularly discuss issues and share practice and examples.

*“Everything was excellent! I will try to change my work taking into account the training”*

POC Member and training participant

## Improving the rights of defendants in Algeria

In 2015, PRI's Middle East and North Africa office started a project funded by the UK Foreign Office, advocating for reforms to the criminal justice system to better protect the rights of suspects in criminal proceedings.

The project focuses on promoting access to legal aid for those who cannot afford it or who are not entitled

to free legal counsel. It aims to improve dialogue across the criminal justice system to develop a consensus around priorities for policy reform. It includes a range of activities, including advocacy, training and working with local NGOs to develop legal aid programmes.

In December, PRI held a high-level roundtable to discuss reform priorities, attended by 200 participants from across the justice system. The outcomes from the meeting informed a set of recommendations for reform, which was shared with the President's office. PRI also held training workshops for police, gendarmerie, public prosecutors, NGOs and prison authorities to raise awareness about international standards at the pre-trial stage and to gain a broad base of support for a national justice reform strategy.

## Diversion through restorative approaches under discussion in Belarus

In Minsk in May, PRI held a session for the Belarusian General Prosecutor, government officials, the Ministry of the Interior and local NGOs to increase awareness of restorative approaches in criminal cases and discuss a draft law on mediation. This law is now currently in progress through the Belarusian parliament and, if adopted, will introduce an option for mediation for some offences at the investigative phase for both adults and juveniles.

The event was co-hosted with the Centre for Mediation and Law at the Belarusian State University and included an overview of restorative



justice and mediation practices around the world. Participants, including parliamentarians responsible for drafting the law, proposed amendments, which are expected to be included for consideration at the next parliamentary hearing.

This event was followed by training sessions for local prosecutors, representatives from regional courts, the Commission for Minors' Affairs and for lawyers, on the introduction of mediation into criminal law.

These activities are part of a two-year project funded by the European Union to improve understanding and implementation of international human rights standards among law enforcement bodies in Belarus, increase the capacity of lawyers in human rights protection, and to develop civil society involvement in the independent monitoring of police custody.

*Above: Open discussion meeting on mediation, Minsk, Belarus, May 2015.*

*Right: Women's prison, Kazakhstan, Photo © Karla Nur 2014 for PRI.*



## STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2

Fair and proportionate sentencing that takes account of the circumstances of both the offence and offender.

## Global level

### Disproportionate sentencing and lack of non-custodial alternatives cited by UN as causes of overcrowding

In September, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights produced a report on the ‘Human rights implications of over-incarceration and overcrowding’. This is the first time the UN Human Rights Council has addressed the causes of overcrowding – identifying both disproportionate sentencing policies and lack of non-custodial alternative sentences, and drawing a clear link between over-incarceration, overcrowding and violations of human rights. PRI has advocated extensively for the work of the Human Rights Council to address this issue since 2013.

### Cross-regional death penalty project concludes with guide to Sharia law and the death penalty

In July, PRI published a ground-breaking report on Sharia law and the death penalty. The report examines scholarly interpretations of the Quran and religious sources regarding crime and the use of the death penalty. The report was presented at a meeting at the UK Foreign Office and at the UK Parliament in London in October.

The publication was one of the final events in a two-year project which set out to advocate for the progressive abolition of the death penalty and the introduction of humane alternatives in ten countries in four regions, funded by the European Union.

An independent evaluation of the project judged that even if the death penalty had not been abolished, the project had helped to change policy and practice in different ways.

- In Kazakhstan, for example, the number of death penalty-applicable offences fell. In Uganda, MPs tabled a bill to limit the use of the death penalty and in Kenya, MPs in favour of abolition also began working on texts to limit its use. In all countries, PRI worked with parliamentarians, the judiciary and others to strengthen their knowledge and capacity to lobby for abolition through events, training and a joint study tour.
- There were also notable improvements to conditions for both death row and life-sentenced prisoners in several countries. In Kenya and Uganda, slopping out was phased out for all prisoners. In Kazakhstan, life imprisonment was reduced from 25-30 years introducing the possibility of parole after 15 years, the security regime was relaxed, and lifers permitted greater access to education.

The evaluators found PRI to be ‘an unavoidable stakeholder to local decision-makers on the matter of the death penalty’.

*“The work that PRI has done with MPs here has resulted in a changed mind-set. Now MPs understand that things need to improve.”*

Evaluation interviewee, EU Death Penalty Project, Kazakhstan.

### Research examines how criminal justice systems deal with the role of domestic violence in women’s pathways to prison

Research, including our own multi-country research on women prisoners over 2013-2015 (see also page 43), has shown that a disproportionate number of women and girls in prison have experienced violence, including sexual abuse, in the past and that this is often a factor in their offending. Last year, a study conducted for PRI, brokered by Advocates for International Development (A4ID), reviewed in 26 jurisdictions the legislative framework for, and the judicial treatment of, women who have killed their abuser following protracted domestic abuse.

Findings from the research are now being used to raise awareness among policy-makers of the role that abuse plays in women’s pathways to imprisonment. Good practice identified in the course of the research will be used to support the development of gender-sensitive approaches to such cases at the national level.

*Left: Community service tree nursery project, Uganda. Photo © Will Boase 2015 for PRI.*

# National policy and practice

## **PRI continues to support the development of non-custodial measures in the South Caucasus**

In Georgia, PRI continued to support the organisational development of the National Probation Agency through training and staff development, with a grant from the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF). PRI is helping to establish probation in university training, by sponsoring essay competitions for law students and, supported by UNICEF, developing a manual on probation law for students and practitioners.

Work has also been underway in Georgia to reduce the number of children sentenced to imprisonment. Among the reforms introduced in a new Juvenile Justice Code (from January 2016), is the introduction

*"This process has been of high importance for the National Probation Agency."*

Georgian Probation Agency.

of pre-sentence reports in children's cases. The reports will be mandatory and present the child's family background and any mitigating circumstances around the offence to the court for consideration in decision-making. PRI had advocated for the inclusion of pre-sentencing for children in the Code, participating in the parliamentary working group responsible for drafting.

Working with two local partners – Rehabilitation Initiative for Vulnerable Groups (RIVG) and the Georgian Association of Social Workers under a contract with UNICEF – PRI has developed procedures, assessment tools and templates for probation and social workers responsible for the reports, and conducted training for 42 officers from across Georgia in their use. The reports will be in use from March 2016.

Progress in Armenia towards developing non-custodial measures is gaining increasing momentum. Our work on this was delivered by our partner the Civil Society Institute (CSI), under our programme funded by UNDEF. PRI and CSI have, for example, developed comprehensive recommendations for individualised risk assessment for release on

parole; provided recommendations on draft probation legislation; and provided advice and training for two pilot probation offices. The draft probation law was adopted unanimously by the Armenian parliament in May 2016.

## **PRI support helps develop non-custodial measures in Tunisia and Morocco**

Tunisia's prisons face serious overcrowding. Overcrowding not only contributes to cramped, unhygienic conditions but also interferes with the ability of the prison administration to ensure a safe environment for staff and prisoners and to provide adequate food, healthcare and rehabilitation services. It also makes it difficult to implement proper systems of classification and hinders efforts to deal with radicalisation in prisons.

