

Annual report 2018

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Message from our Chairperson

Every country in the world has a penal system, and every penal system has prisons or other places of detention where people are locked up, both before trial and after conviction. This reality is unlikely to change soon, for not even the most progressive states have been able to do without prisons entirely. Even though there is overwhelming evidence that in practice imprisonment is an expensive way of making bad people worse, imprisonment continues to be widely used - and not always as a last penal resort.

The long-term prevalence of imprisonment does not mean that one must throw up one's hands in despair. On the contrary, much can be done to ameliorate the harm that imprisonment causes, both by radically reducing its use in particular countries or regions, and by improving the conditions of detention for those that remain in prison.

Penal Reform International has continued tirelessly to intervene in order to better the lot of prisoners while ensuring that as far as possible there are fewer of them. In 2018, as before, it has operated at both the

international and the regional levels. It has not shied away from penal reform even in societies that are ridden with conflict, as its impressive work in Yemen and the Central African Republic shows. PRI's regional activities are not limited to imprisonment either. Some of its most innovative work, ranging from improving police practice in Kyrgyzstan to improving women offenders' chances at rehabilitation in Georgia, also serve to keep people out of prison.

PRI's work in the regions is complemented by its international role in developing standards for world class penal systems. In 2018, for example, it published, with the OSCE, the Guidance Document on the Nelson Mandela Rules implementing the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. At the same time, it continued to propagate the Bangkok Rules, the specialist United Nations instrument that sets high standards for all aspects of the treatment of women in the penal system. Internationally too, the emphasis is not only on high standards of treatment of all those who come into contact with the penal system, but also, wherever possible, on keeping them out of it.

As the many activities described in this Annual Report show, 2018 was a successful year in the work of PRI. It was also a year that saw a change in its leadership. In August Alison Hannah retired from her position as Executive Director of PRI. On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank her for the commitment and integrity she brought to the leadership of our far-flung organisation. We welcome Florian Irminger as her successor and wish him well in his new role.



Message from our Executive Director

One thing is clear; criminal justice systems not only leave people behind, in too many instances they push people behind. The Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 by the United Nations offer an additional strength to appeal for fair and effective criminal justice systems as an indispensable part of building a sustainable planet and fostering democratic societies, based on international human rights standards and law.

Our work at Penal Reform International has been instrumental in building systems and creating policies which address the discriminatory nature of criminal justice systems. In 2018, we published an exciting edition of Global Prison Trends with the Thailand Institute of Justice, with a focus on rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders in the era of sustainable development. Together with the OSCE, we published the Guidance Document on the Nelson Mandela Rules. Amongst others, we also published a guide for prison staff on how to deal with prisoners with mental health issues and a factsheet on prison conditions for women facing the death penalty. In 2018, we also launched a global coalition to tackle the use of life imprisonment.

A few other successes in 2018 include our work in Yemen, where we were able to prevent the spread of cholera in prisons. We can also agree that the formation and adoption of the demilitarisation strategy for the penitentiary system in the Central African Republic sets a much-needed goal for the country. In Georgia, PRI helped 680 women offenders, former offenders and their children access rehabilitation services. In Morocco, we launch the first prison radio in the Middle East and North Africa region in the largest prison in Casablanca. In Kyrgyzstan, we supported the creation of a police station to pilot the use of

investigative interviewing as a solution to preventing the use of torture.

As well as looking back at our successes and achievements this year, we are also looking forward. We are celebrating our 30th anniversary this year. We have had exceptional impact in over 100 countries over the past three decades. Globally, we contributed to building a solid base of regional and international human rights standards to protect every single person in the criminal justice system from rights violations. By the end of 2019, we will publish PRI's new strategy, which will establish PRI's relevance in a more polarised world, too often hit by "penal populism," as my predecessor Alison Hannah called it.

With her exceptional compassion, humanity, and kindness, Alison sets an example for me and PRI's leadership team. We thank her for her contribution to building our penal reform movement.



We believe in a **fair and effective** criminal justice.

Fair

Respect the rule of law

Detention as last resort

Proportionate sentencing

Humane treatment and conditions for prisoners

Strong international human rights standards implemented nationally

Effective

Uphold rights of suspects and defendants

Prevent unnecessary use of pre-trial detention

Train prison staff, law-enforcement and government officials

Build safer communities through rehabilitation

**We operate
throughout the
criminal justice
process.**

Through our advocacy and practical programmes, we operate in ten priority areas throughout the criminal justice system to make it fair and effective.

**WOMEN IN
THE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM**

We promote gender-sensitive criminal justice and penal policies, as well as greater use of non-custodial alternatives.

**LIFE
IMPRISONMENT**

We advocate that no one should be imprisoned for life without the possibility of one day at least being considered for release.

**JUSTICE
FOR CHILDREN**

We promote child-friendly justice systems which use detention only as a last resort and recognise the right of children to special protection.

DEATH PENALTY

We campaign for the abolition of the death penalty and for humane alternative sanctions.

**PRISON
CONDITIONS**

We advocate for humane prison conditions as a prerequisite of fair criminal justice systems.

**PRE-TRIAL
JUSTICE**

Pre-trial detention is often unnecessary and can prejudice a fair trial. We campaign against its excessive use and promote alternative measures.

**REHABILITATION
AND REINTEGRATION**

We promote rehabilitation as the primary aim of all criminal justice systems.

**TORTURE
PREVENTION**

Torture destroys a person's dignity, body and mind. We seek to establish and improve safeguards against torture and ill-treatment in detention.

