

Annual report 2020



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Message from our chair

COVID-19 changed everything – and nowhere were its effects more acutely felt than in prisons and other places of detention. Housing large numbers of people, many of them in poor health, in confined spaces, often with inadequate sanitation, ventilation, and healthcare, prisons are the perfect environment for the rapid and lethal spread of contagious disease.

As prisons around the world reeled from the onslaught of COVID-19, PRI was at the forefront of the response to this humanitarian disaster. We released guidance with practical recommendations to prisons and authorities to protect the health and human rights of incarcerated people. We provided practical support for prisons through our regional programmes, offering health and safety training and distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other critical supplies. And most importantly, we advocated for reduced imprisonment as the most effective public health response to COVID-19.

Despite the considerable operational and organisational challenges posed by COVID-19, PRI continued and expanded its pre-pandemic work. In April we launched the sixth edition of *Global Prison Trends*, the first-ever online launch of our flagship publication. In December, we convened a webinar marking the 10th anniversary of the UN Bangkok Rules, and published an analysis of the disturbing increase in the global female prison population.

And we relaunched our Europe programme with a project on promoting non-discriminatory alternatives to imprisonment for vulnerable and minority groups, which started in 2021.

In November 2020 we welcomed Olivia Rope as PRI's new Executive Director. Olivia is a longstanding member of the PRI staff, and we are delighted to have her in this leadership role. The past year also saw the retirement of three long-serving members of PRI's Executive Board, as their terms drew to a close: Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit (Chair), Professor Anton van Kalmthout (Treasurer), and Justice Imman Ali (Secretary-General). We thank them for their service and look forward to future collaboration.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown with unmistakable clarity that there is no iron curtain separating prisons from the rest of society. Incarcerated people remain a part of our communities, and their treatment both affects and reflects upon those communities. As we work toward a better world as we navigate out of the immediate crisis of the pandemic, the role of PRI is more important than ever.

Thank you for your support of PRI in this time of great challenges and great opportunities.

David Fathi

Message from our Executive Director

2020 was an unprecedented and challenging year but it was also one of opportunity for PRI and for criminal justice systems around the world.

We saw the onslaught of a global pandemic which rocked prisons and the criminal justice system especially – and how we worked. We foresaw the impact it would have on people in prisons and the likelihood it would spread very fast in cramped overcrowded conditions. As we said at the time and keep repeating, prisons around the world were already in crisis and few were capable of coping with such a disaster. While we witnessed many jurisdictions make releases, many made promises but did not take action or imposed significant limitations on who could be released. Those left in prison have faced harsh restrictions imposed to stem the spread of the virus, leaving people without visitation, rehabilitation activities, and effectively in isolation for most of the day.

The pandemic has provided an opportunity for wholesale reform, to reduce prison populations, reduce the overuse of imprisonment, and make sure prison sentences are used as a last resort and have rehabilitation and humanity at their heart. We endeavor to ensure that opportunity is taken.

The pandemic tested PRI as an organisation with much of our work relying on regional or international travel and in-person advocacy and practical work such as training. With these challenges it has revealed what we excel at: thought-leadership, innovation and flexibility.

We were one of the first international criminal justice organisations to respond, releasing analysis and recommendations on the effects of the pandemic in prisons. We advocated for the rights of people in prison, gave expert advice to governments, delivered PPE, soap and hand sanitiser and distributed guidance on how to prevent the virus's transmission.

We are now focused on examining the most urgent or less explored aspects of the pandemic on the criminal justice system. We are examining the impact of COVID-19 on alternatives to imprisonment and analysing the governance and decision making that affected prisons during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic as part of a wider programme on prisons during times of acute crisis.

I was appointed as PRI's new Executive Director in November 2020 having been at PRI since 2012 as a member of staff in the policy programme. I am extremely proud to lead PRI into 2021 and beyond having witnessed the true force and strength of our organisation and staff last year.

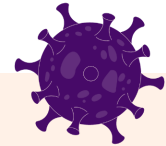
This annual report demonstrates the hard work of our team, and our partners around the globe during this challenging and unique year. We thank you for your continued support and trust in us.

Olivia Rope

COVID-19: Our Response

Early in the COVID-19 global pandemic, PRI envisaged the devastating impact it and measures to contain it would have on prison populations.

Places of detention could be some of the most vulnerable locations for its spread because they house people in proximity, are often cramped and overcrowded, have poor ventilation, lack good hygiene facilities and healthcare provision. People in prison already have poorer health than the general population, often with underlying and chronic health conditions making them especially susceptible to the impact of the virus. Although prisons are closed spaces, many people come and go every day: staff, visiting family members, lawyers, and those entering to start their sentence, being released or moved to another facility, potentially carrying the virus with them. However people in prison are often not a priority group for protection when it comes to emergency and crisis response from government agencies.



Rehabilitation programmes

In **Jordan** we helped establish a new employment opportunity for people in Al-Swaqa prison so they could contribute to COVID-19 efforts. People in prison were employed to manufacture sanitisation stations which were then distributed to the main entrances of police stations, police departments which deal with children in the criminal justice system and correction and rehabilitation centres.