PRI's Middle East and North Africa office has been working with the Ministry of Justice in Tunisia to reform the criminal justice system since 2011. One focus has been increasing use of alternatives to imprisonment which, while provided for in legislation, are underused.

PRI has been working with the Ministry and with the judiciary to identify barriers to use and to increase knowledge and awareness.

In February 2015, PRI co-hosted with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Ministry of Justice an international conference on reducing overcrowding.



*Above: Roundtable on early conditional release, Armenia, October 2015.*

*Right: Community service placement in Georgia.*



*"Thanks to PRI, alternatives in Sousse are on the right track. Sousse is becoming a good practice that other governorates will follow."*

Abdel Hamid Obada, General Prosecutor, Sousse Governorate, Tunisia.

PRI's Ten point plan to reduce prison overcrowding formed the basis of discussions. This Plan now forms the basis of a national strategy to reduce overcrowding and has been adopted by the Government.

Work in Tunisia is continuing in 2016 with a new project to pilot a model community service scheme in the governorate of Sousse. The project is working with the local judiciary to increase awareness of and willingness to use alternatives, identify and develop community service placement providers, and support the local probation office to liaise between courts and placement providers, monitor offenders on placement, and feed back information to the judiciary.

PRI is also working with partners to establish a similar community service pilot scheme in the port city of Mohammadiyah in Morocco.

## **PRI supports further development of the probation service in Kazakhstan**

2015 was the first year of operation for Kazakhstan's new probation service, which has 240 offices and 1,400 probation officers across the country. The probation department was previously an inspection body only, responsible for monitoring and compliance but not for the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders on probation.

PRI has developed guidelines, assessment tools and questionnaires for probation officers to support them in their new roles, and delivered training to 300 probation officers across the country. The training materials produced by PRI will be incorporated into the curriculum of the main training institution, the Academy of the Penal Committee.

*"PRI is successfully implementing this project in East Kazakhstan oblast, helping teenagers and their families cope with difficult times, motivating children to study, helping them get out of circles that might be adversely affecting them and to build a good life."*

Ayubayev Meiram Akatovich, Deputy Chairman of the Penal System Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Head of Probation Service)



PRI lobbied strongly for the Government to develop separate legislation on probation. The adoption of a separate law is tabled on the parliamentary agenda for 2016-2017. PRI is providing expert support with drafting the law.

PRI has been working with UNICEF Kazakhstan to pilot a model of child-friendly probation in East Kazakhstan. Child-friendly rooms designed to create an unthreatening environment have been established and equipped.

PRI has developed a methodology for probation work with children and training materials for staff. The pilot is due to expand to the cities of Almaty and Astana.

Above: Child-friendly probation room, East Kazakhstan, 2015.

Opposite: Training for probation officers, Kazakhstan, 2016.



## A new model for community service delivery in East Africa

Prisons in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda all suffer from overcrowding, driven in part by high use of remand and by the overuse of prison sentences for minor offences. At the time of writing, Ugandan prisons were, for example, the sixth most overcrowded in the world, with an occupancy rate of 273 per cent. In Kenya, occupancy is currently 202 per cent and Tanzania, 119 per cent.

Community service programmes were introduced in Africa in the 1990s and PRI provided technical assistance then to develop programmes in Zimbabwe and East Africa. In 2012, PRI was able to resume work on developing non-custodial sanctions in the region and in particular sought to



identify challenges to the expansion of community service, which had declined despite an initial flourishing. In 2014, we were able – with funding from UKAID – to launch a two-year pilot project – ExTRA or Excellence in Training on Rehabilitation in Africa – in selected districts in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The pilot is designed to increase and improve the use of community service orders with the end goal of reducing the chronic overcrowding in prisons. It addresses the different, but inter-linking, levels of the criminal justice system, delivering training, awareness raising and practical expertise and support to government probation departments, the judiciary, and community supervision officers.

Over the course of 2015, 22 training sessions were held for the judiciary, probation and community service officers, placement supervisors, and journalists, as well as public awareness activities to promote the idea of community service as an effective response to minor, non-violent offences.

*Left: Local magistrates on a litter pick to demonstrate the value of community service, Meru, Kenya, 2015.*

*Right: Multi-stakeholder training, Jinja, Uganda, August 2015.*

### THE 2015 PICTURE IN DATA



in **3** countries

for magistrates, probation staff, placement supervisors, media and other stakeholders

### NUMBER OF COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS ISSUED (CSOS) 2014 → 2015:



### RATIO OF IMPRISONMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS 2014 → 2015:





In Autumn 2015, a mid-term evaluation was carried out and its assessment suggests the project's interventions are having a positive effect.

- Magistrates in the Tanzania and Uganda pilot districts are issuing more Community Service Orders than when the project started.

- In Kenya and Tanzania, more people serving orders are completing their placements successfully.
- Negative perceptions about community service (eg. that it may suggest judicial corruption or is too lenient a punishment) are starting to be addressed.

The project has also provided opportunities for the probation services to develop innovative practices. In Uganda, for example, the Community Service Department has created two new volunteer roles to help boost capacity to deal with increase demand for its services. Community Service Department Volunteers (see below) are recent graduates in relevant fields, such as social work, who inform people about community service in the courts, police stations and out in the community. They also manage another new group of volunteers – the Peer

Support Persons – former offenders who have previously successfully completed CSOs themselves and now provide counselling and support to current offenders.

The mid-term evaluation produced a number of recommendations for sustaining and improving the functioning of the community service systems in each country. These include: using the positive results to advocate for greater staff and budget to manage community service programmes; developing more diverse supervised placements, which provide benefits both for the public and the individual; and improving feedback procedures to magistrates and the community.

To read the full evaluation report, visit: [www.penalreform.org/resources](http://www.penalreform.org/resources)

## DEVELOPING NEW PRACTICE

### Community Service Department volunteers, Uganda

Mwajuma has a degree in social work and volunteers in Mayuge five days a week, working at the courts, police stations and prisons to raise awareness about the availability and benefits of community service. She helps find relevant placements for those eligible by visiting them and their families and then monitors them during their order to ensure they complete successfully. On one occasion, Mwajuma stepped in to mediate between two women arguing in court:

*"The magistrate threw them both out of court and said that if they could not behave, they would both be sent to prison. I took them both aside, convinced them to have a reconciliatory meeting and explained the concept of community service. At first they were so angry they could not even look at each other in the face, but they ended up hugging."*

Both women were given a two-week Community Service Order, at the same local health centre. They would likely have received a much longer custodial sentence had it not been Mwajuma's intervention.

Right: Mwajuma Namathendhe, Community Service Department volunteer.

Mwajuma is one of 17 such volunteers who each work in a court district covered by the ExTRA project.



Humane treatment  
and conditions  
for prisoners and  
prevention of  
torture in all places  
of detention.

**STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3**



## Global level

### Historic update of UN prison standards

On 17 December 2015, the plenary of the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the revised UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, now known as the 'Nelson Mandela Rules'.