**ALTERNATIVES
TO IMPRISONMENT**

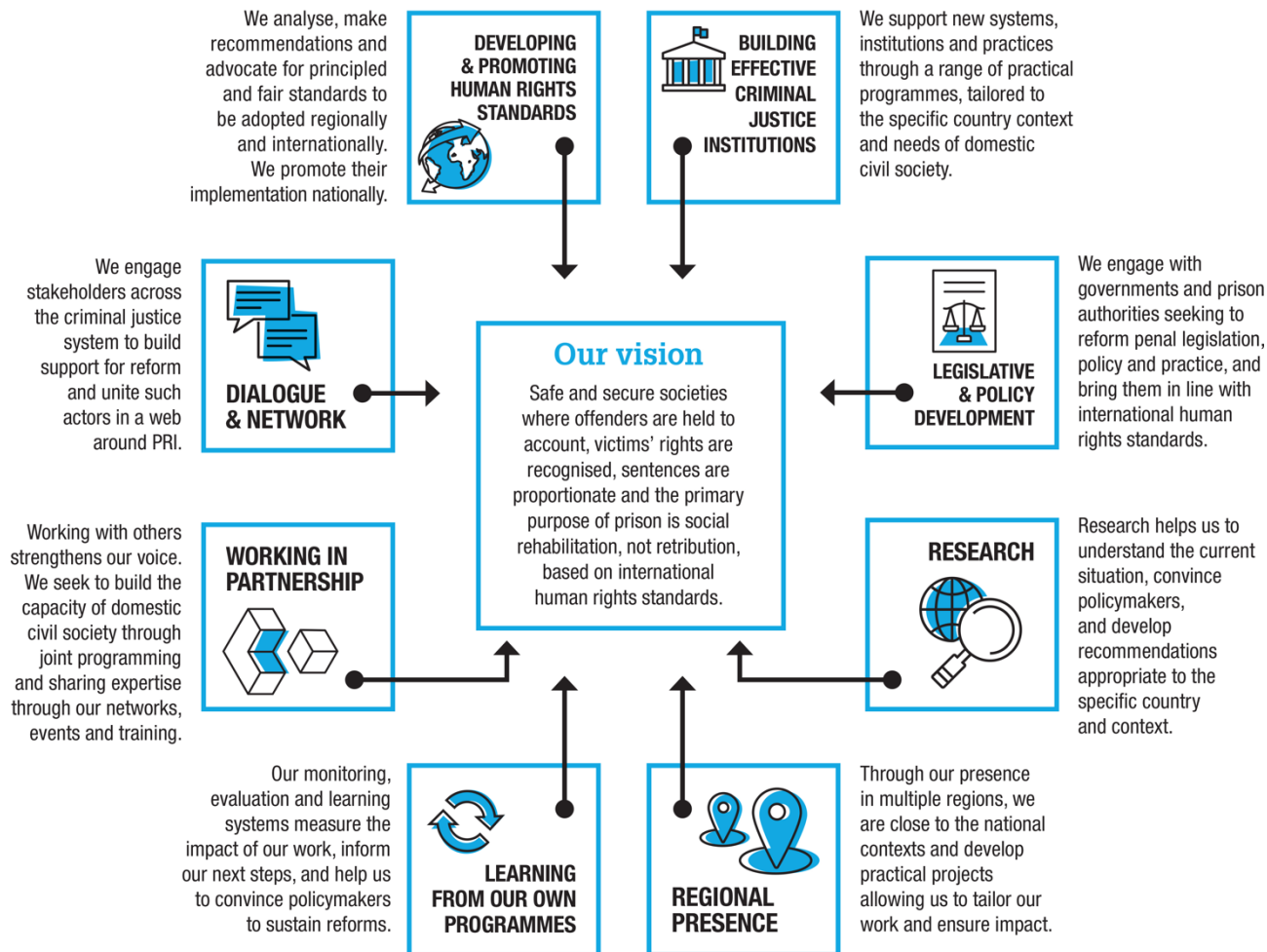
We promote fair and proportionate sentencing and greater use of non-custodial measures.

**GLOBAL
ADVOCACY**

We contribute to the development and implementation of human rights and criminal justice standards.

We use **advocacy** as well as **practical programmes**.

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



Highlights of 2018

We launched the **first prison radio** in the Middle East and North Africa region in Morocco's largest prison, Oukasha in Casablanca

We supported **access to key rehabilitation services for 680 women offenders**, former offenders and their children in Georgia

We **published the Guidance Document on the Nelson Mandela Rules** together with the OSCE

We launched a new campaign to **tackle the use of life imprisonment** around the world

We helped equip a police station in Kyrgyzstan to **pilot the use of investigative interviewing** as a solution to preventing the use of torture

We developed a system for **free legal aid** for prisoners in Morocco, benefitting 500 prisoners so far

We supported civil society to oversee the Georgian government's **implementation of prison reforms** in line with European best practices

We became the first international organisation to sign a **memorandum of understanding with the Tajik prison service** which allows us access to the country's prisons.

We developed a **strategy to demilitarise the Central African Republic's prison system**. The strategy has now been endorsed by the Prime Minister.



Central

Asia

The main priorities in the region and for PRI are **countering violent extremism and radicalisation** in prisons, **torture prevention** and **prisoner rehabilitation** and reintegration. At the end of 2018, we opened office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to support our expanding work in the region.

Kyrgyzstan

PRI began working in Kyrgyzstan to strengthen government and civil society efforts to prevent torture. In partnership with the Human Rights Ombudsman of Kyrgyzstan, the National Centre for the Prevention of Torture as well as three national human rights organisations, PRI aims to promote dialogue between civil society and government, improve the capacity of law enforcement bodies to conduct effective and lawful criminal investigations and improve the capacity of the newly established torture investigation unit. Kyrgyzstan has already taken several steps towards the eradication of torture in recent years and PRI is building on Kyrgyzstan's readiness to cooperate with international organisations and mechanisms. PRI signed memoranda of understanding with the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Internal Affairs to cooperate on torture prevention efforts.

Evidence shows that incidents of torture mainly occur at arrest and before trial, therefore PRI has focused on introducing of investigative interviewing as an approach to criminal investigations for law enforcement officers. Investigative interviewing promotes a professional approach to interviewing suspects and witnesses to crime and attempts to obtain high quality and comprehensive accounts. PRI also supported the creation of a pilot transparent police station where police and investigating officers use investigative interviewing to conduct interviews. PRI helped equip the police station with audio and video recording equipment and facilities for the safe and secure storage of records. The creation of this police station and the introduction of such an approach to criminal investigations gained extensive media coverage and has been welcomed in Kyrgyzstan. The

success of this project also demonstrates the enthusiasm of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to use this approach during criminal investigations rather than resorting to interrogation techniques which may result in torture or ill-treatment.

PRI organised the second penitentiary forum in Bishkek. This year's forum focused on the resocialization of prisoners and introduction of a state probation institution. The forum included international experts on probation who shared their experiences and examples of best practice. PRI has been active in the promotion of the new institution for probation, and has conducted media campaigns to increase the public's awareness of probation as an alternative to imprisonment.

A transparent police station opened in Kyrgyzstan where investigative interviewing is being piloted. PRI helped equip the station with audio and video recording equipment and facilities for safe and secure storage of records. The launch of this pilot demonstrates The Ministry of Internal Affairs' enthusiasm to use investigative interviewing during criminal investigations.

PRI continued its support to a children's telephone helpline service run by the Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic. *Hotline 115* was set up with the support of PRI in 2014 and has since expanded in scope and now takes calls from any person with a complaint for the human rights Ombudsman. Due to the popularity of the helpline, more operators have been recruited and it is now one of the most effective means of monitoring closed facilities and appeals received from detainees and employees. Complaints are received about conditions, access to medical services and allegations of ill-treatment and are followed up by staff at the Ombudsman's office.

Kazakhstan

For the second year running, PRI ran a competition for law and journalism students at Atyrau University in the West of Kazakhstan. The competition requires students to work in teams to conduct research on a current human rights issue in Kazakhstan. The final teams presented research on women's rights in prison, the rights of victims in criminal proceedings, penalties and rewards applied to offenders in detention and the rehabilitation of prisoners, among others. The aim of the competition is to embed human rights learning within the university curriculum through long-term self-directed projects. The competition has been so popular that it now takes place at universities in three regions of Kazakhstan and will continue for the next three years.

PRI continued with its ongoing advocacy campaign with the government of Kazakhstan to transfer responsibility for prison healthcare from the prison service to the Ministry of Health in Kazakhstan. Plans for the transfer have been included in the roadmap for modernising the law-enforcement bodies for 2019–2020 and the Kazakh prison service has starting piloting transfer models in two regions.

PRI published a research paper entitled *Who are Prisoners in Kazakhstan?* examining the characteristics of Kazakhstan's prison population. Respondents to the research, all convicted prisoners, were asked about their personal background and rehabilitation and reintegration services available to them. The paper builds on research conducted with women prisoners in Kazakhstan in 2013 and 2014. The report also examines broader issues in Kazakhstan's prisons including governance structures, reform initiatives and trends in the imprisonment rate and provides recommendations to the country's prison service for addressing the concerns raised.