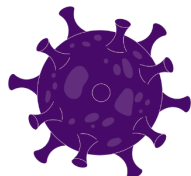
Monitoring

In **Georgia** we conducted detention monitoring visits in a prison in Tbilisi to assess the treatment and conditions of children, persons sentenced to life imprisonment and foreign nationals in the context of measures brought in to stem the spread of COVID-19.

The visits examined the impact of staff living on prison premises during the pandemic, social workers and psychologists no longer providing support, the initial ban and subsequent restriction of the contact with the outside world, judicial proceedings taking place online via video conference and a lack of education and other rehabilitation activities.

Advocating for emergency releases

In **Uganda**, PRI worked with authorities to assist in releases of people from prison, and provided assistance for transportation so they could get home to their communities.



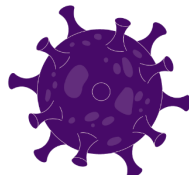
Raising awareness to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in prisons

In **Central African Republic, Jordan, Uganda and Yemen** we held a workshops for prison officers, medical staff and people in detention on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the risk of infection in closed spaces.

In the Central African Republic we involved an NGO with public health expertise to train the members of the newly created civil society platform to be able to conduct these workshops.

In Algeria, alongside prison medical staff we developed health protocols on scenarios when dealing with COVID-19 cases and created guidelines for staff dealing with the mental health of people in prison, focusing particularly on vulnerable groups (children, mothers imprisoned with their young children and older persons), and trained prison personnel on these guidelines.

For Jordan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, we printed posters with information on COVID-19 prevention measures for both prison staff and people in prison. The posters were made available in Arabic, Russian, Kazakh and Tajik.



Global Prison Trends

Our flagship publication **Global Prison Trends** was published in April 2020. The **online launch event** discussed the report's assessment of the systematic problems plaguing criminal justice systems worldwide that have increased the vulnerability of people in prison and staff to COVID-19 and PRI's call for a global reduction in prison



Blogs

We published three blogs in our expert blog series:

1. **Coronavirus and women in detention: A gender-specific approach missing**
2. **Prisons and COVID-19: how is the pandemic complicating how other emergencies are mitigated or prevented**
3. **Depopulate, Single Cell, Test: Finding the evidence base for strategies to control COVID-19 transmission in a large urban jail**

Publications

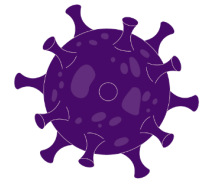
On 16 March 2020 we released our first of two briefing notes [Coronavirus: Healthcare and human rights of people in prison](#) which looked at the COVID-19 situation in prisons at that point and steps taken in response to the virus.

In July 2020 we published a second briefing [Coronavirus: Preventing harm and human rights violations in criminal justice systems](#), which, several months after the declaration of a global pandemic looked at the measures taken by prison and probation authorities around the world to stem the spread of the virus. The briefing included recommendations for ongoing response and longer-term systemic reform.



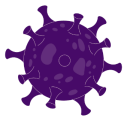
Improving communications for people in prison

We helped ensure that a [livestream](#) from the prison service in Kazakhstan, with detailed information on the current situation in prisons, was made available to the public. This allowed families and friends of detainees to monitor the situation closely.



Humanitarian aid

We delivered PPE, soap and hand sanitizer to prisons in **Algeria, Central African Republic, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Uganda and Yemen.**



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.

Central Asia

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

In April, PRI began a project to improve the criminal justice systems of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan bringing them in line with international human rights law and practices to establish fair treatment and humane conditions for individuals in contact with the law. PRI has conducted independent monitoring visits of closed institutions and police stations in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Monitoring visits to residential institutions for children in both countries revealed shortcomings in policy and practice in the prevention of torture, ill treatment and violence. Two stakeholder conferences were held in these countries to disseminate the findings of these monitoring visits. The recommendations are based on the commitments of the governments to ensure children's protection under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children. PRI analysed the internal documents of institutions of deprivation of liberty or restraint of liberty where children are held a view to bringing them in line with international norms and standards.

Three training of trainer workshops were held for prison staff, national prison experts and monitoring bodies on the promotion of international standards for the treatment of people in prison in Bishkek, Dushanbe and Tashkent. The workshops benefited from the expertise of the Vice-Chair of the UN Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture.

On December 11 an international conference was held in Tashkent on 'Digitalization of the Ombudsman's Activities:

Innovative Mechanisms for Ensuring and Protecting Human Rights and Freedoms', coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the Ombudsman Institute of the Republic of Uzbekistan and International Human Rights Day. Participants at the conference heard about and discussed the experience of the National Human Rights Institutions of Central Asia during the COVID-19 pandemic, the introduction of modern information technologies, the experience of interacting with citizens and the role of NHRIs in protecting the rights of vulnerable groups of the population: using innovative methods of work. The conference was attended by representatives of state bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Commissioners for Human Rights of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Qatar, Turkey, Poland, Thailand, Russia and Azerbaijan, many international experts and representatives of civil society from other Central Asian nations. At the conference, PRI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ombudsman of Uzbekistan making our cooperation official and paving the way for further opportunities for cooperation in the future.

