

FAIR AND EFFECTIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Annual report

2019



Penal Reform International (PRI)

is a non-governmental organisation working globally to promote criminal justice systems that uphold human rights for all and do no harm. We work to make criminal justice systems non-discriminatory and protect the rights of disadvantaged people. We run practical human rights programmes and support reforms that make criminal justice fair and effective.

Criminal law, due process and detention practices play core, even emblematic, roles in human rights protection. The decade we are entering will determine whether the world is able to sustain and promote human rights, basic humanity, and international law. The health of criminal justice systems and conditions in prisons are essential indicators of the status of human rights in any country.

In 2019, we had programmes in Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, South Caucasus and Sub-Saharan Africa, and work with partner organisations in other regions, all complementary to our Policy Programme and our Governance and Strategy Programme, which have global reach.

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Our vision

“

Safe societies
worldwide in which
fair and effective
criminal justice systems
are non-discriminatory
and protect the rights of
disadvantaged people.

”

Cover photo © Carlos Jasso for Reuters, used by PRI for the cover of Global Prison Trends 2019. Yoga class inside a juvenile detention centre – part of a voluntary programme that uses yoga to reduce stress, violence and addiction amongst detainees in juvenile centres in Mexico City.

Message

from our Chairperson, Dirk van Zyl Smit

Normally, when one writes a message of this kind, one reads through the body of the Report, reflects on what stands out and then commends the work of PRI during the past year to the readers of the Report, while quietly asking for their support during the year to come.

This message is not being written in normal circumstances, but during the long Covid-19-induced lockdown. Yet the challenges of the immediate past not only continue to apply but are being magnified. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that the perennial problems of the penal process are more pronounced than ever in times of crisis. Prison overcrowding and poor conditions in prison are always an issue, but under current conditions they are literally deadly. It is always hard to engage the public in supporting restorative justice and community corrections, but now there is the additional problem that people fear to meet anyone, let alone convicted offenders who need active counselling and engagement to assist them in changing their behaviour.

Under these circumstances the contribution of PRI becomes more important than ever. What this 2019 report from PRI shows, is that its record justifies PRI in speaking authoritatively about penal matters. It has again put in the hard miles by contributing not only to the setting and propagating of international criminal justice standards, but also to the implementation of these standards in a range of countries that are not usually even considered in the literature on good penal practices. Among many

examples, of practical interventions, I would highlight the protection of children's rights in Algeria, the development of rehabilitation and reintegration services for women in Georgia and the initiatives to prevent torture and ill treatment in Uganda. The Global Prison Trends Report (produced together with the Thailand Institute for Justice) again gave PRI a strong platform for its international advocacy on a range of overarching issues, from life imprisonment to the implementation of the Bangkok Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners.

With this record, I have no difficulty in again commending the work of PRI to the readers of the 2019 Annual Report. During the pandemic, penal reform has become even more pressing and the work of PRI is more relevant than ever. While thanking you for working with us in 2019, I want to ask directly for your continued support in the coming year.



Message

from our Executive Director, Florian Irminger

In 2019, we celebrated our 30th anniversary and adopted our 2020-2023 strategy. We consolidated partnerships made in the past, yet set paths for PRI's future. We designed our strategy to be anchored in our 30 years of experience and to path the way for the next decade. We also launched PRI's new visual profile, which itself expresses continuity and reinvention.

At the time we published our strategy, we did not know that the first individuals affected with the novel coronavirus, Covid-19, were being admitted to hospitals in Hubei Province, China. Since then, over 21 million are reported to have been infected globally and the planet counts over 760,000 deaths from Covid-19. More than 120,000 cases have been recorded in prisons and over 1,700 people reported cases of people in detention having died from Covid-19.

Our values guided the way we worked since the outbreak of Covid-19 – our outmost priority has been to prevent PRI's staff members across the globe from exposure to risks of contamination due to work. We proactively took protective measures and our incredibly dedicated team remained steadfast committed to criminal justice reform and promoting human rights for people in prison.

Do no harm, equality, transparency and humanity are values that should also guide the criminal justice sector's response to coronavirus. Instead, we saw governments struggling to contain the virus in places

of detention, putting the lives of both people in prison and the general population at risk.

In 2019 we set the tone for the coming decade and started – in particular thanks to new donors joining PRI – developing work in areas that will affect criminal justice systems more and more. Given that the effects of climate change are likely to increase in frequency and scale, we started our work on the protection of persons in detention who are at risk from natural disasters. In other areas of our strategy, we must invest more attention and resources, such as the use of technology, IT and artificial intelligence in criminal justice systems.

PRI has been able to navigate through the outbreak of Covid-19, including with emergency responses to the virus in Central Asia, Central African Republic, Georgia, Jordan and Uganda. We feel equipped to respond to the challenges in the years ahead, as we will be working on the long-term consequences of Covid-19, thanks to our 2020-2023 strategy. The priorities we set for ourselves echo the needs of criminal justice systems highlighted with this pandemic, such as a particular concern for vulnerable individuals and a focus on the right to health and healthcare in prison.

We hope the present annual report gives justice to all the hard work of our team, our friends, and our partners around the globe. We thank you for your support and trust.