At the end of 2018, PRI concluded a project on improving access to justice for certain categories of prisoners in Kazakhstan, who because of their age, gender, ethnicity, health, legal or political status, face an increased risk to their safety, security, or wellbeing, as a result of imprisonment. Prior to the project, judicial authorities in Kazakhstan were not fully aware of the challenges faced by vulnerable people in the criminal justice system and their difficulties in accessing justice and they did not cooperate or communicate with CSOs on this issue. PRI relaunched a platform for dialogue between the judicial authorities and civil society organisations and hosted a series of roundtables, national conferences, seminars.

PRI trained 194 representatives of CSOs and 168 representatives from judicial authorities as well as other criminal justice stakeholders on engaging with the judiciary and international and regional standards on the treatment of vulnerable groups in the criminal justice system.

Together with these stakeholders, PRI formulated an action plan with specific recommendations and action points both for CSOs and judicial authorities. The main points of the plan are the inclusion of the definition of vulnerable offenders into legal procedures and the improvement of the state, judicial, prosecutor and public control over the detention facilities on issues of access to justice for vulnerable groups. PRI and CSOs also produced a report based on the systematic monitoring of court decisions related to vulnerable groups. CSOs also conducted monitoring visits to closed facilities and prepared reports and analysis regarding the situation of vulnerable groups in prisons. PRI also supported CSOs to deliver services to vulnerable groups including psychological and social worker support and legal advice.

Tajikistan

PRI became the first international organisation to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Tajik prison service. The MoU outlines joint activities to be undertaken by both organisations and allows PRI access to the country's prisons.

Uzbekistan

PRI began engaging in Uzbekistan in 2017 and continued in 2018 supporting the establishment of an NPM. The ombudsman and other state bodies also participated in regional events and activities organised by PRI. The Uzbek ombudsman office invited PRI to

PRI is supporting Tajikistan to establish its national preventive mechanism (NPM) to prevent torture. Tajikistan currently has a pilot model NPM which has only conducted a few visits to prisons and closed detention facilities. PRI organised a study visit to Armenia for five members of the pilot model to witness how the Armenian NPM functions.

expert meetings and roundtables and at one distributed almost 2,000 copies of the Nelson Mandela Rules in Uzbek and Russian for members of the Ombudsman's office as well as law enforcement officers and prison staff.

Countering violent extremism

Countering violent extremism is one of PRI's core areas of support in Central Asia due to increased concern over returning foreign fighters and radicalisation in the region's prisons. In 2018, PRI published extensively on the issue including research on the current situation of violent extremism and radicalisation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as well as papers on the situation for women and children. We also published a guide for prison monitors on how to monitor facilities where violent extremist prisoners are held, a guide for prison personnel, theologians and imams on faith-based dialogue with violent extremist prisoners and for psychologists on providing effective rehabilitation programmes for violent extremist prisoners. 700 copies of these publications were distributed throughout Central Asia reaching approximately 3,500 persons.

In July, PRI held a regional summer school for state representatives on preventing violent extremism and radicalisation of convicted prisoners. The training course focused on opportunities for psychological rehabilitation and brought together 35 psychologists, social workers and

prison personnel from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The presence of people from all over Central Asia also provided an opportunity to exchange information.

Another summer school was organised to train members of public monitoring commissions (PMCs) in Kazakhstan on monitoring the prison conditions of prisoners convicted of violent extremism. The prison monitoring practical guide to overseeing prison facilities where violent extremist prisoners are held was distributed to more than 120 public monitoring commission members. A further 250 prison staff were introduced to the guide and informed about the work of PMCs and their right to conduct interviews with detainees. Baroness Vivian Stern and Professor Andrew Coyle participated in national consultations with authorities, NGOs and experts to discuss next steps in the prevention of violent extremism and radicalisation.

In October, a conference was held on effective prison management of violent extremism offenders in Bishkek with representatives from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan sharing

their experiences on the issue. The aim of the conference was to provide practitioners with tools to enable them to develop and improve methods and procedures for combatting radicalisation in prison, as well as strengthen ties between each country's criminal justice system. PRI's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Taghreed Jaber spoke at the conference, giving examples of existing rehabilitation programmes and needs assessment tools from that region.

PRI also worked in Kyrgyzstan to combat radicalisation of prisoners through assisting in the drafting of national strategies, training prison officers on identifying and managing violent extremist offenders and developing effective rehabilitation and reintegration programmes. The work builds on cooperation between civil society organisations and the prison administration to facilitate appropriate rehabilitation activities. In November, PRI launched the first rehabilitation centre at prison Number 10 in the city of Jalal Abad. The rehabilitation programme includes psychological counselling, social and legal aid, art therapy, a library and a craft workshop.



Middle East & North Africa

PRI continued its work in the Middle East and North Africa region, focusing on children in the criminal justice system, rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners, alternatives and supporting improvements to prison infrastructure and services in Yemen.

Algeria

PRI has been working in Algeria for 20 years and has long-standing engagement with the Ministry of Justice and National Human Rights Commission. In 2018, we conducted training workshops for 400 national police officers, prison staff, members of the gendarmerie, and public prosecutor on human rights standards in the administration of justice.

PRI also supported the newly established position of Child Protection Commissioner in Algeria by helping to launch a national NGO network to strengthen cooperation and communication between civil society and the government and enhance the scope of protection for children in Algeria. PRI facilitated discussions between NGOs and the commissioner, conducted three training workshops for network members and produced manuals and guidelines for the network members on child protection policies. The network is headed by the former Minister for Women

and Youth and now has 45 members meeting on a monthly basis with the commissioner's office to discuss collaborating on joint work and emerging policy issues around child protection. This official partnership between the government and civil society is the first of its kind in Algeria and is a model for changing the nature of relations between local NGOs and authorities in Algeria, contributing to trust building and working together.

PRI helped set up and promote a telephone helpline for children in Algeria. The helpline receives calls regarding reports of suspected child abuse, aims to prevent children coming into contact with the criminal justice system and provides advice to parents and families of children. Cases are transferred to the relevant government department or to NGOs for follow up.

Jordan

In March 2018, a new penal code came into force in Jordan which includes a stipulation for the use of non-custodial sentences. In order to support the proper use of these alternative sentences, PRI conducted training workshops for judges, community service department personnel and representatives from governorates and developed procedural guidelines.

Since the provision for community service orders came into force, 18 men and two women have served community service orders, which have included caring for the elderly in care homes and teaching cooking classes to children.

PRI also assessed existing rehabilitation programmes in prisons and developed a roadmap and revised results-oriented plan for the Jordanian prison administration to create more rehabilitation programmes inside prisons as well as work schemes with the private sector.

Morocco

PRI helped establish a new system of legal aid for prisoners provided by civil society organisations and bar associations. The initiative was supported by the prison department who provided list of prisoners in need of legal aid. PRI's partner in Morocco, the Observatory for Prisons and bar associations provided training for prison staff, lawyers, members of bar associations and paralegal civil society organisations and helped coordinate, organise and structure a system for free legal for prisoners and their families.

Around 500 prisoners have received legal aid so far thanks to PRI's efforts to establish legal aid in prisons.