The revised Rules contain substantive and significant new guidance for governments and prison management. In particular, the revised Rules introduce for the first time in international standards detailed provision for healthcare services in prison and provide guidance on the use of searches, notably strict regulation of intrusive searches of prisoners.

PRI engaged intensively in the review process from its outset, fostering support for the revision process among states and international bodies, providing expertise on criminal justice, human rights and prison management, and coordinating and leading a core group of NGOs. This group played a key role in preparing a set of 'Essex' papers, which suggested new text and outlined the rationale for such text, drawing on international standards and good practice.

Since their finalisation, PRI has provided several briefings on the Nelson Mandela Rules, including to the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the World Health Organization.

*"77% of the 162 changes proposed in the Essex papers and advocated by PRI and other NGOs of the core group were achieved in whole or part."*

Independent evaluation, 2015.

In 2016, we will start a series of consultations to identify questions, including practical challenges and barriers, to document good practice, and pave the way forward to implementing the revised Rules.

### Prison monitors trained to assess women's prisons against the UN Bangkok Rules

In August, 16 members and staff of National Preventative Mechanisms (NPMs) from 13 countries gathered for a four-day summer school in Bristol, UK, on preventing torture and ill-treatment through gender-sensitive monitoring.

Organised by PRI and the University of Bristol, in partnership with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), the course addressed key issues for women in detention and provided guidance on how monitors can apply the UN Bangkok Rules on women prisoners and offenders when visiting places of detention.

*Opposite: Kazakhstan, photo © Karla Nur 2014 for PRI.*

*Top right: Inter-governmental Expert Group Meeting (IEGM) on the revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, Cape Town, March 2015.*

*Right: Participants at UN Bangkok Rules summer school for NPMs at Bristol University UK, August 2015.*



*"I have no doubt that this summer school will help us in the difficult task of getting monitoring bodies – national as well as international – to assume a more active role in putting female prisoners' needs, risks and violations on the radar."*

Therese Maria Rytter, DIGNITY – Danish Institute Against Torture and Member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture

## UN peacekeeper training on treatment of women prisoners and offenders in conflict affected countries

PRI continued to cooperate with the UN Department of Peacekeeping (DKPO) by providing training on the UN Bangkok Rules for future peacekeeping staff deployed as corrections officers to post-conflict states. In April, we provided a 'Training of Trainers' course to enable incorporation of the Bangkok Rules into pre-deployment courses on a permanent basis. The 12 participants will now go on to deliver this training annually.

*"Two of my Swedish colleagues, stationed in Somalia, are planning training on the Bangkok Rules for female prison officers from the whole country. I assisted them, drawing on the training you delivered in Sweden last year. We now always use the material, exercises and knowledge you passed on to us in our pre-deployment trainings."*

Isak Enström, Head Pre-Deployment Trainer, Swedish Prison and Probation Service

## National policy and practice

### Mother and baby units opened in prisons in Tunisia and Yemen

In early 2015, a mother and baby unit was opened at Manouba women's prison near Tunis, with support from PRI.

The unit was established at the request of the Tunisian Ministry of Justice and the prison administration. The unit is situated outside the internal walls of the prison in a small villa with a garden in light, spacious conditions. The unit will accommodate babies from birth until the age of three.

This new unit follows the opening of a similar unit in Albouira women's prison in Algeria at the end of 2014. These units were established under a four-year project from 2011 to 2015



Right: Participants, DKPO 'Training of trainers' on the UN Bangkok Rules, April 2015.



across the MENA region supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

In early 2016, despite the ongoing civil war, a mother and baby facility was also opened at Sana'a prison in Yemen, with the financial support of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Conditions in the previous facilities were unhygienic, with poor sanitation, and uncondusive to the health and well-being of children. The women's wing has been renovated and a children's room decorated and equipped.

*"The babies in Manouba were crammed with their mothers in really cold dormitories surrounded by other prisoners, many of whom were smoking."*

Frances Sheahan, researcher

*Above: Mother and baby unit, Sana'a prison, Yemen.*

*Right: Introductory visit to Chernihiv women's prison for key project stakeholders, Ukraine.*

## Steps taken towards improving conditions for pregnant women, mothers and babies in Russian prisons

PRI Moscow's ongoing advocacy through the Council concerning Guardianship in the Social Sphere, chaired by Russia's Deputy Prime Minister, bore results last year.

Currently mothers and babies live fairly separate lives, sometimes only seeing each other for an hour or two a day. The Government has committed to provide joint accommodation for mothers and babies in women's penal colonies over the next ten years.

The Council also requested that the Ministry of Justice improve nutrition for pregnant and nursing mothers. The prison administration (FSIN) has also agreed to improve standards medical assistance given to pregnant women, including, for example, the timely transfer of women in labour to hospital.

## Ukraine draws on PRI research to improve legislation and policies towards vulnerable prisoners

Last year, PRI's Moscow office began a two-year project to improve access to justice, conditions in detention and post-release support for vulnerable groups in Ukrainian prisons, in particular by building the capacity of central and local government and civil society to provide support services to them (see also page 35). The project

is a partnership with the Ukrainian NGO, Public Advocate, and is funded by the European Union.

Ukraine's prison system – which houses around 138,000 offenders in 182 facilities, faces a number of problems, including overcrowded, unhygienic conditions, poor healthcare, ill-treatment and violence, as well as high rates of suicide and drug dependency.

Vulnerable prisoners – women, children, prisoners with physical and mental disabilities, prisoners living with HIV/AIDS, foreign or minority prisoners – are disproportionately affected by poor conditions and their needs are often not provided for.

Our research provides a baseline assessment of conditions for vulnerable prisoners and their access to complaint mechanisms in seven prisons (two women's, two juvenile and three men's facilities), with researchers interviewing 500 prisoners in total.

The research delivered a series of recommendations for legislative, policy and regulatory change. These were



discussed at a number of consultation meetings, including a high-level roundtable in November organised by the Ukrainian Penitentiary Service. Several legislative amendments to the Ukrainian Criminal Code, based on the project's recommendations, have now been passed in the Ukrainian parliament in the first reading. These include changes to regulations relating to the treatment of women prisoners, including the right of women to confidentiality of their medical records and the right to request a female doctor. Women prisoners will also be entitled to have children's visits without the presence of a guard, and if their children are under the age of three, to request a transfer from prison to a local social rehabilitation centre.

## **PRI research underlines need to address ill-treatment of children in closed institutions in Central Asia**

Children in detention and other closed institutions are one of the most at-risk groups in terms of exposure to violence and ill-treatment.

In 2015, PRI's Central Asia office released the first of a series of survey reports examining the experience of children held in closed institutions in three countries in the region – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Researchers interviewed 274 children and 60 staff in 15 closed institutions,



the majority for children in conflict with the law, but also those for children in state care.

The report – Voice of the Child – revealed that children experience high rates of physical and verbal abuse, particularly whilst in police custody (55 per cent of children in Kazakhstan). Children were also found to be held in custody longer than domestic law permits (12 per cent longer than five days in Kyrgyzstan), many without legal assistance (only 37 per cent received this in Tajikistan) and significant numbers alongside adults (62 per cent of boys in police custody in Kazakhstan).