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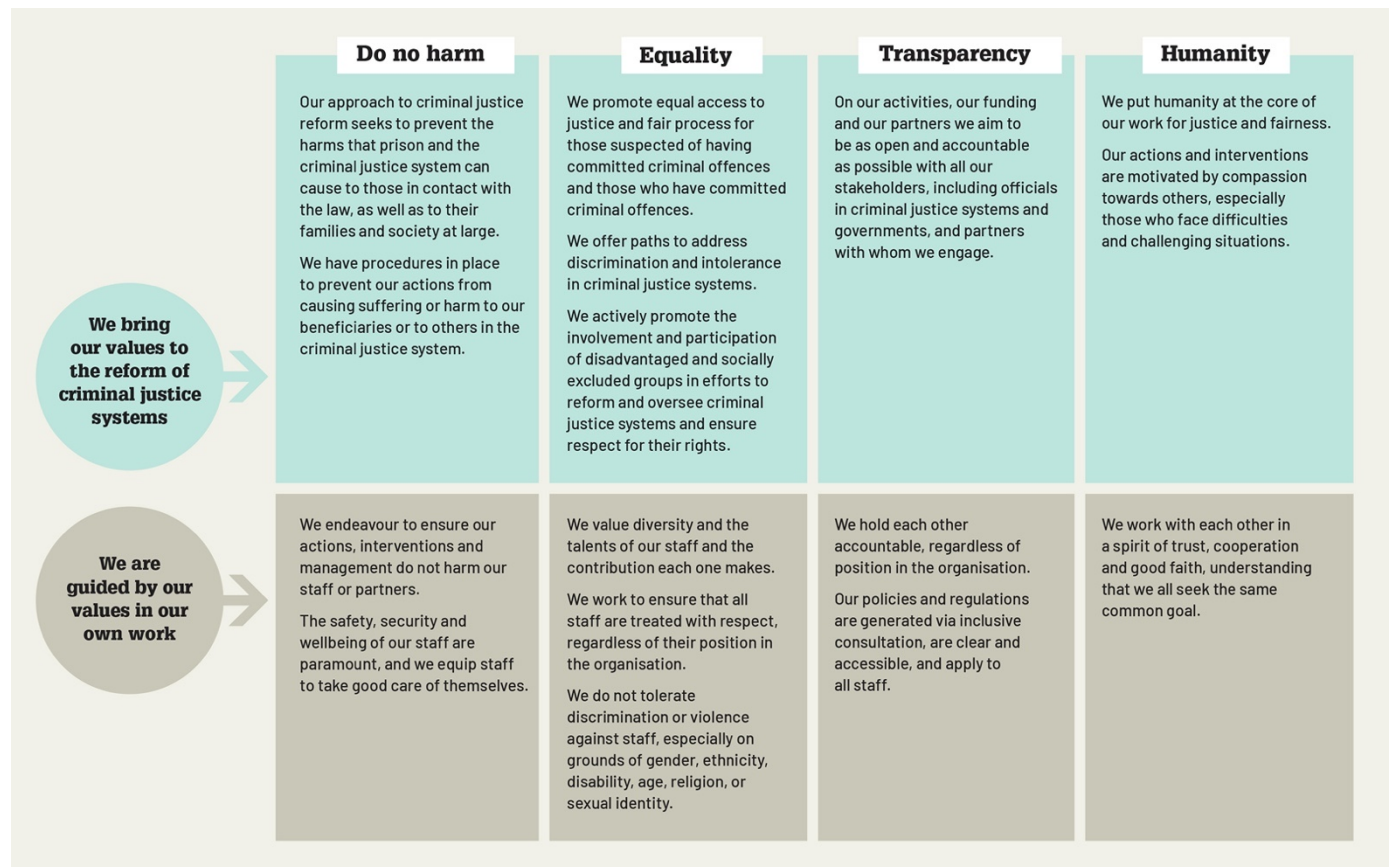
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FAIR AND EFFECTIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Our values

Our values inform how we approach criminal justice reform and set the tone for how we function internally as an organisation. Our values can be understood in terms of **our own definition of good governance**.



30 years

PRI celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2019. Over its 30 years of existence, we have worked in over 90 countries, and have many successes that we can be proud of:

- We paved the way for the adoption of the Bangkok Rules by the United Nations to make justice gender sensitive
- We were an initiator of and contributor to the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners by the United Nations in 2015
- We have been part of the global fight for abolition of the death penalty
- We introduced community service in Zimbabwe
- We supported the creation of the special rapporteur of prisons and conditions in detention in Africa
- We worked in Lebanon and Morocco to introduce non-custodial alternatives
- We built a comprehensive strategy to address the spread of tuberculosis in Kazakhstan
- We hosted the first roundtable on preventing radicalisation in prisons with experts from 15 countries
- We piloted a gender-sensitive approach to the delivery of community sanctions in Kenya



2020-2023 strategy

On the 30th anniversary, we also launched a new strategy for 2020-2023.

The strategy sets the tone and aims to respond to what we see as new challenges arising in the next decade. At the heart of the strategy are the people in contact with the criminal justice system especially at-risk populations who require a distinct approach to ensure the protection of their human rights. We will be promoting specific approaches in the criminal justice system which take better account of the specific needs of populations put at risk in the criminal justice system.

The new strategy is ambitious and challenges us to address crucial issues and emerging trends in the criminal justice system. These include challenging life sentences, abolition of the death penalty, protection of persons in detention who are at risk from natural disasters, the right to health, removing or reforming laws that target poor and socially excluded populations and technology, IT and artificial intelligence.



How

we work

Human rights standards

We analyse, make recommendations and advocate for principled and fair standards to be developed and adopted internationally and regionally. We promote their implementation nationally and through international monitoring.

Systems & institutions

We support new systems, institutions and practices, which are tailored to the specific country context, through engaging with policymakers and agents of the criminal justice system.

Sustainability

We have a reputation for staying the course in a field where progress can be slow, and use practical projects to demonstrate best practice to advocate for sustainable policy changes.

Monitoring & accountability

We support the capacity, visibility, and political weight of independent monitoring and human rights mechanisms as we believe that national and international monitoring helps to secure accountability.

Partnerships

We engage stakeholders across the criminal justice system, build collaboration with government agencies while upholding our independence, and develop a catalysing relationship with civil society.

Policy development

We engage with policymakers and prison and probation authorities seeking to reform legislation, policy and practice, and bring them in line with international human rights standards.

Learning

Using and analysing data collected through our regional programmes and project evaluations informs our next steps, convinces policymakers to sustain reforms and helps build cohesion across the organisation.

Proximity to contexts

Through our presence in many regions and countries, we are close to national contexts, allowing us to develop and maintain relations with policymakers, prison and probation authorities and civil society.

Research

Our research helps us to understand the current situation, convince policymakers, and develop recommendations appropriate to the specific country, region and context.

2019

Highlights

Central African Republic

In cooperation with the Burkina Faso Penitentiary Service, we trained civilian prison staff who will go onto train a new cohort of 300 civilian prison officers who will manage the new civilian penitentiary administration in Central African Republic.

Uganda

We delivered a number of training courses for prison staff and high-level officials to prevent torture and ill-treatment as well as promote the application of fair and effective criminal investigations and trials of people detained.

Georgia

We reactivated a network of civil society organisations called the Alliance for Penal and Probation Reforms in Georgia to coordinate policy and advocacy responses to government planned reforms of the criminal justice system.

Global Prison Trends

We published the fifth edition of our annual series examining trends in imprisonment and criminal justice practices around the world

Algeria

PRI has reinforced the visibility and capacity of the Child Protection Commission Office (CPCO) to ensure better safeguard of children's rights.

Life imprisonment

We gained high-level support from the Assistant Secretary General and UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights level on the use of life imprisonment. Our advocacy led to the inclusion of commentary on life sentences in the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on death and serious injury of persons deprived of liberty. Subsequently, due to traction gained with Austria, who led on the UN Human Rights Council resolution on administration of justice, we were able to link overincarceration and prison overcrowding with life imprisonment sentences and issue recommendations.