With support from the British Embassy in Morocco and Morocco's General Delegation for Prison Administration and Reintegration, PRI launched the first prison radio in the Middle East and North Africa

Yemen

PRI has continued its vital work in Yemen, supporting the improvement of prisons and juvenile care centres and encouraging a human rights-based approach in the criminal justice system. PRI helped to create two mother and baby units so that mothers in prison can look after their children in safety and security. We established rehabilitation and reintegration programmes in computing, sewing and knitting which 100 men and 14 women benefitted from. We also helped renovate a juvenile detention centre for children in Sanaa and worked to ensure the separation of children from adults at Dhamar prison.

PRI supported prisoners' right to health by helping to establish two health clinics for prisoners in Saada and

region in the country's biggest prison Oukasha in Casablanca, which has 10,000 prisoners. The radio station provides a platform for inmates and the prison administration to discuss challenging topics such as prison management, religion and healthcare. The radio also facilitates contact with prisoners' families and provides a unique training opportunity for prisoners to learn about radio broadcasting.

Ensuring prisoners' have contact with the outside world is a key factor in ensuring their successful rehabilitation and reintegration after their release. PRI worked with the Moroccan prisons department to open offices in five of Morocco's biggest prisons which would facilitate prisoners' contact with their families as well as NGOs and state institutions with the aim of reducing isolation and improving reintegration outcomes.

Rada as well as medical isolation rooms for the treatment of infectious disease. We also developed educational materials for prisoners on how to prevent the spread of cholera by promoting personal hygiene.

We provided medicine, basic hygiene products, blankets, clothes, clean water and food for 3000 male prisoners, 200 female prisoners and children living with their mothers in prison.

In February, a three-day training of trainers' workshop took place for prison staff on treating prisoners in accordance with international human rights standards. The workshop aimed to build the capacities of 20 prison managers and officers on general prison management skills and the use of guidelines including the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules.

South Caucasus



PRI in the South Caucasus has long advocated for stronger involvement of civil society in the region's criminal justice systems, both in its role as an oversight mechanism of government and monitoring places of detention but also as a provider of key services to offenders and former offenders. In 2018, PRI in the South Caucasus continued working with civil society to improve prison conditions and the protection of prisoners' human rights.

Oversight and monitoring

PRI began a new project in Georgia, funded by the European Union, supporting civil society to monitor the government's commitments to penal reform. The project aims to promote the democratic oversight role of civil society in monitoring and reviewing the Georgian government's progress against published strategies, action plans, and legislation in line with European best practice. In doing so, PRI will build local civil society capacity to take on an enhanced monitoring and oversight role, improve policy dialogue and advocacy and raise the public's awareness on the importance of these functions. So far, PRI has helped re-established a CSO network (the Alliance for Penal and Probation Reforms of Georgia) to contribute to the

policy advocacy process with the government. The Alliance now has 26 members and is working to ensure the government's national strategies take account of the interests of offenders and their families.

PRI conducted monitoring visits to four prisons with a focus on rehabilitation, disciplinary proceedings, risk classification and the working conditions of prison staff. The reports from these monitoring visits have contributed to the Georgian National Preventive Mechanism's annual report. PRI also conducted a training workshop on standards and methodologies for conducting prison monitoring including ethics, interview techniques and reporting for National Preventive Mechanism members and partner organisations.

Foreign nationals

Subgrants have also been issued to three civil society organisations to undertake research to encourage them to monitor specific topics in prisons and probation. The topics include the rights of offenders serving conditional and non-custodial sentences, the rights of prisoners serving life imprisonment and in high-security prisons and the rights of minorities in the penitentiary system. The recommendations from the research will inform civil society's priorities for advocacy.

PRI also trained staff from CSOs and media organisations on specific thematic issues in penal policy

and practice to ensure that they are able to keep abreast of developments in the penal sector and serve as a transparency mechanism and raising public awareness. 89 women and 46 men were training across four workshops on various current issues facing the Georgian prison and probation system.

135 representatives from CSOs and the media were trained on issues in penal policy and practice including rehabilitation in prisons, prison staff and their working conditions, the rights of minorities and the rights of those serving probation.

Torture prevention

This year saw the conclusion of a project in Georgia and Armenia to strengthen detention monitoring mechanisms. PRI worked to strengthen the legal and normative framework for torture prevention in both countries, increase the capacity of oversight bodies to monitor places of detention and improve public awareness of the importance of monitoring as a form of torture prevention. Various events took place opening up discussion around factors and conditions which can lead to torture and how best to prevent these. A roundtable event took place to find ongoing recent cases of human rights violations by law enforcement in Georgia and issues related to the prevention of torture and ill-treatment within the structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Attendees also discussed the scope and mandate of a proposed independent investigative mechanism and PRI published a research paper on this issue.

Another roundtable event took place on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26 June) in Armenia. PRI's partner, the Civil Society Institute, presented a study on informal prisoner hierarchies within the penitentiary system, looking at the case of Noubarashen prison and corrupt relations between prisoners and the prison administration. A factsheet on self-harm and suicide prevention in Armenia and the role of the state in ensuring prisoners' right to life and mental wellbeing, also produced by the Civil Society Institute was also circulated to participants of the roundtable.

On the same day in Georgia, PRI held a conference to discuss the work of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) in the South Caucasus region and facilitate exchanges of good practice and experience. The event was attended by 60 people from governments,

ombudsman offices, NPMs from Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and national and international NGOs.

A training workshop was held for prison monitors from Armenia and Georgia (the Armenian and Georgian NPMs and members of the Prison Monitoring Group in Armenia) on preventive monitoring and building knowledge and skills in understanding and identifying systemic problems that greatly increase torture in places of detention. The training was guided by the topics covered in PRI's detention monitoring toolkit. PRI's new detention monitoring tool on incident management and independent investigations was also distributed to participants.

PRI concluded a project in Georgia on strengthening oversight of Georgia's anti-torture commitments and compliance with international standards.

PRI translated various publications for prison management, the NPM and CSOs including the new guidance document on the Nelson Mandela Rules and Mental Health in Prisons: a short guide for prison staff and an updated Georgian translation of the Detention Monitoring Guide.

Two training workshops took place: for NPM and ombudsman staff on conducting monitoring visits to prisons and developing the necessary practical skills for such visits and for prison psychologists and social workers on developing therapeutic techniques to develop prisoners' feelings of responsibility and building their self-esteem with the ultimate goal of improving reintegration and reducing recidivism rates. Both workshops were highly appreciated and received positive feedback with participants stating that they would be able to implement what they learned in their work.

Women in the criminal justice system

PRI continued supporting the rehabilitation of women offenders, former offenders and their children in Georgia, especially those who have been victims of domestic violence, stigma and discrimination. PRI worked with national service providers including both state institutions and civil society to improve rehabilitation and reintegration services and improve the coordination of these services. The rehabilitation

services provided in both prisons and the community included legal aid, psychological counselling, work and training opportunities (hairstyling, beauty therapy, traditional felt-making and sewing), business start-up grants, a shelter for homeless former-prisoners, financial support for accessing medical care and a dedicated nursery and nursery worker in the women's prison mother and baby unit.