This research, conducted together with local civil society and Ombudspersons, is one part of a three-year European Union funded programme seeking to achieve a substantial reduction in the incidence of violence against children.

The Voice of the Child report was presented at a regional conference – the Central Asian Dialogue on Prevention of Violence against Children and Children in Difficult Life

Circumstances – in September. The event was co-organised with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and national agencies and was attended by participants and experts from 12 countries, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The Dialogue helped to provide momentum for reform. The Government of Kazakhstan announced at the conference that it would start preparation of a law on children in conflict with the law, which will amongst other provisions, seek to improve the conditions and treatment in closed institutions highlighted by PRI's research. PRI is providing expert support with drafting the law. The Government of Tajikistan is currently considering amendments to its legislation to ensure separation of adults and children in the criminal justice process, and has established a special unit for children's rights and juvenile justice within the Presidential Administration to focus reform in this area.

*"The Central Asian Dialogue initiated many interesting discussions on protecting children from violence. One exciting outcome, is that two countries in the region have taken important steps to strengthen the systems for independent monitoring of children's rights. We are delighted to cooperate with PRI Central Asia on this issue."*

Anders Prydz Cameron, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Ombudsman for Children

*Above: Central Asian Dialogue on Prevention of Violence against Children, September 2015.*

*Opposite: Juvenile colony, Kyrgyzstan.*

*Photo: © Eleonora Sharshenalieva 2015 for PRI.*



## STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4

Safer communities through rehabilitation, reintegration and interventions to reduce reoffending.



## Global level

### Creating dialogue on radicalisation and de-radicalisation in prisons

The risk of radicalisation in prison is of urgent concern to many of the countries where PRI works. With the number of prisoners convicted for violent extremist and terrorist offences believed to be increasing (over 100,000 in detention in Europe, Asia and the Middle East according to one estimate), this is becoming a defining issue for prison services which have to balance their obligations to respect prisoners' human rights, promote their rehabilitation and reintegration, and maintain the safety and security of all prisoners.

However, little research has yet been done on the roles that prison services, civil society and government can play in identifying and preventing radicalisation.

In 2015, PRI contributed to the debate in several ways. We participated in a drafting meeting for a new UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) handbook on violent extremism, and in discussions organised by UNODC in Rome in March and by EUROPRIS in Brussels in June. We also used our developing expertise to advise the Council of Europe on their new guidelines for prison and probation services regarding radicalisation and violent extremism.

Our work on this issue in 2015 culminated in December with an international experts' roundtable in Amman, Jordan, on preventing the spread of violent extremism in prisons. The two-day event was attended by over thirty representatives from prison authorities, ministries, embassies, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs and research institutions from 15 countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

The event was an opportunity to present and discuss current practices regarding the question of dispersal or concentration; classification of prisoners and assessing risk; disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration; and the need to develop specific approaches for radicalised women and children. Discussions were drawn together in a final report.

*"[The roundtable report] is a very good and informative document. Special attention needs to be paid to the issue of developing of gender-sensitive rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and of programmes designed to deal with children, as recommended in final Recommendations 10 and 11".*

Ilina Taneva, Secretary to the Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP), Council of Europe



We are also working at a national level to support prison services to manage dangerous and radicalised prisoners and the risk of further radicalisation in prison. In Morocco and Yemen, for example, PRI's Middle East and North Africa office has developed training courses on radicalisation and counter-radicalisation in prisons, drawing on experience in the wider region.

Our strategy over the next two years will focus on the development of international and regional standards and guidance, development of classification tools and staff training modules, documenting and sharing knowledge and effective models of intervention, and on reducing overcrowding and tackling poor prison conditions, which also fuel radicalisation.

*Left: Juvenile colony, Kyrgyzstan.*

*Photo: © Eleonora Sharshenalieva 2015 for PRI.*

*Above: Experts' roundtable on radicalisation in prisons, Amman, 2015.*

## National policy and practice

### Supporting women prisoners to develop job-related skills in Kazakhstan

Help finding employment was the most important support that women prisoners wanted after release, according to a survey conducted by PRI in Kazakhstan at the end of 2013, with 51 per cent of women saying this was their highest concern.

PRI's Central Asia office is currently running a programme in the women's prison in Atyrau which is designed to improve rehabilitation support, medical services and staff competencies.

*"The social and medical care of women has improved. Medications which help to reduce morbidity rates, especially during flu season, have been procured. Preventive medical check-ups are now carried out. In the last two years, we, the staff of the colony, have learnt a lot about the UN Bangkok Rules and the UN Standard Minimum Rules."*

Sagingaliyeva Nurzada Zholdybauevna,  
Head of Colony for Women UG 157/11,  
Atyrau province, Kazakhstan.

The project has introduced IT classes three times a week – increasing participation from 0.5 per cent of inmates to over 40 per cent. It also funds popular sewing and knitting classes.

Poor health and difficulty reintegrating back into the family can also prevent women from rebuilding their lives after prison. The project has been able to fund significant improvements to the medical services available at Atyrau, including new equipment, additional and specialist staff and

health promotion. A playground has been added to the facilities and visiting rooms have been renovated to make them more welcoming for visiting children.

PRI provided input into a new national strategy for Kazakhstan on prisoner reintegration, which will lay the foundations for a rehabilitation and reintegration system, which will include for example, the expansion of vocational training, higher education opportunities, and improved contact with the outside world.



Recommendations from an expert meeting convened by PRI in May 2015 formed the basis of this Strategy.

## Improving rehabilitation and reintegration support in Ukraine

As in other countries, prisoners in Ukraine face many difficulties on their release. Prison officials refer in particular to lack or loss of identity documents which prevent prisoners from accessing services, no money to give prisoners for train tickets or even a meal, and the lack of a system to give prisoners the cash they may have earned in prison.

PRI's Moscow Office is currently implementing a new European Union funded project (see also page 29), which aims to better protect the rights of vulnerable prisoners in detention and after release in ten Ukrainian regions. The project is working in a range of ways: improving legislation, developing a multi-agency approach to service provision, training prison staff, probation and social workers, and working with civil society to provide support services.

Several initiatives were started last year. Meetings and events were held in a number of regions to bring together stakeholders from across the criminal justice system to raise awareness about the pre- and post-release needs of offenders and to discuss how the prison service, local authorities and civil society could work together better to prepare and provide for prisoners after release.



Four trainings were organised for 117 prison officers from across Ukraine with a focus on the specific needs of vulnerable groups of offenders and the importance of preparing prisoners for release. A further four training sessions were held for 129 social workers on how to support former prisoners, covering the mental and emotional impact of prison, national and regional legislation, cooperation with prison services, and solving common problems. Guidelines for treatment, management and support of particularly vulnerable groups were developed for law enforcement, prison staff and for social workers.

## Reintegration support for women prisoners and probationers in Georgia

In Georgia, PRI's South Caucasus office continued to work with the NGO Women in Business and the Georgian Professional Association of Psychologists on a project to provide

meaningful activities for women in prison and a range of pre- and post-release support.

This European Union funded project was delivered to women at Georgia's only women's prison, Rustavi (No.5), outside Tbilisi, as well as to a number of women probationers and former female prisoners in Tbilisi and other regions.