Central Asia

The capacity of government officials was strengthened, with 150 attendees at the Central Asian Dialogue Conference in Almaty in October exchanging best practice and developing recommendations for the promotion of alternatives measures to detention in the region.

Yemen

PRI improved the capacity of the female police unit through a roundtable attended by top representatives of the Interior Ministry, the head of the female police unit, and the Human Rights Minister, who highlighted the importance of such a unit to end gender-based discrimination in criminal justice systems.

Georgia

Our work led to strengthened cooperation between government agencies and non-governmental organizations which led to improved contact between mothers in prison and their children being looked after in the community. This achievement also contributed to tackling stigmatizing attitudes towards mothers in prison.

Central Asia

In Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan we support improvements to probation services and support governments in gaining a better understanding of how they can help to eradicate torture and ill-treatment in places of detention, increase chances of effective rehabilitation and reduce recidivism. PRI also promotes inter-regional cooperation and learning, as well as sharing of best practices.

Kazakhstan

In October we held the second Central Asian Dialogue on reducing the prison population and developing the probation service in Almaty. The event was attended by 150 persons, including representatives of the prison system, probation offices, the prosecutor's office, and the Ombudsman Office. Participants exchanged best practice on probation services development and listened to recommendations by experts from the UK, Georgia, and Poland.

We also continued our Capstone Project working alongside law students to increase access to justice by helping them conduct research on various human rights issues in Kazakhstan through a competition. We also held a study trip to the Netherlands to meet and exchange with representatives from the Dutch Probation Service, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Utrecht University teaching staff members and students, local NGOs and international organizations, as well as visit two detention facilities in the Netherlands.



Kyrgyzstan

Throughout 2019, we continued to raise awareness and support the implementation of torture prevention mechanisms. We held various high-level and public events to put torture on the agenda and increase public awareness of its existence and authorities' understanding of need for proper preventive mechanisms. In March, we held the first public talk on "how to eradicate torture" in the region of Bishkek. More than 300 people from across the region attended, as well as state bodies, non-governmental organisations, international organisations, and civil society activists. The event was the first of its kind in the region and allowed both the public of Kyrgyzstan and governmental bodies to openly discuss issues of torture prevention and reforms of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In June, we support a campaign as part of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture called '26 Days against Torture'. Over 26 days, various events and activities were held to draw attention to the issue of torture including distribution of leaflets on public transport networks in Bishkek, launch of educational videos on torture and the work of the National Centre for the Prevention of Torture (NCPT), a photo exhibition at various universities in Bishkek and training workshops for NCPT staff.

In December, we held the National Forum "Human Rights in the Criminal Justice System", to coincide with International Human Rights Day. The forum served as a platform to start a conversation about the issues faced by vulnerable groups (women, children, older people and people with disabilities), and occurrences of torture and ill-treatment in places of detention. Over 100 participants attended and took part in the forum, including representatives of the State Service for the Execution of Punishment, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Governmental bodies, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Supreme Court, the Bar Association and civil society.

We worked with the Ministry of Health to build the capacity building of medical experts from state bodies on the Istanbul Protocol and Nelson Mandela Rules to ensure that they are aware of their duties when it comes to identifying and documenting suspected cases of torture.

PRI also provided expert support to the Probation Service including legislative analysis and harmonization of the legislation and the state plan on anti-corruption. Pilot probation programmes in Bishkek and Issyk-Kul oblasts were implemented for children and former detainees beginning in September 2019. Following these pilot programmes, all the children who participated were removed from the list of juvenile inspection of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Tajikistan

PRI supported the successful delivery of Tajikistan's first Penitentiary Forum held in November 2019, which was attended by 150 participants from different government departments, human rights and civil society organisations, and international agencies. The forum was used as a platform for developing the criminal justice system in Tajikistan and included discussions on best national and international practices. Recommendations that were made in the forum have now been approved by the Government and the President's Office has requested that the relevant departments begin their implementation. The forum was seen as a historic moment in Tajikistan because it kick-started large-scale prison reforms aiming to safeguard the human rights of people in prison.

A study of best practices in Central Asian countries shows that we should be reducing the number of people who are serving sentences in prisons in the Republic of Tajikistan. It is necessary to use alternative measures to imprisonment by creating a probation service. This will allow those who have committed less serious crimes to compensate society and victims, without the need to go to prison.

Mansurjon Umarov, Tajik Deputy Minister of Justice

PRI also launched rehabilitation programmes in closed institutions for women and children to provide psychological and social support. We helped train more than 55 prison staff on better management and implementation of rehabilitation programmes for at-risk detainees with a specific focus on risk and needs assessment procedures. As a result, over 60 women and children in prison are benefitting from the rehabilitation programmes which were introduced.

Uzbekistan

In 2019 we continued engaging with state bodies in the Republic of Uzbekistan to help implement comprehensive measures to improve sentencing, protect the rights of detainees, and increase the effectiveness of educational and rehabilitation programmes.

In April 2019, we held expert consultations on the roll out of the National Preventative Mechanism (NPM) in Uzbekistan with leaders from Ombudsman Offices in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan who shared their experiences and the best practices and tools used by their NPMs. This was hugely beneficial for the roll out of Uzbekistan's NPM and we developed a roadmap with all the necessary steps for a successful launch. The provisions for Uzbekistan's NPM have been approved by the Government and the Ombudsman's Office is currently implementing measures to ensure and maintain efficiency in the mechanism. To build the capacity of the new NPM, we trained 329 Ombudsman and law enforcement representatives throughout Uzbekistan on international standards for monitoring closed institutions where adults and children are deprived of their liberty.



We helped train 93 probation officers on the principles and practices of probation, types of probation models and related issues of law enforcement. We also organised a study visit to the UK for representatives from Uzbekistan to understand how probation is managed and implemented there. Participants acknowledged the importance of international cooperation and learning and reported that they were seeking to implement some of what they learned.

Representatives of the Ombudsman Office took part in a regional summer school which focused on conducting rehabilitation programmes in closed facilities and the role of prison staff in the re-socialisation of detainees. This event was also attended by representatives of the prison systems of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Representatives shared best practices from each country and learned about the rehabilitation process.



PRI's Executive Director, Florian Irminger (right), with the Ombudsman of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Mamytov Tokon, in March 2019. The Ombudsoffice is an important partner of PRI in Kyrgyzstan.