147 women were provided with legal aid and 128 women received psychological counselling helping them overcome obstacles to reintegration and restore and maintain connections with their families

A nursery caregiver was recruited to assist mothers in the women's prison mother and baby unit. She provided advice to mothers on child development and parenting skills as well as activities for babies and children

12 women were offered temporary accommodation at the shelter for homeless former prisoners

84 women were employed at sewing enterprises at the women's prison and the shelter as well as at private enterprises.

45 women received medical care including free medication, surgical procedures, diagnostic services and other treatments. **53 children of women offenders received medical care** as well as clothes, toys and formula milk.

389 women improved or acquired skills in traditional felt making, tapestry, sewing, makeup and cosmetics, hairstyling and basic business management.

PRI project evaluation

The project was the subject of an evaluation this year conducted by PRI together with the Georgian Association of Social Workers. The evaluation found that most women were satisfied with the quality and frequency of the services they had received. Women reported that the legal aid and counselling services were especially crucial in their rehabilitation process as they helped them overcome and deal with long-term problems which had been

preventing them from being able to properly reintegrate back into society. Women also reported that the training and job opportunities provided through the project helped boost their self-esteem, helped them regain their status in their families, provided them with structure to their daily routines and gave them opportunities to socialise.

The evaluation also found that cooperation between state and non-

state service providers had improved both in terms of frequency and the quality of the cooperation. The coordination also produced synergies through joined-up service provision; women accessing one service can be referred on to further services if they require them.



Sub-Saharan Africa

PRISONS SERVICE



PRI developed its presence in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2018, through reinforcing its projects in Uganda on **torture prevention** and on the **conditions of individuals on the death row**. PRI's work in Central African Republic focused on **systematic reform**, through the **demilitarization of the penitentiary system**, to promote **humanised prison conditions**.

Uganda

PRI continued to establish itself financially and as a leader for criminal justice reform in Sub-Saharan Africa. Several scoping meetings took place with donors across the East Africa region. The Sub-Saharan Africa office joined the National Coalition on Rehabilitation of Prisoners, a coalition of seven organisations working with prisoners. The coalition's aim is to share experiences and information to ensure a coordinated approach to the rehabilitation of prisoners. PRI also joined the Criminal Justice Working Group of the Justice, Law and Order Sector which allows us to share the findings of our work directly with policy makers for the purpose of monitoring the work of police, prisons and the judiciary.

In 2018, PRI continued providing human rights training to prison staff and prisoners and distributed posters and guides reinforcing the messages from the training. The aim of the training was to make both prisoners and prison officers aware of the rights of prisoners and of the prison officer's role in the protection of these rights. Participants said the training helped them to acknowledge the vulnerabilities of particular categories

of prisoners, especially foreign nationals and LGBT prisoners.

PRI also began a study on the application of fair trial standards in death penalty cases in Uganda. The study aims to examine and document the observance and implementation of fair trial standards during the trial of capital offenders as well as legal representation of defendants, socio-economic background of death row inmates, the technical expertise of lawyers, what informs a sentence of death, the role of gender in death row cases and how informed suspects are on the trial procedure.

In 2018, PRI conducted interviews with 139 prisoners on death row (including four women) and reviewed the court records of 78 prisoners.

The findings of the study will inform a policy brief on improving fair trial standards to be shared with government and non-governmental bodies.

PRI's advocacy efforts in Uganda have also led the establishment of a human rights working group in Tororo women's prison. Due to our intervention, women have started to receive medical care for treatable conditions.

Central African Republic

This year saw the start of an ambitious project working with the UN Peacekeeping force in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to develop a strategy to demilitarise the Central African Republic's prison system. Central African Republic is currently in a civil war characterised by extreme instability and violence, including the targeting of civilians. The conflict affects all facets of life and society. The judiciary which lacks full jurisdiction over some areas of the country and faces a lack of financial resources. Consequently, the penitentiary administration faces serious challenges to the maintenance and proper management of its prison system.

The strategy addresses the current deficiencies of the Central African Republic's penal system and aims to help it meet international human rights standards in prison. It covers the security and safety of prisons and

prisoners as well as the transfer of prison management from the military to a professional civilian staff. The strategy aims to ensure better treatment of detainees and improvements in detention conditions in accordance with national and international standards.

PRI developed the strategy in consultation with representatives from government ministries, the Director General of the Prison service, and international donors and experts, including human rights experts. In January 2019 the strategy was endorsed by the country's Prime Minister, Simplicie Sarandji.

PRI will continue to support CAR to implement the strategies through the development of an action plan to help the penitentiary system meet its obligations to protect prisoners.



International advocacy

Life imprisonment

PRI launched a new campaign to tackle the use of life imprisonment around the world. The campaign was developed to respond to the increasing use of formal life sentences, which can often mean life without parole, and which has replaced the death penalty in many countries. Between 2000 and 2014 there was an increase of almost 84 per cent in the number of people serving formal life sentences worldwide. Despite the increase in its use, little is known about the legitimacy of the sanction and there is inadequate attention paid to the impact on the human rights of those serving life imprisonment.

To kickstart the campaign, PRI published a briefing with the University of Nottingham on the use of life imprisonment globally and with recommendations for reforming its use and bringing it in line with human rights standards.

In December, alongside the University of Nottingham, we organised an international civil society strategy

forum on life imprisonment. The forum brought together representatives from civil society from around the world to discuss and strategize how to tackle the use of life imprisonment. The event is hoped to be the first in the formation of a global coalition on life imprisonment.

On 10 December, International Human Rights Day we held the launch at the Houses of Parliament of a new book entitled [*Life imprisonment: A global human rights analysis*](#) written by PRI's Chair, Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit, and Dr Catherine Appleton both from the University of Nottingham. The book is the first ever global survey of prisoners serving life terms and argues for a human rights-based reappraisal of this exceptionally severe punishment. The ground-breaking study will serve as the basis for future discussions and policy campaigns around the use of life imprisonment.

World congress on justice for children

In May, together with five leading child rights organisations, we co-organised the 2018 World Congress on Justice for Children at the UNESCO world headquarters in Paris. The congress gathered 950 participants from 97 countries from civil society, academia, government, inter-governmental organisations, law enforcement and the judiciary as well as children and young people.

The congress aimed to address trends in the involvement of children in violent extremism, the need for more effective ways to reduce juvenile offending and recidivism and improving protection mechanisms for vulnerable children in the criminal justice system.

The Chair of PRI's board, Professor Dirk Van Zyl Smit gave an opening presentation and another board member, Judge Imman Ali, gave a presentation on child and family specific procedures for children involved in violent extremism. PRI's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Taghreed Jaber, also moderated a discussion on children and violent extremism.

The congress concluded with a declaration to improve and strengthen justice systems for children around the world including the protection of the rights of children involved in violent extremism.

Publication of Guidance Document on the Nelson Mandela Rules together with the OSCE ODIHR

In August, PRI, together with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, launched the Guidance Document on the Nelson Mandela Rules. The new tool explores the main human rights issues that arise in prison settings and examines how these can be addressed by implementing the Nelson Mandela Rules.

The publication provides guidance for managers and staff of penal institutions on the interpretation and effective implementation of the revised rules in areas including prison management, safety, security and

dignity for all, incident prevention and response, restrictions, discipline and sanctions, contact with the outside world, healthcare and external monitoring.

