



# Working towards fair and effective criminal justice: the PRI way

ANNUAL REPORT  
2013



Penal Reform International Annual Report 2013

Penal Reform International  
60-62 Commercial Street  
London E1 6LT

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7247 6515

Email: [publications@penalreform.org](mailto:publications@penalreform.org)

**[www.penalreform.org](http://www.penalreform.org)**

© Penal Reform International 2014

Penal Reform International's audited accounts and accompanying report for the year 2013 can be found on our website: **[www.penalreform.org](http://www.penalreform.org)**

PRI would like to thank in particular the photographers who have given permission for their work to be included in this publication: Gaetano Pezzella (page 18) and Eric Gouylan (page 22).

We would also like to thank the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for permission to use photography by Maxim Shubovich (page 8) produced under the EU-UNODC project, Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic (2009-2013).

Graphic design by Alex Valy [www.alexvalydesign.co.uk](http://www.alexvalydesign.co.uk)

---

# Working towards fair and effective criminal justice: the PRI way

ANNUAL REPORT  
**2013**



Promoting fair and effective criminal justice

# About us

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

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

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

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

We work with inter-governmental organisations to bring about reforms that balance the rights of offenders and of victims, and we provide practical assistance to national policy-makers, criminal justice authorities and civil society to reform legislation, policy and practice.

We currently have programmes in the Middle East and North Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus, and work with partners in East Africa and South Asia.

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

“

PRI is not merely another human rights NGO but focuses on a specific area, penal reform. This entails getting its hands dirty in actual reforms... while not losing its principled focus.

”

Dirk van Zyl Smit, PRI Board Member and Professor of Comparative and International Penal Law, University of Nottingham

→ Find out more about what we are doing at [www.penalreform.org/priorities](http://www.penalreform.org/priorities).

# Our goals

- A fair and efficient criminal justice system consistent with the rule of law, ensuring access to justice.
- The abolition of the death penalty and the introduction of humane alternative sanctions.
- Proportionate and gender-sensitive responses to women offending, acknowledging the specific characteristics and needs of women in the criminal justice system.
- A reduction in the use of imprisonment through greater use of non-custodial alternatives which support the social reintegration of offenders.
- Child-friendly justice which recognises the right of children to special protection and only ever uses detention as a last resort.
- Improvement of prison conditions and the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

# Our themes

**Global advocacy**

**Justice for children**

**Solitary confinement**

**Prevention of torture**

**Vulnerable groups**

**Ending the use of the death penalty**

**Health in prisons**

**Prison conditions**

**Rehabilitation and reintegration**

**Life and long-term imprisonment**

**Pre-trial justice**

**Legal aid**

**Women in the criminal justice system**

**Overcrowding**

**Non-custodial alternatives to imprisonment**

David Daubney

# Interview with the Chair

PRI's Chair explains why PRI's work matters, what makes PRI different, and what he sees as some of PRI's most recent successes.



PRI was founded in 1989 by a group of activists determined to address the overuse of imprisonment, eliminate discrimination in access to justice, and campaign for the abolition of the death penalty. Does PRI's *raison d'être* remain as valid today?

The problem of the overuse of imprisonment has certainly not gone away. The number of people behind bars in the context of criminal justice – 10.4 million according to the latest UN figures, whether on remand or serving sentences, has increased in most countries over the last 20 years, placing an enormous financial burden on governments and at great cost to the social cohesion of societies.

Pre-trial detention rates have remained stubbornly high, with 30 per cent of the global prison population untried. In some countries, this can be as high as 70 per cent.

High rates of imprisonment have caused prison overcrowding to become a global phenomenon. Overcrowding exacerbates poor prison conditions, heightens the risk of torture and ill-treatment, and damages the prospects for successful rehabilitation and reintegration.

The death penalty is one of the areas where there has been progress since 1989. At the end of 1988, only 52 of the then 180 UN member states had abolished the death penalty – at least in practice if not in law. That figure is now 103 of 196. However, a large number of people continue to be executed every year and PRI is also concerned about the tendency for states to replace the death penalty with life without any possibility of parole.