Middle East and North Africa

In **Algeria**, we are supporting improvements to the management of the prison system and adherence to human rights standards and continuing to assist the work of the child rights commissioner. In **Yemen** we are helping the development of the female police officers' unit, building the capacity of prison staff and working to promote and mainstream human rights standards within the penitentiary system.

Algeria

Building on our 2018 achievements, we helped to strengthen the relationship and trust between the Child Protection Commission Office (CPCO), which receives 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, and the citizens of Algeria. This involved promoting the CPCO through advocacy and awareness raising campaigns among key civil society influencers, such as civil society representatives, the media, and personalities from arts and sports. As a result, there was an 41% increase in claims received by the helpline. This is demonstrative of a real shift in public perception and increase in trust in the work that the CPCO carries out.



We also delivered a five-day training of trainers course in May 2019, which was attended by 26 members of staff of the CPCO. The aim of the course was to equip participants with the necessary skills to properly set priorities in order to reach their strategic goal, as well as introducing them to principles of strategic planning.

The training course delivered by Penal Reform International is of added-value to the Commissioner as it is directly aligned with the commissioner's priorities. The CPCO will use the skills gained through the Training of Trainers course to develop the final version of its strategic plan for 2019-2021.

Mariam Al-Shorafi, Head of the Child Protection Commission Office

In June we worked alongside the CPCO to conduct a three-day training course on international standards on children's rights and the role of CPCO in protecting these rights. The course was attended by 42 participants, which included networks in support of the CPCO, civil society organisations, and personalities from the arts and sports, who reported that the three-day course had positively impacted their knowledge and understanding of the CPCO's role.

In July, we conducted a training of trainers workshop for the management of the prison department, which aimed to increase their knowledge and skills about the importance of strategic planning in achieving prison reform. The workshop was attended by 27 participants who expressed willingness to pass their knowledge to their peers, ensuring that the new methodologies and procedures are understood and used at all levels of the prison department.

Yemen

PRI has been working to enhance peace and security efforts in Yemen since 2014. In 2019 we improved the capacity of the Interior Ministry's female police unit, in an effort to break down the barriers preventing women from reporting crimes through increased representation and capacity of women in law enforcement. A roundtable was organised in February in Malaysia to discuss the role of the unit and its expectations and was attended by 17 participants, including senior representatives of the Interior Ministry, the head of the female police unit, and the Human Rights Minister. Participants highlighted the importance of the existence of the female police unit for Yemeni women who are in contact with the criminal justice system.



PRI also organised ten workshops for prison officers on prison management and the management of high security detainees, including courses on prison management skills, anti-corruption measures, promoting rehabilitation programmes as a way to disengage from radicalisation, promoting diversity of religion and religious dialogue, addressing the risk of radicalisation in prison, and working in a conflict-affected context. Key international standards such as the Mandela and Bangkok Rules were used throughout the workshops. At least 70% of the workshop participants stated that they felt more confident in their ability to manage prisons and to understand human rights-related issues within places of detention as a result of the training.



PRI's Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa, Taghreed Jaber speaking at the Jordanian Conference on National Strategies for the Protection of the Child, organised with the Public Security Directorate – Juvenile Police Department and the National Council for Family Affairs, under the patronage of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Jordan, Dr Omar Al-Razzaz, in March 2019.

South Caucasus

PRI's work in the South Caucasus focuses on building the capacity and promoting the involvement of civil society in the criminal justice system.

Women in the criminal justice system

In Georgia we concluded a project addressing the needs of women in the criminal justice system. Our work has focused on addressing the rehabilitative needs of women, and their children, who have experienced violence, discrimination and stigma.

We supported the creation of a Child Development Centre for children under three living with their mothers in prison and helped recruit a psychologist to work with the children and their mothers on their development. The psychologist also provided some caretaking support which allowed mothers to take part in rehabilitation programmes run by the prison. The child development centre includes a training room and a playground. We also renovated the mother and baby unit's kitchen and furnished the unit with children's toys and outdoor playground equipment and plants. An official opening of the Centre was held on 4 April, with representatives from state agencies, civil society, international organizations and embassies invited.



National standards to provide guidelines for the Child Development Centre for children under the age of three were developed based on international guidelines and best practices of other countries with the aim to improve the current practice of safeguarding and supporting children of imprisoned parents, improve the knowledge and awareness of prison personnel and improve their ethical and professional standards. The guidelines were submitted to the Ministry of Justice for their approval.

Through the help of local NGO partners we provided various support services to women who had been in prison and those serving probation sentences and their children. Psycho-social support including facilitating contact between mothers and their children, working with relevant agencies involved in alternative childcare (foster care, small family homes), identifying homeless women and referring them to the shelter supported by this project, promoting women's inclusion in a Hepatitis C treatment programme, enrolling women in the state health insurance programme, referring children for additional specialist/neuropsychologist where needed, identifying and referring women with

health problems to medical services and inpatient treatment and care, facilitating the process of restoring property or obtaining housing documentation, identifying basic needs of the women and their children (food, clothing, hygiene products, etc.) and provision of additional educational and developmental materials for children with additional needs.

Strengthened cooperation between government agencies and non-governmental organisations led to the recovery of contact between mothers in prison and their children being looked after in the community. This achievement also contributed to tackling stigmatized attitudes towards this group and disrupt the beliefs that women in prison are bad mothers. Cooperation with the Probation Bureaus and the Crime Prevention Centre was also effective with social workers in these agencies providing timely referrals to women, which significantly increased the effectiveness of psycho-social services provided.

Oversight and monitoring

Throughout 2019, we have been implementing a project to improve civil society monitoring and oversight of reforms in the Georgian criminal justice system to ensure that they are in line with international and regional human rights standards and that they are being implemented properly.

The project has had a number of successes including reactivating a network of civil society organisations, first formed in 2013, called the Alliance for Penal and Probation Reforms in Georgia to coordinate policy and advocacy responses to government planned reforms of the criminal justice system. The Alliance has played a major role in conceptualising what the main challenges are in Georgia's penal and probation systems and how national strategies can tackle them. Currently, the Alliance is moving towards a role of monitoring and oversight of the national strategies to guarantee that the interests of the beneficiaries are adequately addressed in the respective action plans, budget allocations, and specific programmes implemented by the Georgian Government. PRI continues to strengthen and expand the network of the Alliance, build capacity of its members through thematic training, and use it as a platform for raising issues and advocating changes in penal and probation systems.