To promote the use of non-custodial sentences in Kyrgyzstan, PRI and judges of regional and supreme courts developed a methodology for the judiciary on the use of these kinds of sentences. The methodology includes comparative analysis of legislation of three countries on



non-custodial and alternative measures, and recommendations for judges to wider use of alternative sanctions instead of imprisonment.

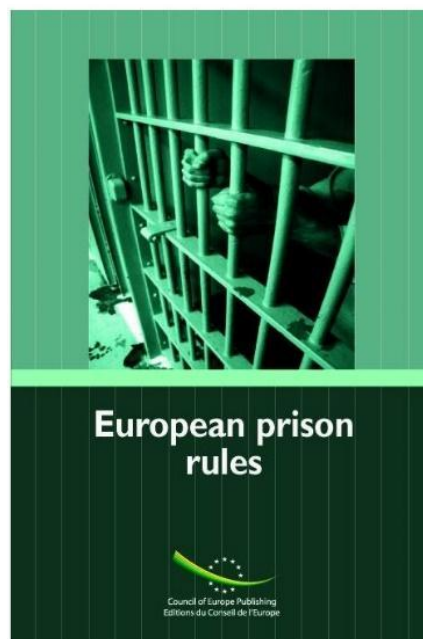
In Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, we created and distributed posters so staff and detainees would be aware of measures brought in by the prison administrations to stem the spread of COVID-19.



Europe

In September 2020, PRI relaunched its Europe Programme ahead of the commencement of a new project promoting alternatives to imprisonment across Europe, with a particular focus on people from vulnerable and minority groups.

In July, the revised European Prison Rules were adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. PRI contributed to the revision with the Association for the Prevention of Torture providing detailed recommendations. Several of our proposals were taken on board. Among other significant improvements, important limits on the use of solitary confinement are detailed and the provisions for women in prison are now stronger and better take into account their needs and risk to gender-specific forms of abuse. The provisions on inspections and monitoring now draw inspiration from the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and provide more clarity on the powers of independent monitoring bodies.



Middle East and North Africa

Jordan

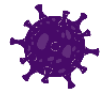


In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, PRI supported the Ministries of Justice and Social Development and the Public Security

Directorate to prevent the spread of the virus in places of detention. PRI distributed PPE to over 13,000 people in prisons, detention centres and care centres and printed and distributed posters with information on COVID-19 prevention measures. We also organised awareness raising sessions for people in prison on the risks of infection in closed spaces and the infection prevention procedures mandated by the Ministry of Health. These sessions were conducted by prison medical teams in all 17 correctional and rehabilitation centres and approximately 125 people in prison attended. The same campaign was also run at care centres affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development for approximately 42 people.



In May, PRI implemented a project to promote safe access to justice during the pandemic for individuals who encounter law enforcement including adults, children and children accompanying their mothers in prison. The project worked to implement measures to reduce the risk of infection for these individuals when they come in contact with the law, either because they committed an offence or because they want to report a crime, or go to police stations, courts or other judicial institutions. The project included all police stations, including holding cells, in addition to 13 dedicated police stations for children. Police officers, including community police officers, who interact daily with members of the public were prioritised to reduce the risk of being infected.



PRI set up a new employment opportunity for people in Al-Swaqa prison so they could contribute to COVID-19 efforts. Participants were employed to manufacture sanitisation stations which were then distributed to the main entrances of police stations, police departments which deal with

children in the criminal justice system and correction and rehabilitation centres.

PRI developed an education campaign on how to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 including by distributing 2,000 awareness posters to promote protective and preventive measures in accessible language and with graphics. These were distributed among all police stations. PRI also initiated a campaign to improve hygiene and sanitation inside all police stations and police stations which deal with children in the criminal justice system, and provided PPE to the Public Security Directorate (PSD) and personal hygiene materials to detention facilities where women were held (female correctional & rehabilitation centres).



Algeria

PRI provided technical assistance and materials to facilitate the production of facial masks and sanitation gates in prisons. PRI disseminated guidelines on infection prevention measures tailored to prison management and staff, as well as information on hygiene standards for 132 prisons across Algeria, coupled with an education

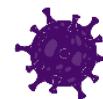
campaign on health matters inside prisons which has been delivered by medical professionals. In addition, PRI and prison medical staff developed health protocols on scenarios when dealing with COVID-19 cases and created guidelines for staff dealing with the mental health of people in prison, focusing particularly on vulnerable groups (children, mothers imprisoned with their young children and older persons), and trained prison personnel on these guidelines.



Yemen

PRI piloted rehabilitation programs at four prisons for the manufacturing of bricks (Hadramout and Mukalla) and a sewing workshop (Taiz and Sada`a).

As part of supporting COVID-19 responses, we developed guidelines based on World Health Organisation recommendations for prison management and staff, which were approved and adopted by the prison directorate. Subsequently, PRI organised three workshop, for prison staff and prison medical staff on how to implement the guidelines and follow medical protocols in case of infection.