Overall, 860 women – prisoners, former prisoners and probationers – received support from the project, including legal assistance, documentation, support with family reunification, and employment skills training. The project also helped to establish and fund a shelter for homeless former women prisoners and offered training to help women develop plans for small businesses and seed money to cover their start-up costs.

Sports facilities and classes were provided and used by 85 women on a regular basis. This is important given the often poor health of prisoners, and lack of opportunity for exercise, particularly for women.

The project raised awareness about the challenges faced by women in prison, bringing stakeholders together to discuss how gender-sensitive pre- and post-release support can be improved and institutionalised.

*Opposite: PRI's Executive Director visits the new children's facilities at Atyrau women's prison, Kazakhstan.*

*Above: Training course for social workers on rehabilitation and reintegration, Kiev, Ukraine, 2015.*

# Working in partnership

## Two case studies

At the end of 2015, PRI had formal partnerships with over 25 civil society organisations in 15 countries, as well as many working relationships with governments, intergovernmental organisations and expert bodies.

PRI works with our civil society partners in different ways, for example, supporting partners' work with offenders, in joint advocacy, sharing expertise and knowledge, conducting research, and capacity building.

We work with partners who we believe can add value to our work – and that PRI can add value to theirs. At the start of 2016, feedback was gathered from a cross-section of partners to identify change achieved in partnership with others. Here are two examples.

### DOST Welfare Association, Pakistan

In 2014, PRI and DOST established a partnership to increase awareness of, and implement good policy and practice in line with the UN Bangkok Rules for the treatment of women prisoners.

*Right: DOST discusses its prison work with the provincial Minister for Prisons, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.*

*Opposite: DOST, Pakistan, promoting the UN Bangkok Rules in the community, 2015.*

In 2014, approximately 120 women, mainly pre-trial, and 52 children were detained in the five prisons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province where DOST works. Most are detained for drug smuggling, trafficking, murder and prostitution, often driven by poverty, domestic conflict, lack of education and awareness, and discrimination.

DOST carried out advocacy with parliamentarians, provincial government departments and prison authorities. It mobilised local civil society and universities; promoted the issue in the media; and trained personnel across the justice system.

#### DOST SAYS:

*"We need PRI because they are international experts. We have learned about ways we can approach and advocate to parliament and other stakeholders."*

#### PRI SAYS:

*"DOST's local expertise and presence enabled PRI to contribute to reform of the criminal justice system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, which we would otherwise not have been able to do."*

## ACHIEVEMENTS

In the 2016 review, DOST highlighted the following achievements.

- High-level stakeholders, including the Inspector General of Prisons and the Provincial Ministry of Home and Tribal Affairs, have publicly committed to supporting the implementation of the UN Bangkok Rules.
- DOST and the Prisons Department are working together to pave the way for implementation of the UN Bangkok Rules into the Pakistan Prison Rules.
- There have been practical changes in prisons where women are held. For example, beds have been provided and there are also now daily visits by female medical staff and psychologists. DOST was able to provide technical expertise to the prison administration on, for example, search procedures and admissions.





## Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), Uganda

In Uganda, as in many countries, women and children are often more vulnerable to detention in the first place, to ill-treatment in detention, and subject to a system that does not account for their specific needs. Joint research conducted by PRI and FHRI in 2015 showed that women prisoners are mostly poor (76 per cent of those surveyed), are mothers (92 per cent), and are survivors of domestic violence (37 per cent).

In early 2013, PRI and FHRI established a partnership with objectives in three areas: child-friendly justice; the treatment of women prisoners; and sharing of good practice on criminal justice reform within the East Africa region.

### FHRI SAYS:

*"The partnership with PRI is empowering. FHRI was able to deepen its work on juvenile justice and the work on the Bangkok Rules was ground-breaking. It has built the capacity of our staff particularly in the area of research, writing, international advocacy and public speaking."*

Above: Launch of joint FHRI/PRI research 'Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Uganda', July 2015.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

FHRI highlighted the following achievements from the partnership with PRI.

- Civil society, professionals and government are now increasingly mobilised around the need for juvenile justice reform in Uganda. FHRI brought NGOs together, sharing good practice and standards and facilitated new joint pilot initiatives that successfully promoted mediation and diverted juveniles from the formal justice system. FHRI was also able to inform the Children Amendment Bill (2015), resulting in new legal provisions which give greater priority to the use of restorative justice for children.
- FHRI was able to take up the issue of children of prisoners and conducted unique research on this topic. This issue is a priority for the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and the research was welcomed, when presented at an ACERWC Conference, as 'ground-breaking'. A new coalition has now been formed in Uganda to take forward the report's recommendations.
- FHRI has become a leading advocate on the needs of women offenders in Uganda. Research was conducted on women prisoners, providing information and stimulating dialogue that prompted the judiciary and the Uganda Prison Service to request further guidance.



### PRI SAYS:

*"FHRI's local experience, established networks and access to prisons in Uganda enabled PRI to extend its work and knowledge on women and children in detention, and contributed to regional and international advocacy. The success of our East Africa work has now led to the establishment of a new PRI Africa Office."*

This led to the first ever training for women prison officers in the region on the UN Bangkok Rules and a workshop for magistrates on sentencing guidelines.

- There is now an active regional network of criminal justice organisations. Under this network, NGO exchange visits were organised and contributed to the sharing of good practice across the region.

# Assessing our impact

## Through evaluation and learning

In 2014, we focused on developing a number of monitoring tools to track, and learn from our work. Using the data that has been collected through these tools, over the past 12 months we commissioned four external evaluations and three internal evaluations to assess, learn and effectively communicate the medium- to long-term impact of our projects and programmes.

For example, a mid-term evaluation of our Excellence in Training Rehabilitation in Africa (ExTRA) project was carried out. The purpose was to capture emerging good practice from the pilot community service projects in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and to use the results and learning to adjust the project design for the second half of the project and to encourage policy-makers and funding partners to scale up the initiative. For an overview of the interim results, see pages 24-25.

External evaluators were commissioned to assess the impact of PRI's intervention in the review of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (see below),

the two-year programme on the abolition of the death penalty in three regions (see page 19), and our programme of work on the UN Bangkok Rules for women offenders and prisoners (see page 27).

More will be done next year. For example, we will be carrying out a meta-analysis of PRI evaluations over the past three years, which will seek to identify common lessons and the extent to which that learning is applied to current and future programming.

*Both internal and external evaluation reports can be found on our website at <http://www.penalreform.org/about-us/impact-2/>*

### CASE STUDY

## Evaluating PRI's contribution to the Nelson Mandela Rules

### Annabel Jackson

On 17 December 2015, after a four-year process of review and negotiation, UN member states adopted the revised Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners. Independent evaluator, Annabel Jackson, assessed PRI's contribution to the outcome.

"I obtained 45 detailed responses from stakeholders in a longitudinal approach over two time periods. Respondents, even UN officials and government representatives, gave PRI credit for much of the success of the review process, with 91% of respondents said that PRI kept the momentum going and ensured the process continued.

The case study demonstrates a number of points – including the following.