In the last couple of years some countries, Sweden, the Netherlands, and some US states, have made the news for closing prisons. Are they on the right track or do these jurisdictions compromise the security of their citizens by not locking away more offenders?

I think countries which invest in non-custodial sanctions and in rehabilitation programmes, and don't use prison as the 'default response' are on the right track.

For serious crimes prison sentences may be the only suitable response. But in so many countries people are sent to prison for a wide array of minor, non-violent offences. Recent research by PRI in East Africa for example uncovered considerable prison sentences applied for using

“

Society as a whole benefits from a system where sentences are proportionate to the offence committed, victims are compensated, and time in prison is spent preparing offenders properly for release.

”

“

...We work closely with civil society to our mutual benefit. PRI benefits from their local knowledge and in particular their close contact with our final beneficiaries.

”

abusive language, operating without a valid business licence and unlawful trespassing, but disproportionate sentencing is a global issue.

Short prison sentences handed down for petty crimes prove to be particularly counter-productive. They are more likely to trigger a cycle of crime than to prevent reoffending.

The criminal record and stigma that come with being an ex-offender make it hard for people to get a job on release. Prisons tend to be violent and unhealthy environments, and people's physical and mental health usually deteriorates in prison. Isolation from families and friends is also damaging and loosens ties to the community.

All of these factors mean that prison sentences don't necessarily make society safer, but do make reoffending more likely.

What we really want – and all politicians should want – is a fair and effective justice system where sentences are handed down by courts after a procedure untainted by confessions obtained through ill-treatment. Society as a whole benefits from a system where sentences are proportionate to the offence committed, victims are compensated, and time in prison is spent preparing offenders properly for release.

#### What makes PRI different from other organisations in your view?

PRI is proud of its partnerships with civil society organisations at national and international levels, but works in quite a unique way in some respects.

We place a strong emphasis on constructive discourse and this approach allows us to enter into dialogue with governments and authorities where organisations with a reporting, litigation or campaigning mandate can often not engage in the same way. Cooperation with other organisations means that we can take different roles and push for reform from different angles, increasing the prospects of success.

Our specialisation on the rights of suspects, offenders and prisoners, but within the prism of the broader criminal justice system, also makes us quite different from other human rights organisations.

We combine policy development and advocacy with technical assistance and practical programmes. As a fellow Board Member puts it later in this report, 'we get our hands dirty in actual reforms', and we try to develop solutions that match the political and social realities in that country.

And particularly important I think is that while the political nature of criminal justice reform can make progress slow and gradual, we have now been working in our focus regions for 15-20 years, sometimes longer. This long-term engagement means that when opportunities for reform do arise, we are in a good position to support them.

#### Where would you say that PRI has achieved particular success in recent years?

The UN Principles and Guidelines on legal aid in criminal cases which were adopted by the UN General Assembly at the end of 2012 were a long awaited success for PRI. We were present at the official genesis of the Principles and Guidelines eight years earlier in Lilongwe and contributed advice and expertise throughout the drafting process. These Principles are ground-breaking, confirming that legal aid is a duty and responsibility of the state.

Our work relating to women offenders and prisoners is another interesting case study of successful long-term engagement. PRI was involved in the negotiation of the first international standards relating to this vulnerable group of prisoners, which resulted in the adoption of the UN Bangkok Rules in 2010. Since then, we have been at the forefront of international advocacy to promote gender-sensitive criminal justice and penal policy and we have been leading on



“

We have now been working in our focus regions for 15-20 years, sometimes longer... When opportunities for reform do arise, we are in a good position to support them.

”

producing resources to support policy-makers put the Rules into practice. This includes PRI's first online learning course, launched last year, which already has registrations from 56 countries.

Readers of this report will note that in the field of torture prevention, we have a particular focus on strengthening preventive monitoring. Notably, last year was the first full year of operation for the first independent inspection mechanism in Jordan. PRI's Middle East and North Africa office was influential in establishing this body which has a mandate to monitor children's detention facilities. Next year will see the first year of operation for Kazakhstan's new National Preventive Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. PRI's Central Asia office has been advocating very intensively from concept to adoption to make this body compliant with international norms.