In 20 prisons PRI:

- established and equipped isolation rooms for isolating detainees suspected or confirmed to have been infected with the virus
- provided these prisons with PPE (20,000 face masks and 400 boxes of gloves in prisons in the North and 3,000 face masks and 60 boxes of gloves in prisons in the South)

- provide personal hygiene materials (20,000 units of soaps and 4,320 units of hand sanitisers in prisons in the North and 3,000 units of soaps and 100 units of hand sanitizers in prisons in the South)
- Provided the raw materials and equipment needed to run sanitation campaigns inside prisons (60 sterilization pumps and 1,738 bottles of sanitation products in prisons in the North and 20 sterilization pumps and 440 bottles of sanitation products in prisons in the South).

PRI established a police academy to provide comprehensive police training for women joining the police force as officers. A presidential decree to formalize the academy was drafted and is awaiting signature. A dedicated building for the police unit was created and six stations were created to enable female police officers to deliver their duties in the field at for Criminal Investigation Department in Aden, Tawahi port, Rabat check point, Al-Alam check point, Aden airport, and Taiz centre prison. A police uniform was designed and 400 sets were produced. Five workshops were delivered by PRI for



the female police officers deployed in the field covering human rights-based approaches, prison administration, child friendly justice, radicalization and managing female victims of violence.



Two training courses for teaching staff at the police academy took place at the Jordanian Royal Police for one month and two workshops were delivered for journalists and community leaders to promote the role of female police officers in achieving peace and security in Yemen, to raise awareness among the general public and encourage women to join the police. More than 20 articles have been written on this topic in the media. The training programs at the academy have commenced and an annual training program was agreed for 202

South Caucasus

Georgia

PRI concluded a project on promoting civil society engagement in monitoring and promoting government reforms to the criminal justice system in Georgia.



In the early days of the pandemic, members of the Prison and Probation Reform Alliance of Georgia, which was revived as part of the project and comprises 28 member organisations, disseminated a petition calling on judicial and penal authorities to adapt their sentencing and release mechanisms in light of the pandemic by increasing the use of alternatives to imprisonment and early releases, and to ensure necessary healthcare provisions and sanitation for people in prisons. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to prioritise vulnerable people in prison.

PRI, in partnership with Social Workers for Society Well-Being, Initiative for Social Change and PMC Research Center, conducted research on prison infrastructure and international standards, a sociological survey on the rights of minorities in prisons and a guide for people in prison, people released from prison and people serving probation on legal, social and health services in their municipality.

PRI assisted the Rehabilitation Initiative for Vulnerable Groups to research the impact of prison subcultures on the management of penitentiary institutions and the formation of an institutional culture in Georgian penitentiaries. The resulting report provided recommendations for the government to help address this issue and develop an evidence-based approach to addressing sub-cultures.



Findings from the research¹ were presented at the concluding meeting of the project “Criminal Subculture Influence on the Management of Penitentiaries”.

In February, the project team obtained approval from the Advisory Board of the Ombudsman to monitor prison N8 in Tbilisi under the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) mandate. In July, PRI and project partners had meetings with the NPM representatives to plan prison visits and sign a memorandum of understanding highlighting the issues of mutual cooperation. The visits focused on vulnerable people in prison, including those serving life imprisonment, children and foreign nationals. The team assessed Georgian legislation against the international standards and prepared risk assessment tools to be used by prison staff. The monitoring visits took place on 4-7,

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<https://www.rivg.ge/media/1001537/2020/09/11/e788141ac80a1d0a887302e94648ae4e.pdf>

2020 August where the project team interviewed people in prison and prison staff and a monitoring report² was produced by the Human Rights Centre and PRI. The project team created a platform for all interested parties PRI's website, where the project partners, Alliance members, experts, students and journalists were invited to write blogs on issues regarding penal and probation system reform. The 26 English-Georgian blogs were shared on PRI's and Alliance's Facebook page and reached a wide audience of a total of 5,393 views.

Armenia

In October, PRI, the Netherlands Helsinki Committee and the Civil Society Institute in Armenia launched 'Assistance in Implementing the Strategy of the Penal System in the Republic of Armenia - AISPIRA', project. Project partners include the Ministry of Justice and Security - Netherlands Custodial Institutions Agency, the Dutch Probation Service, Dutch Association for the Judiciary and Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia. In the project, Armenian government stakeholders will be supported by their counterparts from the Netherlands in modernizing the penal system by formulating strategies for the integrated development of the prison and probation services, based on international best practice. PRI will contribute to AISPIRA by connecting the project with experts from the region thus linking criminal justice reform in Armenia with criminal justice expertise in other countries in its regional network.

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http://hrdc.org/admin/editor/uploads/files/pdf/report%202021/PENITENCIURI-ENG_F.pdf

Sub-Saharan Africa

Uganda



In Uganda, PRI conducted several training of trainer workshops for prison officers from prisons around the country on COVID-19 prevention strategies. Participants of the training were then able to train their own colleagues in their prisons on good practice. The training was also an opportunity for participants to share their experiences of working the pandemic so far and the challenges they had faced as frontline workers. Emphasis was put on the importance of observing the rights of people in prison amidst the restrictions imposed by the government to prevent the spread of the virus.