The tool draws from and builds on existing international legal and practical tools, ‘soft law’ principles and opinions of authoritative bodies, as well as promising national-practice examples from OSCE members and beyond. PRI will continue to work with the OSCE to promote the implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules including the development of a training tool for prison and detention personnel.

Mental health

As part of PRI’s efforts to improve prison conditions, especially for the most vulnerable, we developed a guidance document for front-line prison staff and others on how to identify and support prisoners with mental health needs. The research for the publication commenced with a meeting in London with global experts on mental health and prisons and the main discussion points provided the basis for the guide. The publication *Mental health in prison: A short guide for prison staff* was published in May and has already been

translated into Georgian and Arabic to be distributed to prison staff in some of PRI’s countries of operation.

In early November 2018 we gave a presentation on protecting and addressing the mental health and wellbeing of prisoners and introducing the content of the mental health guide at a conference *Mapping Inequalities in Prisoner Healthcare Worldwide* organised by the Institute for Criminal Policy Research.

Torture prevention

PRI was invited to conduct a thematic briefing for the UN Committee against Torture in Geneva on vulnerable groups in detention. The briefing was supported by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Association for the Prevention of Torture. The meeting brought together experts from prisons, civil society, academia and the European Court of Human

Rights to discuss particular vulnerabilities some prisoners may face in detention due to their social status and social context such as gender, sexual orientation, health status, ethnicity or age. The meeting discussed the specific needs of these groups and how specific measures need to be put in place to protect them and safeguard their rights.

Women in the criminal justice system

In September, PRI and The Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice organised a two-day conference in Bogota, Colombia on women in prison. The conference brought together 45 women prisoner's rights advocates to share best practice and lessons learned with the goal of creating a global movement where women prisoners' rights advocates can learn from each other and work together to improve conditions for women prisoners worldwide. PRI's Regional Director for the South Caucasus, Tsira Chanturia, gave presentations introducing the Bangkok Rules and on our work in Georgia to improve rehabilitation services

to women prisoners, former prisoners and their children.

In December, PRI led a session on rehabilitation and reintegration of women prisoners as part of a two-week training programme for senior correctional officers from ASEAN countries on implementing the Bangkok Rules organised by the Thailand Institute of Justice. PRI's workshop introduced initial findings from upcoming research on best practices in rehabilitation and reintegration of women prisoners from around the world. The research will be published in spring 2019.

Global Prison Trends 2018

In May, we launched the fourth annual edition of the flagship publication *Global Prison Trends* at the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna.

The report was published in collaboration and with financial support from the Thailand Institute of Justice.

This year's *Global Prison Trends* includes data on the use of imprisonment, prison populations, developments and challenges in prison management, the role of technology in criminal justice and prison systems and alternatives to imprisonment. It also includes 25 recommendations to states for improving their penal systems.

The Special Focus section looks at the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders in the era of sustainable development, exploring how the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders back into their communities can incorporate a broader developmental perspective, contributing to the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Global Prison Trends is now a highly anticipated publication among the international criminal justice community, has been used as an advocacy tool and has contributed to the monitoring of crime trends and

the operations of criminal justice systems. The launch event in Vienna was attended by 40 persons and 120 copies were distributed over the two days of the Crime Commission. A UK launch also took place at Linklaters LLP in London with an expert panel

event to discuss urgent and emerging issues in criminal justice worldwide.

As of January 2019, *Global Prison Trends 2018* has been downloaded over 1,300 times from PRI's website, a record on previous years.

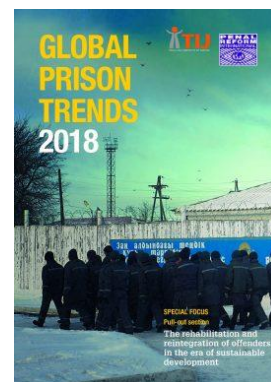


Publications and resources

Global prison trends 2018

Languages: English

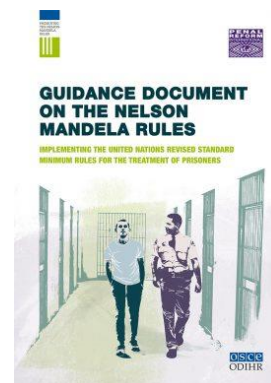
The fourth edition of our flagship publication which identifies developments and challenges to prison policy and practice around the world. This year's publication includes a special focus section on the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Guidance document on the Nelson Mandela rules

Languages: English, Georgian

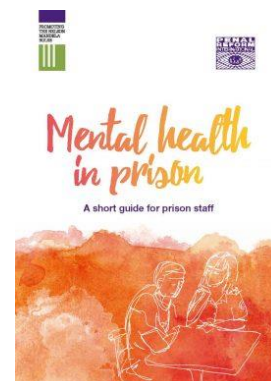
Co-produced with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). This document provides guidance to prison administrations for implementing the revised UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, known as the UN Nelson Mandela Rules.



Mental health in prison: A short guide for prison staff

Languages: Arabic, English, Georgian

Produced with the financial assistance of Matrix Chambers, with contributions from international and national mental health experts and practitioners, this guide seeks to help prison staff understand and respond appropriately to the mental health needs of adult prisoners. It focuses on how prison staff can promote and protect mental health and well-being and enable those with existing conditions to function better in the prison environment. Guidance is based on a human rights-based and holistic approach, as required by the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).



Life imprisonment: a policy briefing

Languages: Arabic, English, Russian

This briefing was written by PRI and Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit and Dr Catherine Appleton of the University of Nottingham. It assesses the use of life imprisonment as a global phenomenon, drawing on key findings from international research, and examines its use within the context of Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Nelson Mandela Rules and other international standards.



A manual for judges on criminal cases related to vulnerable groups in accordance with the international standards in the area of protection of human rights

Languages: Russian

This manual aims to guide judges and representatives of CSOs on the correct application of international standards and national legislation in the imposition of punishment, with respect to vulnerable categories of citizens, including those in pre-trial detention and those who have been given life/long-term imprisonment or the death penalty. The manual is intended to assist judges in preventing cases of excessive cruelty and avoid unreasonable refusal for release from prison. The manual was produced as part of a project aiming to strengthen cooperation between judicial agencies and CSOs to ensure the protection of the rights and interests of vulnerable groups of offenders and support organisations to provide key services.

Prison conditions for women facing the death penalty: a factsheet

Languages: Arabic, English, French

This publication draws on research by the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, looking at the conditions of women on death row.



Evaluation: Women offenders and their children

Language: English

This is the report of an evaluation of the project Supporting the improvement of service provision for women offenders who have experienced violence and discrimination and their vulnerable children being implemented in Georgia. A four-page summary of the report was produced outlining the findings and recommendations to PRI staff and to others implementing similar projects.



Video: Promoting gender-specific treatment of women prisoners and offenders in Kenya

Language: English

These five short films, supported by the Swedish Prison and Probation Service, comprise a number of interviews with prison and probation staff in Kenya, as well as PRI staff, highlighting the specific challenges that women offenders face in Kenya, and the importance of incorporating a gender-sensitive approach using the UN Bangkok Rules.