We obtained approval from the Advisory Board of the Ombudsman to monitor four prisons under the National Preventative Mechanism (NPM) mandate in December 2018. The main areas which PRI wanted to investigate were the rehabilitation process of prisoners, disciplinary proceedings and risk assessment procedures, working conditions for the prison staff and quality and timeliness of medical services.

In June 2019, we held a second advocacy training event for the members of the Alliance to engage them in human rights policy dialogue and discussions with the authorities surrounding key issues in the criminal justice system, which were revealed through monitoring and analysis of current policies and action plans. The event saw the introduction of the advocacy planning framework, key concepts, tools, and approaches used for the joint response mechanism, and the role of alliances and networks in advocacy. The members presented action plans for what they wanted to achieve over the next two years.

PRI held public discussions and four roundtable events which were attended by speakers from the Ministry of Justice, Special Penitentiary Service, the Ombudsman's Office, academia, and Alliance members. The discussions took place

throughout 2019 and focused on an array of topics: prison monitoring, prisoner contact with the outside world, probation system reforms, the rehabilitation of prisoners, disciplinary proceedings and penitentiary budget issues. The participants from the Government spoke in detail about the plans embedded in the new strategy and the action plan for 2019-20, while the Ombudsman's Office gave an overview of the practical challenges related to the current situation in Georgian prisons.

Alongside the Rehabilitation Initiative for Vulnerable Groups and with the help from invited researchers, we finalised a comprehensive analysis of Georgian legislation in both penal and probation fields against a body of applicable international standards. The eight desk projects were published in 2019 on the following topics, healthcare legislation, prison personnel, disciplinary proceedings, rehabilitation services, classification and risk assessment, state budgetary allocations, contact with the outside world, and appeal procedures. The findings of the projects were used as a starting point for analysis of sectoral strategies and action plans. In total, ten alternative progress reports were developed by this large project, which is reflective of the status of reforms, existing challenges, and policy recommendations.





PRI's Regional Director for South Caucasus, Tsira Chanturia (centre) hosting an event to present findings of a research on prison staff in Georgia (working conditions, remuneration, social guarantees, etc.), as part of civil society oversight over penitentiary reforms. Pictures with Natalia Tsagareli and Anton Kelbakiani from the Rehabilitation Initiative for Vulnerable Groups, June 2019.

Sub-Saharan Africa

In 2019, we worked in **Uganda** to prevent torture and ill-treatment as well as promote the application of fair and effective criminal investigations and trials of people detained. In **Central African Republic**, we coordinated the implementation of a strategy for the demilitarisation of the prison system.

Uganda

PRI conducted a pioneering police training course on investigative interviewing and international human rights standards for police officers using the 'PEACE model' – a practice promoted by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and adopted in a number of countries to replace confession-based interrogation methods, which can lead to coercion and torture. The participants found the training useful and committed to not only pass on the acquired knowledge to their colleagues back at their stations, but also pledged to implement the acquired skills in their work going forward. They all subsequently reported having changed their practices in conducting criminal investigations.



Magistrates from across the country were invited to a training course on best practices in the implementation of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act (PPTA) for the effective adjudication of torture cases. Senior judges shared their experiences, and discussions focused on issues such as expeditious handling of torture cases, identifying evidence of torture on suspects during hearings and active implementation of the PPTA while ensuring redress for the victims, and holding the perpetrators accountable through an increase in trials of torture cases. PRI also conducted a capacity building workshop for state attorneys in the Eastern region on handling and prosecution of torture cases, attended by 24 participants.

PRI conducted a training of trainers course for prison staff in Tororo, Eastern Uganda and Arua in West Nile on the detection and documentation of torture. The event attracted 30 prison staff from different regions in Uganda and raised awareness of the role prison staff must play in the prevention of torture. Participants later noted that occurrences of torture had greatly reduced, along with an increase in perpetrators being held accountable.

On International Human Rights Day, PRI launched its *Practice guide for defense lawyers representing individual facing the death penalty* as well as a research



study on the application of international fair trial standards in death penalty cases in Uganda. The participants shared their recommendations on the research findings and received copies of the report and practice guide. The launch was attended by both state and non-state actors involved in the Justice, Law and Order Sector, including judges, civil society organisations, members of the Uganda Law Society, police officers, the Uganda People's Defence Force, Democratic Governance Facility, private lawyers and members of the media.

Central African Republic

PRI has been working in the Central African Republic since December 2017, working with the UN Peacekeeping Force in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to develop and implement a strategy to demilitarise the country's prison system. In January 2019, the strategy was endorsed by the Prime Minister of CAR, Simplicie Sarandji and PRI is now coordinating its implementation with the penitentiary administration, government ministries, national and international stakeholders and corrections experts.

Central African Republic has been in a civil war since 2012 and as a result has experienced extreme instability, inter-ethnic and inter-communal violence, as well as the targeting of civilians. The government lacks full control over all of the country's territory and there is also fierce competition for resources and mistrust between government agencies making stability and reforms difficult to progress. Consequently, the penitentiary administration faces serious challenges to the maintenance and proper management of its prison system.

The strategy, which addresses the current deficiencies of the penal system and aims to help it meet international human rights standards in prison is now being implemented by government committees with day-to-day support from PRI. The committees, which were established in July 2019, include the technical secretary which is the administrative organ, the technical committee which coordinates exchange of information and dialogue on the development and implementation of the strategy's action plans and the steering committee which oversees the implementation of the sectoral policy. These last two committees comprise senior officials from the penitentiary administration as well as from key line ministries, representatives from CAR civil society, international NGOs and UN agencies.

This inclusive approach to the implementation of the strategy was also a feature of the strategy's drafting and is a significant achievement for a divided country like CAR with weak governance structures where collaboration between state actors cannot be assumed.

PRI also supported the training of civilian prison staff by conducting a training of trainer's programme with the involvement of the Burkina Faso Penitentiary Service. These newly trained officers will in turn train a new cohort of 300 civilian prison officers.





PRI's Regional Manager for Africa, Doreen Namyalo Kyazze, speaking at the 7th World Congress against the Death Penalty in Brussels, Belgium in February 2019.

International advocacy

Our international policy programme frames our approach to implementing the objectives set out in our strategy, leads our international advocacy and co-operates with regional and country programmes to transform practical reform projects into systemic change nationally.