- If you choose your target regulation right, you can have ramifications across a whole system.
- You can review old regulations, in this case dating back to 1957, without risking regressive changes.
- A small NGO – that cares deeply about the negotiation issue and is prepared to engage with and persuade decision-makers at all levels, in advance of but also during formal negotiations – can have an instrumental role in guiding a process of this length.
- It is important that NGOs have flexible funding sufficient to last the whole time of the negotiation processes.

- It is important for NGOs to coordinate their arguments, even where this means compromising on issues of importance to individuals, for the greater good of achieving a result."

*Read more about the significance of the revised Standard Minimum Rules (the Nelson Mandela Rules) on page 12.*



*Right: Annabel Jackson, Independent evaluator.*



# Publications, tools and online resources

2015 in numbers

## OUR WEBSITE

NUMBER OF VISITS:



**+39%**

2015 **98,926**



2014 **71,334**

NUMBER OF TIMES OUR MONTHLY SERIES OF BLOGS FROM EXPERT GUESTS WAS VIEWED:

**3,535**



The most popular:

**Prison systems need to acknowledge widespread corruption**  
by John Podmore

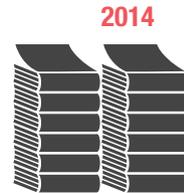
was viewed

**808**  
times

## OUR PUBLICATIONS

NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS DOWNLOADED:

**+17%**



2014

**12,274**



2015

**14,298**

### TOP DOWNLOADS

Number of times downloaded:

**1,395**



Global Prison Trends, our new flagship report



**1,429**



10-point plan to reduce prison overcrowding



**1,332**



Short Guide to the UN Bangkok Rules



## ONLINE LEARNING

NUMBER OF REGISTERED USERS ON OUR **WOMEN IN DETENTION** E-LEARNING COURSE:

**+19%**



2014

**266**

users



2015

**316**

users

WE HAVE E-LEARNING USERS FROM

**96**



COUNTRIES (SO FAR)

"Content was excellent. Cases were very good and the supplied resources were excellent."

## Global advocacy

### Global Prison Trends 2015

#### NEW SERIES

A comprehensive overview of global criminal justice and penal policy and practice today. Topics include: prison populations and rates of imprisonment; prison management; prison regimes; and new technologies.

This flagship report also includes a Special Focus pull-out section on the impact of the 'war on drugs' and its implications for prison management. Significant international developments, recent research projects and precedent-setting court decisions are highlighted throughout. ■ ENGLISH

*"Outstanding pull-out on the impact of the drug war on prisons from @PenalReformInt."*

Twitted by Transform Drug Policy

Global Prison Trends 2015 comes with a podcast featuring expert guests: Alison Hannah, Bryan Stevenson, Marayca López and Rob Allen. ■ 26 MINS



### Animated introduction to the UN Nelson Mandela Rules

#### MULTIMEDIA

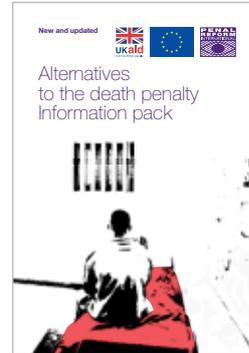
A two-minute animation to explain the revised UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), what they include, and what they mean for prison management.

- ENGLISH ■ ARABIC ■ GEORGIAN
- PORTUGUESE ■ RUSSIAN
- SPANISH ■ ARMENIAN

### Death penalty and alternatives

#### Strengthening death penalty standards

How can we strengthen international minimum standards on the application of the death penalty? This study examines recent developments and suggests ways that death penalty standards can be or have been improved. ■ ENGLISH



### Alternatives to the death penalty Information pack

A short guide to the fundamental issues and arguments linked to introduction of alternative sanctions following abolition of the death penalty.

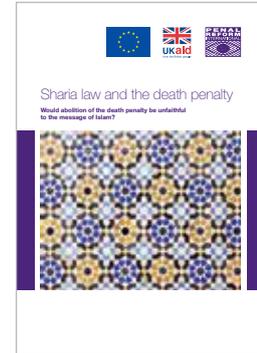
- REVISED EDITION
- ENGLISH ■ FRENCH ■ RUSSIAN

### Prison guards and the death penalty

How are prison guards affected by overseeing prisoners on death row or even participating in executions? What effects does it have in the short and the longer term? ■ ENGLISH

### Sharia law and the death penalty: would abolition of the death penalty be unfaithful to the message of Islam?

For non-experts who want to understand more about Sharia law and Islamic jurisprudence as it relates to the death penalty. ■ ENGLISH



*"Congratulations to PRI for this paper - we share the hopes that this will foster constructive debate."*

Nicole Wyrsch, Swiss Ambassador for Human Rights on Sharia law and the death penalty.

### The death penalty: myths and realities

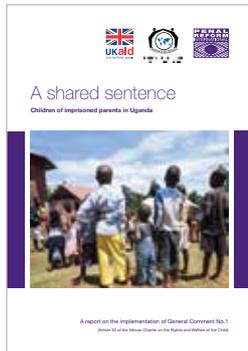
'Quick answers to common questions' about the death penalty. ■ ENGLISH

### Children in the criminal justice system

#### Voice of the child 2014

Findings of a survey of 274 children held in closed institutions (policy custody, detention centres and social care institutions) in three Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. See also page 30.

- ENGLISH ■ RUSSIAN



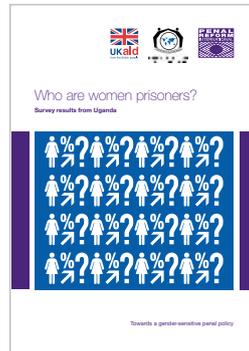
## A shared sentence: children of imprisoned parents in Uganda

In 2013, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child adopted its first ever General Comment on the rights of children when their parents or primary caregivers are in conflict with the law. This research conducted jointly by the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative and PRI assesses to what extent the guidance contained in the General Comment has been implemented in Uganda. See also page 38. ■ ENGLISH

■ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AVAILABLE IN FRENCH

*"Your report will help us in raising awareness of the plight of female prisoners in Uganda."*

Thijs van den Heuvel, Business Development Manager, Product of Prison (POP)



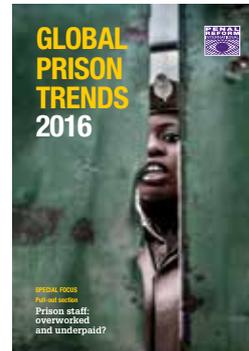
## Women in the criminal justice system

### Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Uganda

The last in a series of PRI surveys of women prisoners across world regions, this report surveyed 194 women in prison in Uganda (10 per cent of the total female prison population) to provide a profile of their backgrounds and needs.

■ ENGLISH

Earlier reports surveyed women prisoners in the South Caucasus (Georgia and Armenia), Central Asia (Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) and the Middle East (Jordan and Tunisia).



## Global Prison Trends 2016

The 2nd edition in our new annual Global Prison Trends series (see above). The 2016 Special Focus will look at prison staff and training.