Detention Monitoring Tool: Incident management and independent investigations

Languages: Arabic, Armenian, English, Georgian

This Factsheet gives guidance to detention monitoring bodies in assessing whether prison authorities have fulfilled all the obligations that arise in cases of serious incidents. The factsheet includes a list of the relevant international standards, identifies types and situations of risk, provides checklists of questions that monitoring bodies can ask for each risk factor and suggests what monitoring bodies can do.

Central Asia: Capstone Magazine

Languages: Kazakh and Russian

This publication was produced to document the Capstone project, implemented by PRI in Kazakhstan and supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Kazakhstan. Capstone is a competition which aims to contribute to human rights education in universities. The magazine includes interviews with students who took part in the competition, international experts and teaching staff from universities in Kazakhstan and the Netherlands, Nora Dessing, Chargé d’Affaires at the Embassy of the Netherlands in the Republic of Kazakhstan and PRI’s regional Director in Central Asia, Azamat Shambilov.



Series of publications produced by PRI’s partner Rehabilitation Initiative of Vulnerable Groups on various areas of research into issues effecting the Georgian prison system:

- [Rights of Lifers and High-Risk Prisoners in the Penitentiary System](#) (language: Georgian)
- [Rights of Vulnerable Groups in the Penitentiary System](#) (language: Georgian)
- [Living Conditions in Prisons](#) (languages: English, Georgian)
- [Risk Assessment and Classification of Prisoners](#) (languages: English, Georgian)
- [Educational and Rehabilitation Processes in Prison](#) (languages: English, Georgian)
- [Contact of Prisoners with the Outside World](#) (languages: English, Georgian)
- [Complaints Mechanisms in the Penitentiary System](#) (languages: English, Georgian)
- [Disciplinary Proceedings in the Penitentiary System](#) (languages: English, Georgian)
- [Healthcare in the Penitentiary System](#) (languages: English, Georgian)
- [Prison Staff](#) (languages: English, Georgian)

Online communications

PRI received **15,524 visits** to its website in May 2018 with a record 1,011 visitors on the day that Global Prison Trends 2018 was launched.

Our monthly blog series was viewed **27,891 times**.

PRI resources were downloaded **21,362 times** in 2018.

Social media in 2018:

- 3,680 followers on Twitter for [@PenalReformInt](#), 68 followers for [@PRIMENA1](#), and 83 followers for [@PRICentralAsia](#)
- 500 followers on [Facebook](#), 6,170 followers on our [Central Asia Facebook page](#), 913 followers on our [South Caucasus Facebook page](#), and 3,805 followers on our [MENA Facebook page](#)
- [LinkedIn](#): 1,000 followers

Top three most popular blogs:

1. [What can restorative justice offer victims of domestic violence?](#) by Dr Marian Liebmann (1,624)
2. [Poverty and the Death Penalty](#) by Robin M. Maher (1,444)
3. [Prisons and the mentally ill: why design matters](#) by Marayca López and Laura Maiello-Reidy (666)

Our top downloaded publications were:

1. [Mandela Rules Resolution](#) (2,834)
2. [Global Prison Trends 2018](#) (1,290)
3. [Short guide to the Bangkok Rules](#) (1,122)
4. [Mental health in prison: A short guide for prison staff](#) (799)
5. [Global Prison Trends 2017](#) (856)

2019: PRI's 30th anniversary

We are **Penal Reform** **International**

In 2019, PRI is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Over 30 years, we have had many successes, working in more than 90 countries.

We believe in what Nelson Mandela said: “No one really truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails.” We believe that the ways in which suspects, offenders and prisoners are treated reflects country’s overall respect for human rights.

We support vulnerable people involved in criminal justice systems around the world, whether [women in criminal justice systems](#), [children in conflict with the law](#), people [sentenced to life long imprisonment](#) or [people sentenced to death](#), as well as [individuals on pre-trial detention](#).

For 30 years now, our pragmatic initiatives have benefited people at every stage of the justice system, from offenders and former prisoners to prison and probation staff, judges, police, and national policymakers and practitioners.

On our anniversary day, 12 November, we will publish PRI’s new 2020-2023 strategy, setting the agenda for the years to come and reaffirming PRI’s relevance. We are proud of our past achievements and look forward to the years ahead!

PRI's donors in 2018

Governments

| | |
|--|------------|
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK | €1,834,912 |
| Netherlands Embassy for Yemen | €1,212,387 |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands | €149,782 |
| Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) - US Department of State | €108,946 |
| Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland | €81,390 |
| Thailand Institute of Justice | €38,465 |
| Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) - US Department of State | €37,569 |
| Embassy of Ireland in Uganda | €4,293 |
| Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in Geneva | €3,050 |
| Swedish Prison and Probation Service | €1,706 |

International organisations

| | |
|--|----------|
| European Union | €874,080 |
| United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) | €139,325 |
| UNDP | €114,912 |
| UN WOMEN | €60,633 |
| UNICEF | €45,688 |

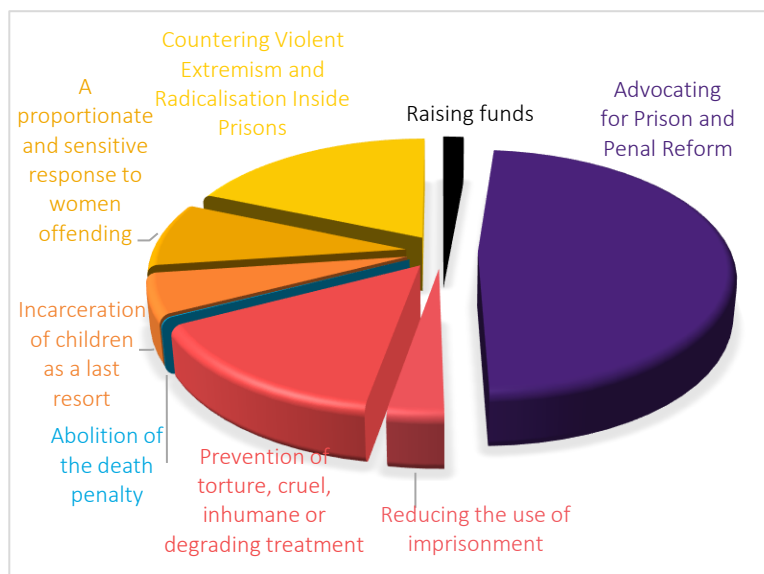
Philanthropic, universities, national organisations and others

| | |
|--|----------|
| Open Society Foundations | €250,808 |
| The Independent Commission for Human Rights, Palestine | €38,594 |
| Nottingham University | €20,362 |
| Particip Gmbh | €7,456 |
| Matrix Chambers | €5,078 |
| Other income | €4,754 |
| Women in Business, Georgia | €2,118 |
| Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice | €2,117 |
| Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust | €230 |

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Total | €5,038,655 |
|--------------|-------------------|

Financial Summary

PRI total expenditure 2018



| 2018 Expenditure | Direct costs | Support costs | Total |
|---|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Costs of generating income | 36,197 | 41,474 | €77,671 |
| Advocating for Prison and Penal Reform | 2,440,889 | 84,189 | €2,525,078 |
| Reducing the use of imprisonment | 154,978 | 5,346 | €160,324 |
| Prevention of torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment | 740,346 | 25,536 | €765,882 |
| Abolition of the death penalty | 4,445 | 154 | €4,599 |
| Incarceration of children as a last resort | 273,604 | 9,437 | €283,041 |
| A proportionate and sensitive response to women offending | 433,975 | 14,968 | €448,943 |
| Counteracting Violent Extremism and Radicalisation Inside Prisons | 939,894 | 32,417 | €972,311 |
| | | | €5,237,849 |