PRI has been promoting the adoption of investigative interviewing as a technique to be used by police officers investigating criminal offences to prevent the use of coercive confessions. PRI conducted training for police officers in Tororo Central Police Station and for Criminal Investigative Department Officers with the Eastern region in Mbale on the concept and use of investigative interviewing in early 2020. This led to a pilot project in Tororo Central Police Station involving practical support to enhance the knowledge and skills of the detectives on improved methodology in investigation of suspects and to evaluate the advantages and challenges encountered in conducting investigative interviews.

PRI also conducted an awareness raising workshop for journalists in Gulu on how to report on cases of torture with the aim of contributing to accountability and justice for victims of tortures.

Petty Offences

PRI engaged with the African Commission on Human Rights, mainly through the Petty Offences Campaign which PRI became a member of in 2020. We contributed analysis and engaged with the Special Rapporteur on Prisons and attended NGO Forums. We participated in the ACERWC's day of the child webinars highlighting key issues in promoting alternatives to detention.

Central African Republic

PRI continued to support the regular functioning of the implementation organs of the demilitarization strategy, the organization and coordination of the technical secretary and the thematic group meetings to ensure the strategy is being implemented and prioritised by the Ministry of Justice.

PRI conducted five training sessions over the year lead by local and international experts for penitentiary administration leadership on human resource management, project management and financial management to build the capacities and competencies required at prison headquarters to implement the strategy and manage a fully functioning prison system.

The strategy document, which previously was only available in French and English was translated into Sango, the official language of Central African Republic alongside French. Having the strategy available in Sango makes it accessible to a wider audience and promotes the ownership and involvement of CAR citizens in the demilitarisation process.

In February, we established a civil society platform comprising eight national human rights organisations as a way of mobilising and engaging civil society to support reform efforts. The platform's objectives include

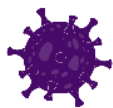
contributing to raising national and international public awareness to mobilise resources and support, contribute to the follow-up of the commitments made by the government in relation to the strategy, conducting advocacy and lobbying activities and promoting and defending human rights of individuals in detention and contribute to prevent torture and ill-treatment in places of detention, including through increasing public monitoring of places of detention.



PRI provided support to the platform to organise two sensitisation campaigns on combating the spread of COVID-19 in prisons in Bangui.

In late September to early October, PRI helped to organise the first conference on prison reform and the advancement of the demilitarisation strategy in Bangui. The conference was attended by government officials, national civil society, and international partners. Steps taken in favour of the action plan for the implementation of the national strategy were discussed, alongside defining the next priorities, considering the current COVID-19 pandemic.

PRI called for the reduction of the prison population in the country as a necessary response to reducing risk of COVID-19 for people in prison. The mobilisation of civil society was praised by participants who highlighted the role national human rights organisations can play in promoting and monitoring the rights of people in detention.



In late 2020, an internal evaluation of PRI's work in Central African Republic since 2017 was conducted by staff from PRI's headquarters.

The evaluation sought to assess the outcomes of PRI's work so far, the effectiveness of PRI's methodology and the added value of its involvement in the successful development of the strategy as well as the efficiency and effectiveness MINUSCA's approach working through PRI as an implementing partner.

The evaluation found that PRI and its particular approach of consensus and coalition building, mentoring, and capacity building were instrumental in the achievement of the strategy and its ongoing implementation. PRI's mentoring, training, coalition, and consensus building, as well as its adaptability, resilience and technical expertise, were key to CAR is on track to achieving being able to demilitarisation and reform its prisons to bring them up to international human rights standards and ensure they have rehabilitation at their heart.

The main outcomes that PRI's work has contributed to are the development and adoption of the strategy and the increasing involvement of authorities in this process, the creation of a pool of prison trainers, progress towards the proper functioning of the penitentiary administration and the formation of the first civil society platform to be involved in prisons and the reform process. The recommendations from the evaluation are now informing PRI's ongoing work in CAR.

International advocacy

Our international policy programme shapes and guides our approach to how we implement the ambitions in our strategy, leads our international advocacy and co-operates with regional and country programmes to transform practical reform projects into systemic change.

Multilateral Advocacy at the UN

PRI implemented influencing strategies around the UN General Assembly resolution on a moratorium on the death penalty and an omnibus resolution on the COVID-19 pandemic. We provided input to the upcoming Universal Periodic Review of Georgia and to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's report on arbitrary detention relating to drug policy and made oral statements at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Human Rights Council's enhanced interactive dialogue on COVID-19 and its annual panel discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building, which focused on implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules.

PRI contributed to the drafting of the "Human Rights in the Administration of Justice" resolution led by Austria in New York, and the development of the OHCHR report on human rights in the administration of justice by setting up a small group discussion with the drafters and key partners to provide input on the focus of the report and followed this up by making a formal written submission.