■ ENGLISH

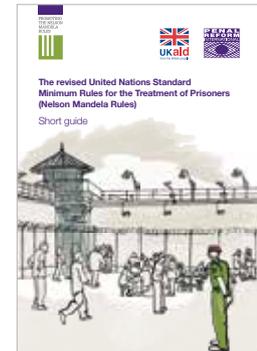
### 10-point plan to reform criminal justice responses to drugs

10 steps to guide countries interested in moving away from solely punitive responses to drugs and in developing health and human rights based approaches. Produced in partnership with the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC).

■ ENGLISH ■ SPANISH

### 10-point plan to reduce pre-trial detention

10 steps to assist countries to reform legislation, police and practice in relation to pre-trial justice. ■ ENGLISH



## Short Guide to the Nelson Mandela Rules

Summarises all 122 Rules of the revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

■ ENGLISH ■ ARABIC ■ GEORGIAN

### Preventing radicalisation in prisons

Summarises the discussions of an international roundtable held by PRI in December 2015.

■ ENGLISH

### Women who kill their abusers

How women who have killed their abusers are treated in law and before the courts in nine jurisdictions. Research by Linklaters LLP for PRI.

### Positive behaviour management and children in detention

Outlines international standards on disciplinary measures for children, with reference to current practice in Central Asia.

## Our donors

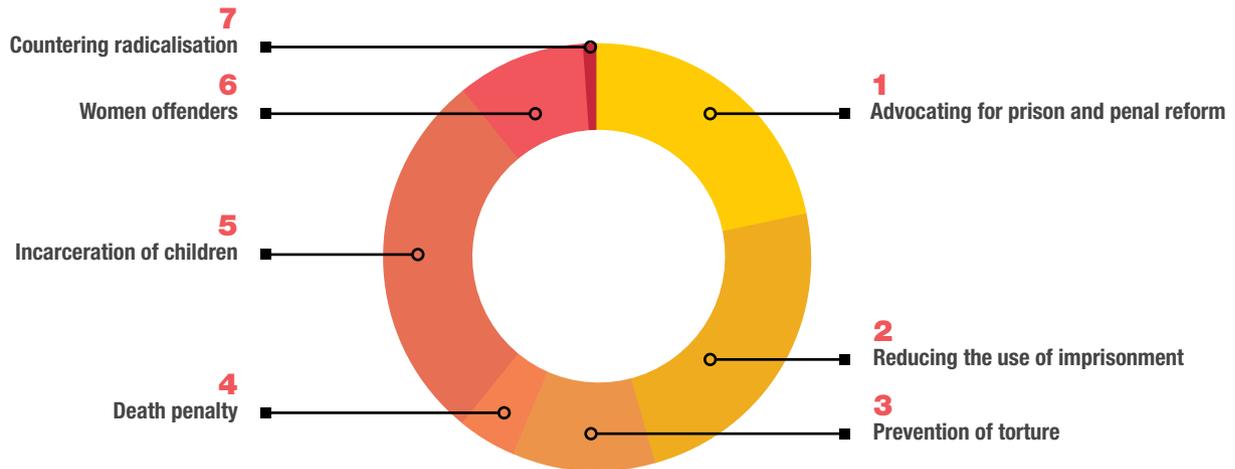
PRI would like to thank the following donor organisations and institutions for their support.

	<b>TOTALS €</b>
Department for International Development, UK (Programme Partnership Arrangement)	<b>1,463,352</b>
European Union	<b>1,049,841</b>
Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK	<b>436,057</b>
Netherlands Embassy in Yemen	<b>383,016</b>
Department for International Development, UK	<b>369,378</b>
Open Society Foundations	<b>336,248</b>
Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)	<b>192,290</b>
UN Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	<b>107,499</b>
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	<b>107,486</b>
UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF)	<b>87,808</b>
Know Violence in Childhood	<b>51,645</b>
UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	<b>51,445</b>
Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), US Department of State	<b>23,155</b>
Thailand Institute of Justice	<b>15,264</b>
Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)	<b>14,128</b>
Other income	<b>5,022</b>
British Embassy Astana	<b>3,366</b>
Vol’noe Delo – Russian Foundation	<b>3,229</b>
Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)	<b>2,949</b>
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	<b>1,500</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,704,678</b>

# Financial summary

## 2015 expenditure

	DIRECT COSTS	SUPPORT & GOVERNANCE COSTS	TOTALS €
Raising funds	201,617	35,830	<b>237,447</b>
<b>1</b> Advocating for prison and penal reform	848,787	150,239	<b>999,026</b>
<b>2</b> Reducing the use of imprisonment	944,041	167,769	<b>1,111,810</b>
<b>3</b> Prevention of torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment	418,664	74,317	<b>492,981</b>
<b>4</b> Abolition of the death penalty	174,361	31,009	<b>205,370</b>
<b>5</b> Incarceration of children as a last resort	1,107,552	195,611	<b>1,303,163</b>
<b>6</b> A proportionate and sensitive response to women offending	382,038	67,893	<b>449,931</b>
<b>7</b> Countering violent extremism and radicalisation inside prisons	39,682	7,052	<b>46,734</b>
Foreign exchange gain			-154,546
	<b>4,116,742</b>	<b>729,720</b>	<b>4,691,916</b>



# Who's who at PRI

Membership of PRI's Board aims to reflect different regions of the world.

## BOARD MEMBERS

As of April 2016, in alphabetical order.

**Justice Imman Ali**  
Bangladesh (Secretary-General)

**David Fathi\***  
USA

**Roselyn Karugonjo-Segawa\***  
Uganda

**Natalya Khutorskaya**  
Russia

**Paula Litvachky\***  
Argentina

**John Nyoka\***  
Tanzania

**Prof. Sir Nigel Rodley\***  
UK

**Vera Tkachenko**  
Kazakhstan

**Prof. Anton van Kalmthout**  
Netherlands (Treasurer)

**Prof. Robert van Voren\***  
Lithuania

**Prof. Dirk van Zyl Smit**  
UK (Chair)

**Prof. Ping Wang**  
China



*\*Elected as new members to the PRI Board in 2016.*

*Olawale Fapohunda, Maria Eugenia Hofer Denecken, Juliet Lyon and Prof. Simone Othmani-Lellouche stepped down in April 2016. PRI is grateful for their contribution.*

*The Board elects from its members an Executive Board consisting of the Chair, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and their deputies.*

*For more information about our Board Members, visit: <http://www.penalreform.org/about-us/board-and-governance/>*

*Above: New and retired members of PRI's Board, April 2016.*

*Right: PRI staff and partners at a global staff learning session on the UN Bangkok Rules.*



## STAFF MEMBERS

As of April 2016.