Who's who at PRI as of April 2019

Board members

Members of the Executive Board:

Prof Dirk Van Zyl Smit (Chairperson), *South Africa/UK*

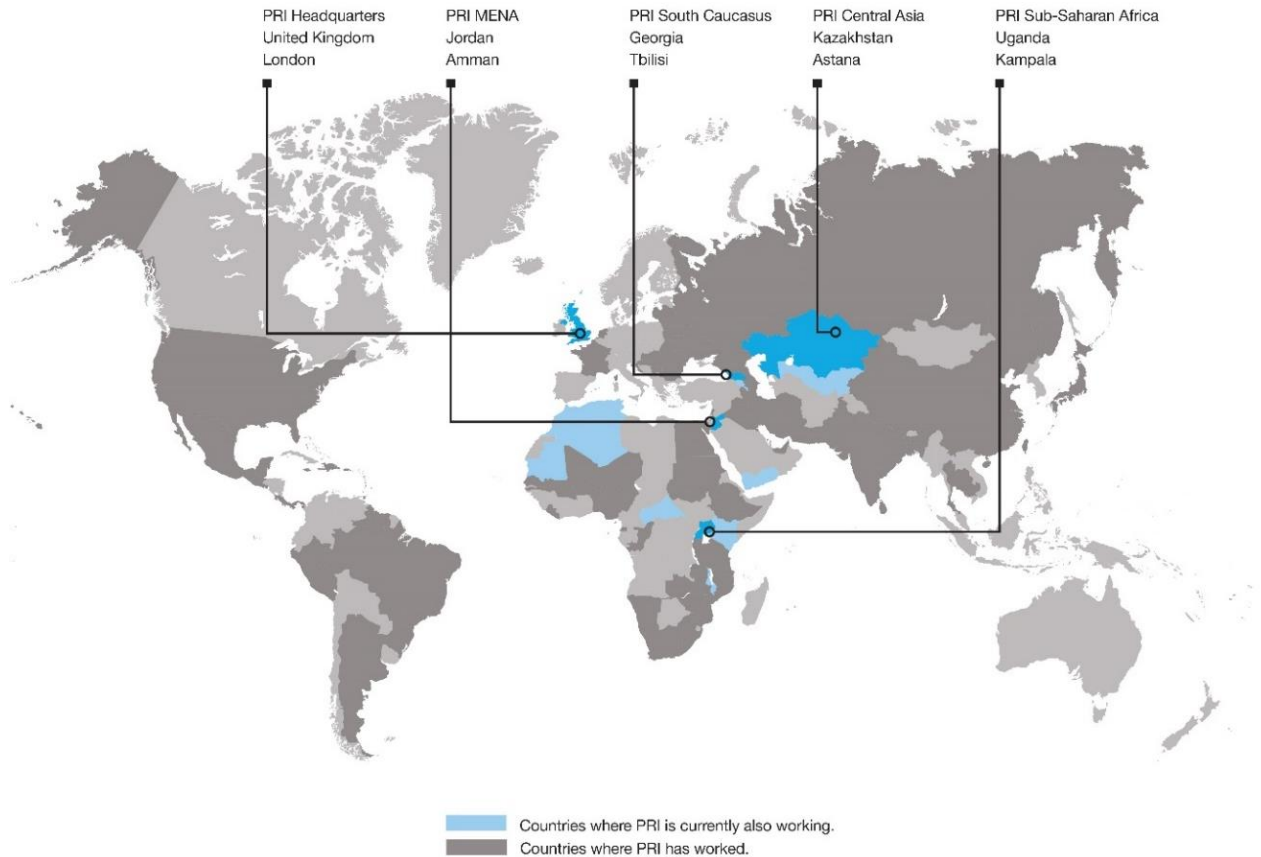
Justice Imman Ali (Secretary General), *Bangladesh*

Prof Anton van Kalmthout (Treasurer), *Netherlands*

Members of the Board:

Roselyn Karugonjo-Segawa, *Uganda* | Natalia Khutorskaya, *Russia* | Paula Litvachky, *Argentina*

David Fathi, *USA* | Dr Dmitry Nurumov, *Kazakhstan* | John Nyoka, *Tanzania* | Robert van Voren, *Lithuania*



Staff until April 2019

Florian Irminger, *Executive Director* (from September 2018)

Alison Hannah, *Executive Director* (until August 2018)

Head office London, United Kingdom

John Usher, *Head of International Finance*

Olivia Rope, *Policy and Programme Manager (partly on maternity leave)*

Vicki Prais, *Policy and Programme Manager (maternity cover)*

Vicky Smith, *Fundraising Manager*

Jane Rice, *Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer (partly on maternity leave in 2018)*

Graham Bennett, *Evaluation and Learning Officer (maternity cover)*

Marta Crowley, *Communication Officer*

Amal Imad, *Fundraising Officer*

Pauline Jobson, *Executive Officer*

Sabine Njikingoue, *Finance Officer*

Central Asia Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Azamat Shambilov, *Regional Director*

Jarkynay Usupova, *Deputy Director of PRI office in Kyrgyzstan*

Aigerim Azimova, *Project Coordinator*

Anel Tleukesh, *Project manager*

Yana Baiburina, *Media and Communication officer*

Meerim Zamirbekova, *Monitoring and Evaluation Manager*

Burulai Myrzakmetova, *Administrative and Finance Manager*

Astana, Kazakhstan

Zhanna Nazarova, *Deputy Regional Director*

Asset Zhaksybek, *Accountant*

Aidana Assykpayeva, *Project Coordinator*

Middle East and North Africa Amman, Jordan

Taghreed Jaber, *Regional Director*

Haitham Shibli, *Deputy Regional Director*

Muhammad Shabana, *Senior Projects Manager*

Huda Abu Atiyyeh, *Projects Manager*

Suha Hussein, *Communication Director*

Baha'a Akkad, *Administrative & Financial Manager*

Sanaa, Yemen

Adel Dabwan, *Head of Office*

Sami Al-Hazmi, *Project Manager*

Ahmad Al-Haidari, *Financial Officer*

Ghada Al-Nusairi, *Administrative Assistant*

South Caucasus Tbilisi, Georgia

Tsira Chanturia, *Regional Director*

Irene Gabunia, *Programme Manager*

Elene Gabelaia, *Programme Manager*

Mariam Kharaishvili, *Finance Manager*

Tamar Chanturia, *Administrative/Projects Assistant*

Sub-Saharan Africa Kampala, Uganda

Doreen Namyalo Kyazze, *Regional Programme Manager*

Goretti Nassali, *Finance Manager*

Rebecca Nakabugo, *Administration and Finance officer*

Jane Namulondo, *Research associate*

Ronald Kazibwe, *Project Officer*

Josephine Nsubuga, *Legal Officer*

Bangui, Central African Republic

Oscar Arzouma Ouedraogo, *Central African Republic Project Manager*

Special thanks to PRI's wonderful interns: Aisha Osman, Jaanki Patel, Rozelien Van Erdeghem and Katie Reade

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