For children, imprisonment is particularly damaging and counter-productive. In Jordan, our Middle East and North Africa office has been instrumental in establishing a specialist police unit trained to deal with children's cases. This unit is now resolving at police level over 80 per cent of cases it receives and preventing these children from being caught up in the criminal justice system. In Yemen, one

of the harshest environments in the world for children in conflict with the law and where there are number of children on death row, a specialist police unit, was also established last year.

I think it is important to conclude by saying that we don't work alone. In all the countries we work in, we not only work with governments and authorities, we also work closely with civil society to our mutual benefit. PRI benefits from their local knowledge and in particular their close contact with our final beneficiaries. There are some good examples of this in the following pages.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our many partners and donors, as well as our staff and consultants.

We look forward to further big and small achievements on the way to fair and proportionate criminal justice systems. I hope that it will not take another 25 years to realise them.



David Daubney has been a member of PRI's Executive Board since 2006 and Chair since 2009.



---

# How we work

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

---

## 01

### Research

Research ensures that our work is relevant and based on evidence.

Whether desk research, a baseline survey or opinion poll, research helps us to understand the current situation, to convince policy-makers, and to develop recommendations appropriate to the specific country and context.

→ Page 8.

## 02

### Developing and promoting international standards

Standards adopted at the international level combine international expertise and experience into one authoritative, globally recognised text, making them an invaluable tool for negotiating and pushing for change at the national level.

We identify gaps, analyse, make recommendations and participate in international negotiations, and once standards are adopted we promote their implementation through our advocacy and capacity building work.

→ Page 10.

## 03

### Dialogue

Dialogue – informed by international and regional standards and good practice, and our understanding of local situations – is central to our approach in all regions.

Through a range of activities, we engage stakeholders across the criminal justice sector, raising awareness of where reform is needed, and building support for necessary changes in legislation, policy and practice.

→ Page 14.

---

## 04

### Legislative and policy development

Our specialist expertise enables us to provide technical assistance to governments and prison authorities seeking to draft penal legislation and policy in line with international and regional standards.

We analyse legislation and policy in the context of international and regional standards and good practice, and make practical recommendations, taking into account local political and social realities. We engage actively in working groups mandated to draft new or amended legislation and policy.

→ Page 18.

## 05

### Developing effective criminal justice institutions

We support the establishment of new systems, institutions and practices through a range of practical programmes tailored to the individual country context.

We set up pilot schemes, provide institutional support to existing and new organisations and provide training to a wide range of stakeholders. Our capacity building work is informed by international and regional standards and good practice. We also work to improve our data collection systems to track whether changes are working and to convince policy-makers to sustain reforms.

→ Page 22.

## 06

### Working in partnership with civil society

In every area of work, we engage with civil society organisations both in joint advocacy and in delivering practical programmes, including service delivery to beneficiaries.

Working with others strengthens our voice. We help build the capacity of local and national organisations through joint activities, training and small grants programmes, and we seek to provide access to policy-makers through our networks and events.

→ Page 28.

# Research

Research ensures that our work is evidence based and enables us to develop recommendations appropriate for the specific country and context.



## WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

### Building an evidence base for gender-specific responses to women's offending

In 2013, PRI surveyed 1,184 women prisoners in six countries – Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Jordan and Tunisia as part of a multi-regional research project into the background and needs of women in prison.

Inspired by Rule 67 of the UN Bangkok Rules, which calls for greater research into the situation of women offenders, this research was commissioned to address the severe shortage of data on the background and circumstances of women in the criminal justice system around the world.

The research was designed to provide a clearer picture about the female prison population in order to identify the areas where women offenders would most benefit from changes in law, policy and practice. Women were asked, for example, about their age, children, educational level and economic status, whether they had a history of drug dependency, alcoholism or victimisation, the circumstances leading to their offence, as well as the support they needed to rebuild their lives on release.