### Headquarters London, UK

**Alison Hannah**  
Executive Director

**Andrea Huber**  
Policy Director

**Nikhil Roy**  
Programme Development Director

**John Usher**  
Head of International Finance

**Oliver Robertson**  
Project Manager, Death penalty  
and alternatives

**Jo Honeybone**  
Programme Coordinator, DFID PPA

**Omar Khan**  
ExTRA Project Coordinator

**Nick Curley**  
Evaluation and Organisational  
Learning Adviser

**Jenny Clarkin**  
Programme Officer

**Olivia Rope**  
Programme Officer

**Becky Randel**  
Research and Fundraising Coordinator

**Jatinder Sehra**  
International Finance Officer

**Pauline Jobson**  
Executive Assistant

**Harriet Lowe**  
Information and  
Communications Officer

### Middle East and North Africa Amman, Jordan

**Taghreed Jaber**  
Regional Director

**Haitham Shibli**  
Deputy Director

**Muhammad Shabanah**  
Senior Programme Manager

**Huda Abu Atiyeh**  
Administrative and Financial Officer

### Central Asia Astana, Kazakhstan

**Azamat Shambilov**  
Regional Director

**Karina Amralina**  
Administrative Assistant

**Aidana Issayeva**  
Project Assistant

**Zhanna Malayeva**  
Project Coordinator

**Inkara Mukatova**  
Project Coordinator

**Galina Salikhova**  
Accountant

### Sub-Saharan Africa Kampala, Uganda

**Doreen Namyalo Kyazze**  
Africa Programme Manager

**Josephine Kankunda**  
Africa Programme Assistant

### Russia, Ukraine and Belarus Moscow, Russia

**Vika Sergeyeva**  
Regional Director

**Alla Pokras**  
Project Manager

**Sergey Shimovolov**  
Project Manager

**Natal'ia Egorova**  
Accountant

**Marina Matrosova**  
Programme Assistant

### South Caucasus Tbilisi, Georgia

**Tsira Chanturia**  
Regional Director

**Irena Gabunia**  
Fundraiser/Project Coordinator

**Nazi Janezashvili**  
Programme Coordinator

**Miranda Merkviladze**  
Project Coordinator

**Nodar Sidamonidze**  
Accountant

**Ketevan Otiaashvili**  
Administrator/Projects Assistant

# Message from the Executive Director

Alison Hannah

This year's report reflects the outcomes we are working towards for the next five years, set out in our 2015-2020 plan. This provides a flexible framework for our activities, enabling us to make progress on different issues at different times as we work towards our overall mission.

2015 was another year of political instability and tension in a number of countries where we work, particularly – though not only – in the Middle East and North Africa. Threats and

challenges to NGOs working on human rights have continued to increase, making it harder to achieve results – and funding.

Despite this, 2015 saw a number of achievements for PRI as set out in this report.

*"The Nelson Mandela Rules will provide clarity and guidance for years to come."*



Above: Alison Hannah presenting the Nelson Mandela Rules, World Health Organization conference, Kyrgyzstan, November 2015.

Right: Alison Hannah shows PRI's animation – Is a prison sentence always the solution? – as part of her presentation at the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Qatar, April 2016.



The revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) are undoubtedly this year's greatest achievement, ending a four-year process to review the 60-year-old Standard Minimum Rules (SMRs). PRI's Policy Director played a key role in leading this process, widely recognised by all concerned. The Nelson Mandela Rules will provide clarity and guidance for prison personnel for years to come.

Our advocacy to promote a gender-sensitive approach to women offenders through implementation of the UN Bangkok Rules continued to have an impact on international, regional and national institutions and bodies.

Our first Global Prison Trends report was published in 2015 and provides a comprehensive overview of current trends in penal policy and practice.

Our report on Sharia law and the death penalty was also launched, making, we hope, a valuable contribution to the discussion on abolition of the death penalty in the Muslim world.

Our regional offices continue to deliver practical programmes on a wide range of issues – from developing and expanding probation and community sanctions to strengthening public oversight bodies for places of detention. We continued to develop new ways to establish child-friendly justice systems, through establishing child-friendly courts, reducing violence against children in detention, and developing probation services for children.

Throughout the year, we continued to benefit from the core funding provided by the Open Society Foundations and the UK Government through the Programme Partnership Agreement (PPA). This enabled us to continue to develop our online content. It funded our international advocacy work, which was rated highly by an independent evaluator, who described our work in this field as innovative and effective. It also funded our work with local partner NGOs, DOST in Pakistan and the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) in Uganda.

Our Chair of many years, David Daubney, stepped down in 2015 – we are grateful to him for his support for PRI. We welcomed Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit, Professor of Comparative and International Penal Law at the University of Nottingham, as our new Chair and look forward to working with him. We received some sad news during the year, with the death of our Honorary President Al Bronstein, a PRI Board member for many years. He was a strong supporter of the civil rights movement in the USA and of our work for penal reform. He was much admired and will be much missed.

Looking ahead to 2016, as well as continuing to pursue our established goals and build on existing programme areas, we will be pursuing two new priorities.

The first will be expansion of our work in sub-Saharan Africa. To this end, we have established a small pilot office in Kampala, Uganda, operational from 1 January 2016, to explore new partnerships and to re-engage with and promote much-needed penal reform in the region.

*“There are a number of SDGs which our work will contribute to through reducing inequality and discrimination; supporting offenders to find productive employment; and promoting good health, education and training.”*

Our second new priority will be promoting good practice in the management of violent extremist offenders, an increasing concern for governments and prison authorities worldwide.

During the past year, we followed closely the discussions leading to the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 16 – to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels – is seen by many working in the justice field as most relevant. However, there are a number of other SDGs which our work will contribute to through reducing inequality and discrimination; supporting offenders to find productive employment; and promoting good health, education and training, all of which will help offenders to become law abiding and economically self-supporting. We look forward to contributing towards their achievement in 2016 and beyond.

# How to keep in touch with PRI

## GLOBALLY

Browse our latest news, blogs and resources on our website: [www.penalreform.org](http://www.penalreform.org)

We produce several e-newsletters. You can sign up for our monthly PRI news round-up at [www.penalreform.org](http://www.penalreform.org) or our quarterly update on our work on the UN Bangkok Rules by emailing [publications@penalreform.org](mailto:publications@penalreform.org).

And we're on Twitter too. Please follow us: [@PenalReformInt](https://twitter.com/PenalReformInt)

## REGIONALLY

### PRI Sub-Saharan Africa

Website: [www.penalreform.org/africa](http://www.penalreform.org/africa)

### PRI Central Asia

Website: [www.penalreform.org/central-asia](http://www.penalreform.org/central-asia)

Facebook: **Penal Reform International in Central Asia**

Twitter: **@AstanaPRI**

### PRI Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Website: [www.primena.org](http://www.primena.org) (Arabic)

Facebook: **facebook.com/menaregion**

Sign up to PRI MENA's quarterly e-newsletter by emailing: [priamman@penalreform.org](mailto:priamman@penalreform.org).

### PRI Russia, Ukraine and Belarus

Website: [www.penalreform.org/russia-ukraine-and-belarus](http://www.penalreform.org/russia-ukraine-and-belarus)

### PRI South Caucasus

Website: [www.penalreform.org/south-caucasus](http://www.penalreform.org/south-caucasus)

Facebook: **Penal Reform International South Caucasus Regional Office**

*Opposite: Civil society delegates at the UN Crime Commission, May 2015.*

*Gary Hill, ISPAC; Kimmet Edgar, Quaker Representative to the UN; David Fathi, American Civil Liberties Union; Olivia Rope, PRI; Laurel Townhead, QUINCO; Andrea Huber, PRI; Doreen Namyalo Kyazze, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, Uganda; George Barrow, Quaker Representative to the UN.*



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