Life imprisonment

PRI has been the only international NGO advocating on the issue of life imprisonment. A focus on the human rights impacts of life sentences among UN bodies and member states at both Geneva and New York levels led to several accomplishments, not least as nothing has been issued by the UN on the topic since 1994. We gained high-level support from the Assistant Secretary General and Head of Rule of Law at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights level. Advocacy also led to the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on death and serious injury of persons deprived of liberty including some commentary on life sentences. Due to traction gained with Austria, who led on the UN Human Rights Council resolution on administration of justice linked overincarceration and prison overcrowding with life imprisonment sentences and issued recommendations. Several events were held at international forums, including the Congress on the abolition of the death penalty in Paris in early 2019. In addition to advocacy, PRI formed a coalition of civil society partners to work on life imprisonment. The group shared updates and developments relating to the sentence.

Children in conflict with the law

As a member of the NGO panel on the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty launch in 2019, we provided support throughout the research process and drafting – adding particularly our expertise to detention of children in relation to terrorism. The next steps will be to follow-up on the implementation of recommendations which firstly begins with supporting dissemination. We have publicised the study at the national and regional levels.

Prison conditions

PRI was instrumental in guiding the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the adoption process of a new UN Human Rights Council resolution on the administration of justice. PRI pushed for a resolution to address deaths in prison, and link the issue with sentencing, especially in regard to increasingly long and life-long sentences. Alongside the Open Society Justice Initiative and others, PRI hosted an event at the UN Crime Commission in May, followed by advocacy and events at the Human Rights Council, leading to the adoption of a resolution which spells out procedural safeguards to put in place and the need for investigations and accountability for all cases of deaths in prisons.



United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Andrew Gilmour meeting with PRI's Director of Policy and International Advocacy, Olivia Rope, and Executive Director, Florian Irminger, in October 2019.

Global Prison Trends

2019

On 21 May 2019 at the United Nations Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, we, alongside the Thailand Institute of Justice, launched our annual flagship publication [Global Prison Trends](#). In this fifth edition, Global Prison Trends examines trends in the use of imprisonment, prison populations (with a specific focus on at-risk populations), developments and challenges in prison management, the role of IT and new technology in criminal justice and prison systems, and the expansion of prison alternatives around the world. The publication included a special focus on healthcare in prison, an often-overlooked component of the prison system, which is today more relevant than ever. 21 recommendations based on the findings of the report are given, directed at prison administrations, governments, civil society and other criminal justice stakeholders. The publication included an infographic giving at a glance information and data about global imprisonment today.

The launch event in Vienna was attended by 24 delegates and approximately 150-200 copies were distributed over the two days of the Crime Congress. The report was also presented at separate events in Geneva, London, New York and Bishkek. The executive summary of the report was translated into Russian. The report was downloaded from PRI's website over 645 times (as of 30 April 2020).



More than
10 million

Men, women and children are
IN PRISON WORLDWIDE



CRIME
rates are in
DECLINE

BUT

PRISON POPULATIONS
are **INCREASING**

The number of
PEOPLE IN PRISON
increased by
+20%
between
2002 >>> 2015

The use of the
DEATH PENALTY
is **DECREASING**

BUT

this is linked to an
INCREASED USE in
LIFE SENTENCES

30%
of detainees are
AWAITING TRIAL,
presumed
innocent

Prisons are
OVERCROWDED
In at least
121 COUNTRIES

DRUG-RELATED
convictions
FAIL TO REDUCE
drug consumption or
drug-related crimes,
but **INCREASE**
prison
populations

OVERCROWDING
creates
INSANITARY and VIOLENT PRISON CONDITIONS
→ **HARMFUL** to prisoners' physical and mental wellbeing
→ impede **REHABILITATION**

The number of prisoners serving
LIFE SENTENCES
increased by
+84%
between
2000 >>> 2018

Worldwide, prisoners
disproportionately come
from **MARGINALISED**
and **POOR** backgrounds

Around the world
CHILDREN
are **DETAINED** or
LIVE in prison



The number of
WOMEN & GIRLS +53%
in prison
increased by
between
2000 >>> 2017

According to one UK study
95% of **CHILDREN**
become displaced from
the family home when a
MOTHER goes to prison

WOMEN PRISONERS
are often harshly
sentenced for
1 MORALITY CRIMES
2 DRUG OFFENSES



BUT

PRISONS that cater
for a predominantly male
prison population are
ILL-EQUIPPED to
address the needs of
women prisoners

- Lack of gender-specific healthcare:**
→ Increased risk of ill-health
- Inadequate or non-existent rehabilitation opportunities:**
→ Reinforced discrimination
→ Higher risk of reoffending

A high proportion of women prisoners:
• commit minor non-violent offences
• are driven to offend due to poverty
• are victims of abuse
• have mental health and/or drug-related issues

Causing them long-term
PSYCHOLOGICAL and PHYSICAL HARM

- Compromised cognitive development
- Post-traumatic stress
- Increased suicide risk

A growing number of
CHILDREN are being detained
in the context of
COUNTER-TERRORISM
operations



In many countries
PRISONERS
are still
PREVENTED



from having regular
CONTACT
with the
OUTSIDE WORLD

STAFF SHORTAGES
and budget cuts in many
countries have led to an increase in

VIOLENCE
in prison, where
STAFF ARE AT RISK
for their physical and
mental wellbeing



Female prison officers
are a minority and many
face **HARASSMENT**
at work, both from
prisoners and other staff

Death in prisons:
SUICIDE
is the single most
common cause

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT



is still
WIDELY USED
despite its severe
detrimental effect
on mental health

TORTURE



and degrading
treatment of prisoners
is **PREVALENT**
in many countries

SUBSTANDARD prison conditions and
POOR TREATMENT of prisoners leads to serious



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Tools

Publications and resources

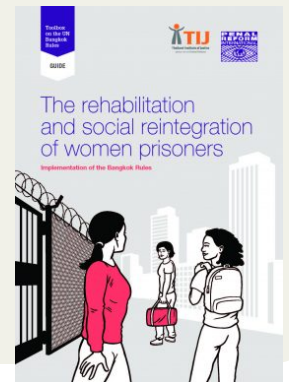
Global Prison Trends 2019

The fifth edition of our flagship publication Global Prison Trends which examines developments and challenges to prison policy and practice around the world. It includes a special focus section on health and wellbeing in prisons and the challenges prison face in preventing disease, promoting health and identifying physical and mental health needs for the benefit of individuals in prison, staff and communities as a whole.



Rehabilitation and social reintegration of women prisoners

[Guide to the rehabilitation and social reintegration of women prisoners: Implementation of the Bangkok Rules](#). The guide illustrates the importance of good social rehabilitation programmes for women in prison and examples of promising practices from around the world. Developed in partnership with the Thailand Institute of Justice, this guide aims to provide practical guidance for prison management, staff, policy makers, and others involved in the criminal justice system.