Research missions were conducted in Georgia and Armenia in May 2013, Central Asia in September, and Jordan and Tunisia in December. 70% of the women's prison population were surveyed in Armenia and Georgia, 11% in Kazakhstan, 43% in Kyrgyzstan, 25% in Jordan and 33% in Tunisia.

Research findings were fully contextualised with interviews with from a range of criminal justice stakeholders, including prison service officials, prosecution services, members of the judiciary, lawyers and NGOs.

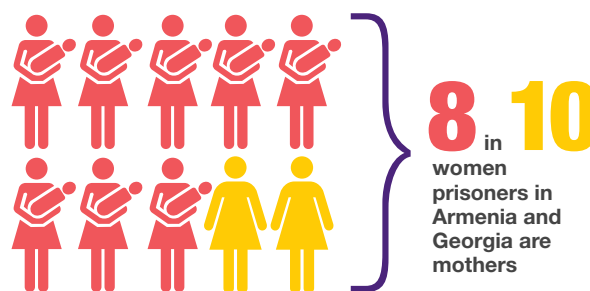
The research report from Armenia and Georgia was launched in September 2013 at the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Warsaw. Findings from Central Asia and MENA will be published in 2014. Each report provides recommendations on the kind and design of measures needed in each country and region.

The research so far has been disseminated to a wide audience. In Georgia, it has been used to highlight issues facing women prisoners and to advocate for improved decision-making by parole boards considering early release of women prisoners (see also page 17). PRI was subsequently commissioned by UN Women to conduct further research on the rehabilitation and reintegration needs of women prisoners in Georgia. We have also received requests for advice and shared experience with organisations from several countries considering or conducting similar research including: AdvocAid in Sierra Leone; the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, Uganda; Renmin University in China; and the Ombudsman's Office in Latvia.

## Armenia and Georgia:

### What did we find?

- 8 in 10 women prisoners in Armenia and Georgia were mothers.
- The most common reason given for committing the offence was financial.
- The top three support requirements identified were help with employment, health treatment and counselling, and childcare and family reunification.



UNODC really salutes the contribution made by PRI in promoting the implementation of the [Bangkok] Rules and the research carried out by PRI in a number of countries.

Simone Monasebian, Director, UNODC, New York



## ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

### Surveying public attitudes on the death penalty in Belarus to inform a new campaign

One of the most detailed surveys for years about attitudes towards the death penalty in Belarus, PRI's survey sampled 1,100 adults, comparing attitudes across different ages, genders, locations, educational or financial situations and religious beliefs.

The survey revealed deep divisions in attitudes towards the death penalty. While nearly 64 per cent of Belarusians support the death penalty, there is also widespread support for alternative measures, and opinions varied greatly according to the respondents' age and religious belief. The survey also revealed significant ignorance about the status of the death penalty. 32.8 per cent held some kind of false belief, with nearly 10 per cent believing that the death penalty had been abolished. The majority felt that the issue was not adequately covered by the media.

The survey report was launched in Belarus on 8 October with a series of events, including two roundtables. The first roundtable presented the survey to media representatives; the second involved state officials, diplomats and NGOs, as well as a representative from the largest online news site in Belarus – *tut.by* – and two of Belarus' most popular bloggers. Discussions focused on how to strengthen media coverage, create a new discourse around death penalty issues, and tackle public and media fatigue.

The launch of the public opinion survey on 8 October attracted widespread media attention and was the most popular media event in Belarus that day. Coverage included:

- **33 articles** in the national and regional media.
- **two articles on *tut.by*** which drew 16,000 and 30,000 readers respectively, compared to a site average of only 3,000 readers per article.

This survey was conducted as part of a two-year project (2013-2015) to influence public opinion on the death penalty in Belarus and strengthen the movement for abolition.

In particular, the project aims to increase the capacity of non-state actors, including local NGOs, church representatives and youth groups, to engage with human rights issues, and to raise awareness among groups not currently associated with activism around the issue of the death penalty, for example, teachers and members of the LGBTI community. It is also seeking to take the debate out of the major cities into regions of Belarus where there are fewer opportunities to hear a range of opinions.