Drug policy reform

In February, PRI convened an event at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to launch a new research report,

published with Linklaters LLP and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), on the sentencing of women convicted of drug-related offences. The report received some press attention including by the Times. Ahead of the launch, PRI convened an expert meeting at Linklaters' offices in London bringing together experts on the topic including affected women to provide input for the second publication from this project which will be a policy brief / 10-point plan to guide reform in this area.

Black Lives Matter

PRI responded to events in the US and around the world following the killing of George Floyd by a police officer in June, emphasising the importance of accountability in building trust in state institutions. Following an urgent debate, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the issue presented by Burkina Faso on behalf of African states. PRI promoted this resolution and called for governments, the international community and civil society need to work together to heed the call that black lives matter through long-term, holistic and systemic reform that has human rights at its core.

Women in prison

Throughout the year, PRI contributed to the Women in Prison Network, convened by the Vance Center for International Justice, with the support of PRI, that brings together women with lived experience of prison and advocates from 21 countries. PRI contributed to growing the network, facilitated opportunities for collaborative action, and conducted analysis of research on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on women in detention, which we published in English and Spanish.

Bangkok Rules 10th anniversary

In December, PRI held a webinar marking the 10th anniversary of the UN Bangkok Rules, bringing together women with experience of detention and advocates working to make a difference for women in contact with the law, to consider progress and possibilities for the future. The webinar was attended by 173 persons from 38 countries.



We coordinated a statement calling for full implementation of the Bangkok Rules, issued by UN and regional human rights experts with mandates relating to detention and women's rights, including Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. As well as calling for full implementation of the Bangkok Rules, the statement also calls for countries to take measures to protect the human rights of women in contact with the law, including through sentencing reform, the provision of community-based responses to offences committed by women, and improved healthcare, mental healthcare, for women in prison.

We led a joint civil society Call to Action which was signed by 83 organisations around the world expressing alarm at the significant increase in the global female prison population since the adoption of the Bangkok Rules.

We also launched a new blog series on the Bangkok Rules, and published new analysis which shows an increase of over 100,000 (17 per cent) in the global female prison population with dramatic increases in many regions since the Bangkok Rules were adopted.

Global Prison Trends 2020

On 22 April 2020 we launched the sixth edition of Global Prison Trends, our flagship publication in partnership with the Thailand Institute of Justice. As the report was published during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the report documents the chronic issues that have led to this human rights and public health crisis and the challenges facing criminal justice systems in responding to the global pandemic.

This year's special focus was on the solutions and challenges posed by alternatives to imprisonment as a solution to the global prison crisis and in the long-term to reduce reoffending rates, better protect human rights and tackle overcrowding.

This year's Global Prison Trends was launched at an online webinar event on, the first online launch of the publication. The event featured international leaders and experts including United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ilze Brands Kehris and Joel Hernández García, the President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In their presentations, they

addressed chronic issues that have led to the COVID-19 human rights and public health crisis with people in prison being so vulnerable – and critically, questioned how we should respond, now and in the long-term.

LIVES AND HEALTH OF PEOPLE IN PRISON ARE AT RISK OF COVID-19.

PEOPLE IN PRISON OFTEN HAVE UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS

PRISONS ARE CRAMPED AND MANY ARE OVERCROWDED

SOCIAL DISTANCING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FOLLOW



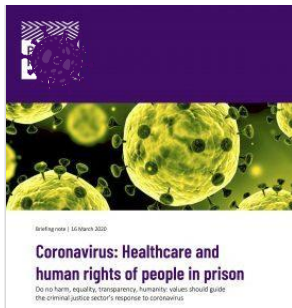
Publications and resources

Global Prison Trends 2020



The sixth edition of our annual report on trends, developments and challenges in prison policy and practice from around the world. This year's publication which came out just after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, documented the chronic issues that have led to the human rights and public health crisis in prisons and the challenges facing criminal justice systems in responding to the global pandemic. The special focus pull out section was on Alternatives to Imprisonment.

Coronavirus: Healthcare and human rights of people in prison



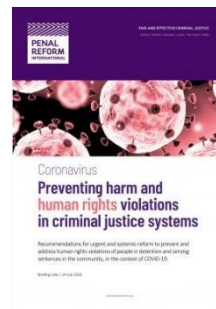
At the start of the pandemic, we published a briefing examining how the pandemic would impact people in prisons and the functioning of prisons. The briefing highlighted the need for urgency to respond to the pandemic in prisons to prevent its spread. Prison

environments around the world are conducive to the spread of such a communicable disease, with overcrowding, cramped conditions, poor



ventilation, and lack of healthcare common features. The briefing outlines the key measures that criminal justice systems, including prisons and courts, have taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 – and the impact of these considering the UN Nelson Mandela Rules and other key standards.

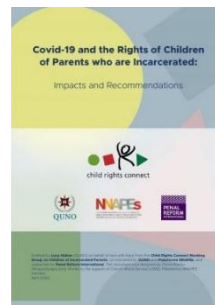
Coronavirus: Preventing harm and human rights violations in criminal justice systems



In the second COVID-19 briefing published in July 2020 and coming several months after the first global wave of the pandemic, PRI considers how criminal justice systems are responding, how it is affecting people serving custodial and community sentences, and what action can be



taken – now and in the longer term – to prevent harm and human rights violations.