Research on probation reforms in Georgia

Series of 21 reports on prison and probation reforms in Georgia as part of an EU-funded project. All publications are available [here](#).

Prevention of radicalisation in detention in Central Asia

Series of reports on [Rehabilitation of individuals sentenced for terrorism or violent extremism](#), [Women and children involved in violent extremism](#), and a [Practical Guide on monitoring prison facilities in which violent extremist offenders are held](#) as part of a project in Central Asia.

External evaluation on prison oversight in Georgia

External evaluation of PRI's project [Increasing Oversight over Georgia's Anti-torture Commitments and the Compliance with the International Standards](#) funded by OSF.

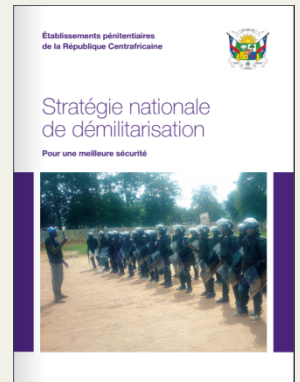
Research on Gender-specific needs of women victims of violence

[Research Study on Gender-Specific Needs of Women Victims of Violence, Stigma, and Discrimination in Conflict with the Law](#). Produced together with local partners, this report is based on a needs assessment of the women in the criminal justice system as well as the findings from focus group discussions with professionals from civil society organisations providing rehabilitation services. The report also provides analysis of policy and legislation in criminal justice.



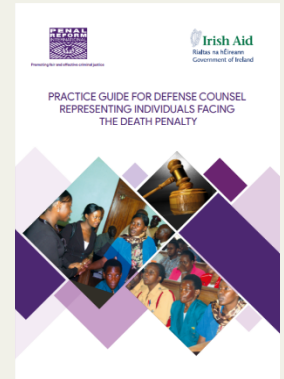
National Demilitarisation Strategy for Central African Republic

[Stratégie nationale de dé militarisation des établissements pénitentiaires de la République Centrafricaine](#) / [National Demilitarisation Strategy for Central African Republic](#). This strategy was prepared with the technical assistance of PRI and the Judicial and Penitentiary Affairs Section of the United Nations Integrated Multidimensional Mission for Stabilization in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). The aim of the strategy is to transfer responsibility for security matters from Central African Armed Forces (CAAF) and Internal Security Forces (ISF) prison staff to a large number of civilian prison staff trained in this specific role.



Practice Guide for Defense Counsel Representing Individuals Facing the Death Penalty

[Practice guide for defense counsel representing individuals facing the death penalty](#). This publication was produced as part of a PRI project aimed at assessing the application of international fair trial standards in death penalty cases in Uganda.



2020-2023 Strategy

PRI's new [2020-2023 Strategy](#), outlining our priorities for the next four years. The strategy came as PRI celebrated its 30th anniversary and takes bold approaches to promoting fairer and more efficient criminal justice systems. At its heart are the people in contact with criminal justice systems, more specifically at-risk populations, such as women, children, young adults, the LGBTQ population, older people, people without proof of identity and foreign nationals, and people with disabilities.



Tools

Online communications in 2019

Website hits

63,899 hits

Expert blog

Number of times our monthly blog series was viewed: **22,563**

Top blogs

[Suicide in prison: a new study on risk factors in the prison environment](#)

by Taanvi Ramesh (2,618)

[Growing Concern for Prison Overcrowding Among Human Rights Bodies](#)

Jessica Bullock (1,675)

[Life imprisonment: A practice in desperate need of reform](#)

by Katie Reade (1,530)

Downloads

PRI resources were downloaded **13,893** times.

Our top downloaded publications were:

[10-Point Plan to Address Prison Overcrowding](#)
(967 downloads)

[UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners](#) (Nelson Mandela Rules)
(932 downloads)

[UN Bangkok Rules on Women Offenders and Prisoners: a short guide](#)
(739 downloads)

[Global Prison Trends 2018](#)
(525 downloads)

[Global Prison Trends 2019](#)
(410 downloads)

Social media

Total **Twitter** followers: 5,356

Total **Twitter impressions**: 571,000

Total **Facebook** likes and followers: 30,168

LinkedIn followers: 1,676

Our donors in 2019

Governments

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom	1,176,279
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands	990,383
Democratic Governance Facility, Uganda	171,346
Embassy of Ireland in Uganda	27,034
Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Department of State, USA	16,253
Global Affairs Canada	7,610
Principality of Liechtenstein	1,144
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Department of State, USA	5

European Union

European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights	841,451
European Neighbourhood Instrument	300,767
European Union Neighbourhood and Partnerships Instrument	9,857
Development Cooperation Instrument	2,718

International organisations

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic	306,715
United Nations Development Programme	124,003