The project is managed by PRI's Moscow-based office and funded by the European Union. PRI is working on the project with a range of partners, including SATIO (research consultants who conducted the survey), the InterChurch Mission, the Belarus Helsinki Committee and the Belarusian Association of Journalists.

Above: Source: *Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Armenia and Georgia, 2013.*

# Promoting and developing international standards

Standards adopted at international level combine international expertise and experience into one authoritative, globally recognised text, making them invaluable in negotiating and pushing for change at a national level.



## PRISON CONDITIONS

### Participating in the review process of the UN Standard Minimum Rules

Last year PRI continued its intensive advocacy on the UN process reviewing the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

While these Rules, which govern the treatment of prisoners and conditions in detention, have existed since 1957 and are widely recognised and used operationally, they have not kept pace with the considerable developments in the human rights framework and good prison management which have evolved over the last 60 years.

The issues at stake are highly relevant for detainees every day, everywhere in the world. For example, the revision may incorporate guidance on when and how body searches may be conducted, an area prone to abuse and humiliation and not included in the current Rules; it may provide for the confidentiality of patient medical files; and it may prohibit outdated disciplinary measures such as the reduction of food and water.

PRI has advocated for a revision of the Rules from the beginning of the process, which was initiated with a resolution by the UN General Assembly in 2010.

In 2013, we kept up intensive engagement with state delegations and relevant inter-governmental bodies such as the UN Special Rapporteur on torture, the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), the World Health Organization and others. We also continued to coordinate the efforts of a group of NGOs throughout the year.

In April, we organised a side event sponsored by five key member states to update delegations at the Crime Commission in Vienna, advocating intensively at this forum. PRI was also invited to an expert meeting organised by the Special Rapporteur on torture in Oxford in July to inform his annual report to the General Assembly which was entirely dedicated to the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules. The report was presented at a side event in New York in October. PRI was represented on the panel and co-sponsored the event.

In September, PRI and Essex University reconvened the Group of Experts established a year before and prepared another contribution for the Intergovernmental Expert Group meeting which took place in March 2014. The submission amends a previous paper and goes into detail on areas and provisions under review which the experts had yet to consider or which deserved further attention following the intervening negotiation process at the UN.

“

PRI's contribution to the ongoing process of review of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners is outstanding. PRI has drawn my attention to this process, leading to my report to the General Assembly... I very much appreciate the high degree of professionalism and dedication that PRI shows towards such an important issue.

Juan E Méndez, UN Special Rapporteur on torture

”



#### WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

## Promoting the UN Bangkok Rules on women offenders and prisoners

PRI's work on the 2010 UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) last year focused on implementation and a programme of advocacy aimed at increasing the awareness amongst international stakeholders, able to add weight to the standards enshrined in the Bangkok Rules.

From February, for example, PRI engaged with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to advocate for the rights of women suspects, defendants and prisoners to be included in the Committee's forthcoming General Recommendations on access of women to justice. If incorporated, these recommendations will become an extremely valuable tool for countering discrimination against women in criminal justice systems.

Over the course of the year, we also engaged with the Women's Human Rights and Gender Section of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Working Group on the discrimination against women in law and practice, UN Women and the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) to increase awareness about the need to support women who are suspects, defendants and prisoners.

We were also invited to contribute to an expert meeting in May at the University of Chicago to provide guidance and feedback for a thematic report by the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Rashida Manjoo, to the UN Human Rights Council. The report, *Pathways to, conditions and consequences of incarceration for women*, was published in August.

We also completed our Bangkok Rules Toolbox, a suite of resources to support policy-makers and other criminal justice stakeholders to put the Rules into practice. The Toolbox was launched at the United Nations in New York in October at an event hosted by PRI and the Thailand Institute of Justice. The high-level panel included a keynote speech by HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand and attracted over 100 participants.

“

PRI's Toolbox on the UN Bangkok Rules has very useful reference documents and important resources for public defenders all around the world. We used them as a tool to review legislation and to reach out to judges, prosecutors and defenders. This has already resulted in the first verdicts in Argentina to use and refer to the Bangkok Rules.