Covid-19 and the Rights of Children of Parents who are Incarcerated: Impacts and Recommendations



This jointly published briefing with the Child Rights Connect Working Group on Children of Incarcerated Parents addresses the situation of

children with a parent in prison including those who live in prison with their mothers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The briefing outlines the specific rights considerations for this group including the right to family life and the right to health and hygiene, both of which have been impacted by measures brought into to curb the spread of the pandemic.

Series of publications from Georgia

As part of a project to promote civil society engagement in monitoring and promoting government reforms to the criminal justice system in Georgia, PRI published a series of publications on including on [prison infrastructure](#), [rights of minority groups](#) and [a guide for people in prison, those who have served prison sentences and those on probation on legal, social and medical services](#)



[Sentencing of women convicted of drug-related offences](#)

Published with Linklaters and the International Drug Policy Consortium, this report considers five key questions relating to the sentences imposed on women for drug-related

offences across criminal justice systems in 18 jurisdictions. The research was undertaken by Linklaters LLP for Penal Reform International on a pro bono basis. The study aims to build a better understanding of the case law around women accused of drug-related offences and is a basis for the development of policy guidance and recommendations to legislators and sentencing authorities.

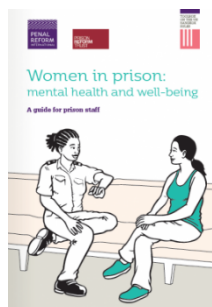
[Penal Reform International's work in Uzbekistan in 2019 – highlights and successes](#)

A summary of PRI's work and achievements in Uzbekistan in 2019 including the creation of the new probation service, the development of monitoring mechanisms to prevent torture and ill-treatment in places of detention; investigating complaints and death in custody; and the role of prison staff in rehabilitation programmes.

[Bringing Children Home: A children's rights approach to returning from ISIL](#)

This briefing by Penal Reform International and several child rights organisations outlines the international law applicable to the treatment and return of children who have lived under ISIL, the various national responses and challenges for the return of these children and

recommendations that States need to take to protect these children.



[Women in prison: mental health and well-being – a guide for prison staff](#)

In partnership with the Prison Reform Trust (PRT), we published a guide for prison and probation staff to help them understand how prison life can affect a woman's mental health. The guide aims to break down the stigma and discrimination attached to poor mental health, especially for women in prison.

Online Communications in 2020

PRI received **169,235** website hits to its website in 2020.

That is an increase of **105,336** since 2019.

The website received a record of **1,845** hits on 22 April which coincided with the Global Prison Trends launch.

Social media in 2020

 5,318 Twitter Followers

 1,040 Facebook Followers

 LinkedIn 2,658 Followers

PRI's expert blog series received a total of **31,105** views

Top three most popular blogs on the website are:

- [Juvenile Delinquency- Causes, Prevention and the Ways of Rehabilitation, Ivrita Gogua](#) **2,867 views**
- [How to build for success: prison design and infrastructure as a tool for rehabilitation, Dr Marayca López](#) **2,049 views**
- [Suicide in Prison: a new study on risk factors in the prison environment, Taanvi Ramesh](#) **1,614 views**

PRI resources were downloaded 17,375 times in 2020, an increase of 25% compared to 2019

Our top downloaded publications were:

- [UN Nelson Mandela Rules](#), **1,116 downloads**
- [Coronavirus: Healthcare and human rights of people in prison](#), **1,003 downloads**
- [Ten- Point Plan to Reduce Prison Overcrowding](#), **901 downloads**
- [UN Bangkok Rules on Women Offenders and Prisoners: a short guide](#), **745 downloads**
- [Global Prison Trends 2020](#), **685 downloads**

Our Donors

Governments

	€
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands	1,681,821
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UK	444,527
United States Agency for International Development	125,923
Thailand Institute of Justice	108,777
Liechtenstein Office Foreign Affairs	15,383
US Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic	9,193
Global Affairs Canada	8,069
US State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs	4,698
The Embassy of Ireland, Uganda	3,673