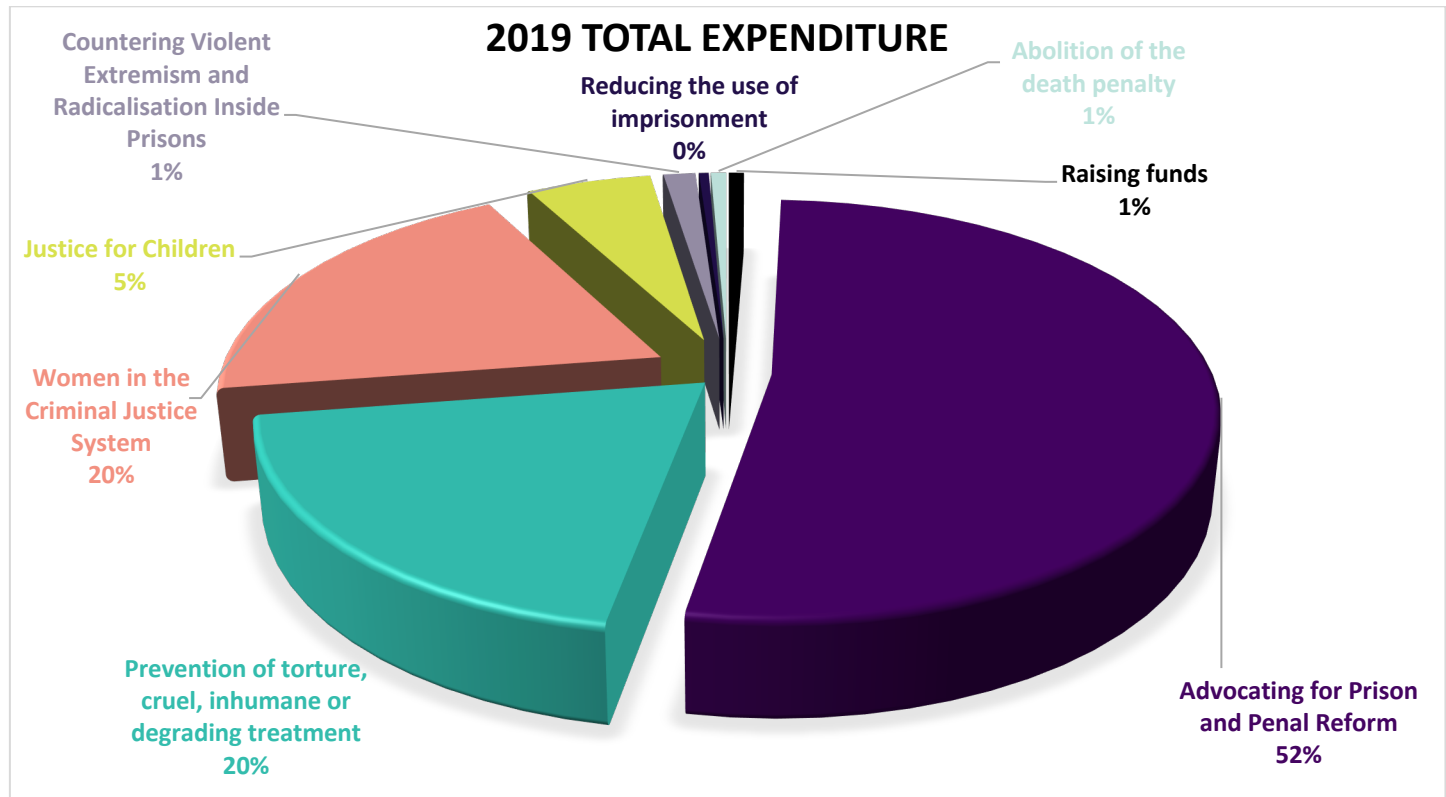
Philanthropic, national organisations and others

Open Society Foundations	167,815
Thailand Institute of Justice	75,392
Chance for Childhood	10,147
Women in Business Georgia	8,507
Individual donations	6,512
Better Community Business Network	3,207
Article 42 of the Constitution	1,066
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust	948
Linklaters	14
Other income	7,884

Total

€ 4,257,057

Financial summary for 2019



Expenditure in 2019

2019 Expenditure	Direct costs	Support costs	Total €
Costs of generating income	27,466	47,826	75,292
Advocating for prison and penal reform	2,217,041	112,091	2,329,132
Reducing the use of imprisonment	17,933	907	18,840
Prevention of torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment	833,544	42,143	875,687
Abolition of the death penalty	27,965	1,414	29,379
Justice for children	228,202	11,537	239,739
Women in the criminal justice system	831,815	42,055	873,870
Countering violent extremism and radicalisation inside prisons	58,695	2,968	61,663
Total expenditure			€ 4,503,602

Detailed accounts, with all of PRI's financial information, and a detailed overview of our expenditure and income, alongside our audit and post-audit reports are published online. They can also be requested by contacting us.

Our people

As of June 2020

Board members

Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit (Chair), *UK & South Africa*

Professor Anton van Kalmthout (Treasurer), *Netherlands*

Justice Imman Ali (Secretary General), *Bangladesh*

David Fathi, *USA*

Dr Catherine Appleton, *UK*

Michelle Carpentier, *Canada*

Suzanne Jabbour, *Lebanon*

Roselyn Karugonjo-Segawa, *Uganda*

Dr Natalia Khutorskaya, *Russia*

Paula Litvachky, *Argentina*

Erika Marseille, *Netherlands*

John William Nyoka, *Tanzania*

Dr Dmitry Nurumov, *Kazakhstan*

Professor Robert van Voren, *Lithuania*

Management Team

Florian Irminger, Executive Director

Taghreed Jaber, Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa

John Usher, Director of Finance and Operations

Tsira Chanturia, Regional Director for South Caucasus

Olivia Rope, Director of Policy and International Advocacy

Azamat Shambilov, Regional Director for Central Asia

until January 2020



PRI's Board meeting, May 2019

Policy Programme

Olivia Rope, Director of Policy and International Advocacy
Jeanne Hirschberger, Research Assistant

Regional and country programmes

PRI in Central Asia

Astana, Kazakhstan

Zhanna Nazarova, Regional Programme Manager
Asset Zhaksybek, Accountant
Aidana Assykpaveva, Project Coordinator

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Azamat Shambilov, Regional Director for Central Asia
until January 2020
Anel Tleukesh, Project Coordinator
Aigerim Azimova, Project Coordinator
Mederbek Ahmatov, Media Relations Manager

PRI in Middle East and North Africa

Amman, Jordan

Taghreed Jaber, Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa
Haitham Shibli, Deputy Regional Director
Muhammad Shabana, Senior Projects Manager
Huda Abu Atiyyeh, Projects Manager
Rawan Musharbash, Senior Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Baha'a Akkad, Administrative & Financial Manager
Yemen
Adel Dabwan, Head of Office
Sami Al-Hazmi, Project Manager
Ahmad Al-Haidari, Financial Officer
Ghada Al-Nusairi, Administrative Assistant

PRI in South Caucasus

Tbilisi, Georgia

Tsira Chanturia, Regional Director for South Caucasus
Mariam Kharaishvili, Finance Manager
Elene Gabelaia, Programme Manager
Tamar Chanturia, Project Manager

PRI in Sub-Saharan Africa

Kampala, Uganda

Doreen Namyalo Kyazze, Regional Manager for Africa
Patrick Lugunga, Finance Manager
Rebecca Nakabugo, Administration and Finance Officer
Jane Namulondo, Research Associate
Ronald Kazibwe, Project Officer
Josephine Namukasa, Legal Officer
Samson Nseko, Legal Officer
Allan Semalulu, Office Assistant
Bangui, Central African Republic
Oscar Arzouma Ouedraogo, Project Manager
Hubert Lionel Gotto, Office Assistant

Strategy and Governance Programme

John Usher, Director of Finance and Operations
Jane Rice, Strategy and Impact Manager
Pauline Jobson, Executive Officer
Arian Kola, Finance Officer
Marie Batbie, Fundraising and Programme Development Coordinator

Azamat Shambilov resigned from PRI with effect on 31 January 2020. We warmly thank him for his contribution to PRI in Central Asia, first as a Project Officer and since 2015 as Regional Director.



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