Multilateral organisations

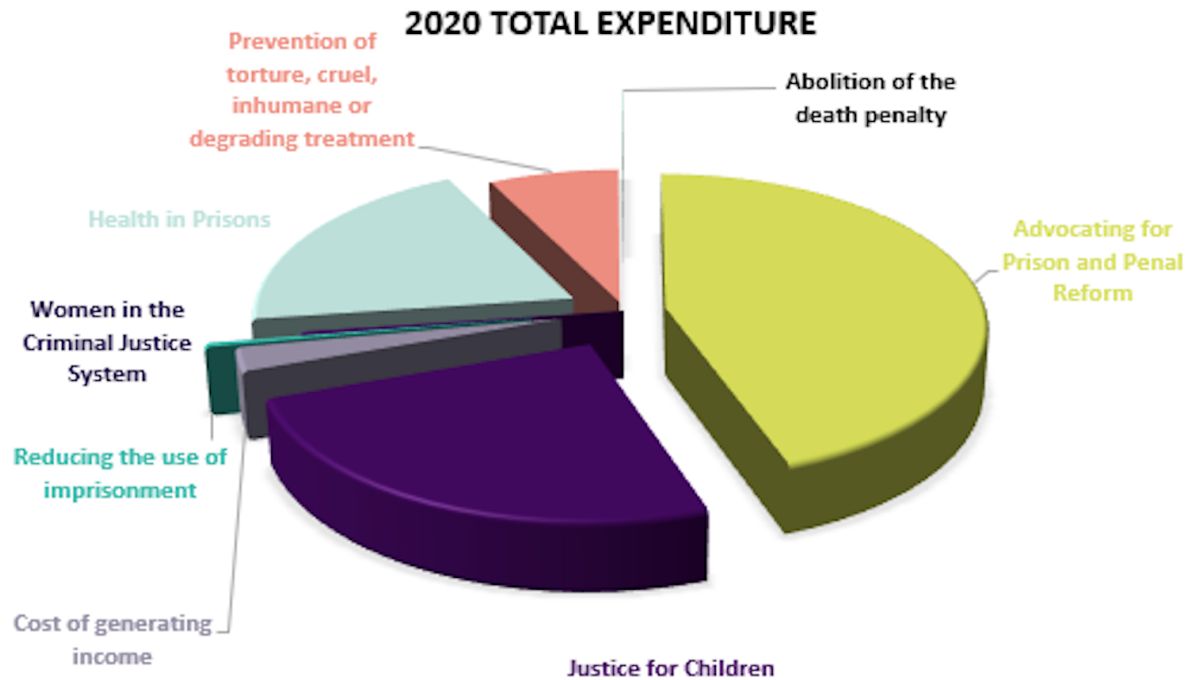
European Union	897,186
United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)	220,443
Democratic Governance Facility	160,120
United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)	50,322
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	35,174

Philanthropic, national organisations, individual donations and others

Open Society Foundations	249,606
Rehabilitation Initiative for Vulnerable Groups, Georgia	12,381
Human Dynamics	8,000
Donations	6,705
Linklaters LLP	6,514
University of Helsinki	5,167
Human Rights Center, Georgia	4,811
The Netherlands Helsinki Committee	3,164
Matrix Chambers	3,025
The Leigh Trust	2,353
Interest	1,579
Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust	1,161
Publishing	496
Better Community Business Network	290

Total **4,070,561**

Financial Summary



<i>2020 Expenditure</i>	<i>Direct costs</i>	<i>Support & Governance costs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Costs of generating income	67,796	34,157	101,953
Advocating for Prison and Penal Reform	1,824,650	26,441	1,851,091
Reducing the use of imprisonment	17,399	252	17,651
Prevention of torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment	298,793	4,330	303,123
Abolition of the death penalty	3,849	55	3,904
Justice for Children	14,357	208	14,565
Women in the Criminal Justice System	1,022,014	14,811	1,036,825
Health in Prisons	810,570	11,746	822,316
Total expenditure	4,059,428	92,000	4,151,428

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 can made available on request.

Who's who at PRI

Board members

David Fathi (Chair), USA (from September 2021)
Professor Dirk van Zyl Smit (Chair), UK (until September 2021)
Professor Anton van Kalmthout (Treasurer), Netherlands
Erika Marseille (Deputy Treasurer), Netherlands
Dr Catherine Appleton, UK
Michelle Carpentier, Canada
Suzanne Jabbour, Lebanon
Roselyn Karugonjo-Segawa, Uganda
Natalia Khutorskaya, Russia
Paula Litvachky, Argentina
Dr Dmitry Nurumov, Kazakhstan
Professor Robert van Voren, Lithuania

Headquarters

London, United Kingdom

Olivia Rope, Executive Director (from November 2020)
Florian Irminger, Executive Director (to November 2020)
John Usher, Director of Finance and Operations
Jane Rice, Strategy and Impact Manager
Triona Lenihan, Policy & International Advocacy Manager
Pauline Jobson, Executive Officer
Arian Kola, Finance Officer

Central Asia

Astana, Kazakhstan

Zhanna Nazarova, Regional Programme Manager
Asset Zhakysbek, Accountant
Aidana Assykyayeva, Project Coordinator
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Aigerim Azimova, Project Coordinator

Europe

The Hague, Netherlands

Tanja Dejanova, Project Coordinator
Edith Riegler, Project Assistant

Middle East and North Africa

Amman, Jordan

Taghreed Jaber, Regional Director
Haitham Shibli, Deputy Regional Director
Huda Abu Atiyyeh, Projects Manager
Rawan Musharbash, Senior M&E Officer
Baha'a Akkad, Administrative & Financial Manager

South Caucasus

Tbilisi, Georgia

Tsira Chanturia, Regional Director

Sub-Saharan Africa

Kampala, Uganda

Doreen Namyalo Kyazze, Regional Director
Patrick Lugunga, Finance Manager
Rebecca Nakabugo, Administration & 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
Narcisse Didier Pemongo, Office Assistant
Kevin Junior Abouma, Project Assistant

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Penal Reform International in Central Asia



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