Dr Silvia Edith Martinez, Public Defender, Argentina

”

Above: Members of the NGO expert group working on the Standard Minimum Rules review process.



## OVERCROWDING

### Raising awareness about the human rights impact of the overuse of detention

Throughout the year PRI advocated on this issue at the UN Human Rights Council, cooperating with Permanent missions, various departments of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN human rights bodies and NGOs.

The focus of this work was to highlight the links between the overuse of imprisonment, overcrowding, and deplorable prison conditions across the globe, and to emphasise the preventive potential of other sanctions as alternatives to imprisonment.

Concern about prison conditions, often amounting to torture or ill-treatment, are frequently reported at the Human Rights Council and by its human rights bodies. It is acknowledged that overcrowding inevitably has an adverse impact on conditions, leads to serious violations of human rights, and increases the risk of intimidation and inter-prisoner violence.

However, the Council and its mechanisms have not yet analysed the human rights impact of criminal justice policies in a comprehensive way. They have also not yet exploited the potential of reducing unnecessary imprisonment as a means of preventing human rights violations caused by overcrowding.

In August, PRI was invited to attend the August session of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and raised the issue of proportionality of prison sentences and alternative non-custodial measures and sanctions.

In September, we explored the human rights impact of the overuse of imprisonment in a written statement to the Council and organised a side event on this topic, co-sponsored by the Austrian Permanent mission to the UN and the American Civil Liberties Union. Panellists included a representative of the Office of the High Commissioner's Rule of Law section and a member of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

In its resolution adopted in September, the Human Rights Council decided to convene a panel discussion on the protection of persons in custody in 2014, and to dedicate an in-depth analysis to the human rights implications of over-incarceration and overcrowding in 2015.



Above: Panel members, including PRI's Andrea Huber (right), at a side event on the human rights impact of the overuse of imprisonment at the Human Rights Council, September 2013.

“

The Chairperson of the ACERWC, Dr Benyam Dawit Mezmur, asked me to convey to the PRI team his sincere gratitude for your inputs that highly informed the preparation of the General Comment on Article 30 of the Charter.

”

Dr Clement Mashamba, Member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child



*Right: Olawale Fapohunda, Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice in Ekiti State, Nigeria, also a PRI Board Member, addresses the 23rd session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Addis Ababa.*

## JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

### Supporting the development of standards to protect the rights of children in contact and conflict with the law

Advocacy by PRI and other child rights organisations achieved two significant milestones last year with the adoption of the first ever General Comment on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the publication of the Model Law on Juvenile Justice by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

The General Comment (No.1) – “Children of incarcerated and imprisoned parents and primary caregivers” – relates to Article 30 of the African Charter. Millions of children worldwide are affected by the imprisonment of a parent, with tens of thousands living in prison most often with their mother. Article 30 is unique in international and regional law, highlighting directly how the rights and lives of children are affected when their primary caregivers are caught up in the criminal justice system.

PRI has played an important role in advocacy efforts towards the adoption of the General Comment over the last two years and in 2013 provided support to the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in drafting the General Comment.

Following adoption at the Committee’s 22nd session in November, the Committee requested PRI’s continued support to disseminate, and build the capacity of government policy-makers and civil society organisations to understand and apply the General Comment.

The Model Law on Juvenile Justice, a comprehensive document designed to provide legal guidance to States in the process of juvenile justice reform and to assist them in drafting juvenile justice legislation in line with international standards, was published in November. PRI contributed to the development of the Model Law through participation in expert meetings and commenting on draft versions. The Model Law will be a useful advocacy and guidance tool at a national level.

“

We expect to have the Juvenile Justice Model Law published during the third quarter of 2013... Your contribution to that process was valuable to us. Thank you.

Alexandra Martins, Crime Prevention Officer,  
UN Office on Drugs and Crime

”

# Dialogue

Dialogue – informed by international and regional standards and good practice, and our understanding of local situations – is central to our approach in all regions.



## ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

### Supporting parliamentarians from retentionist countries to mobilise against the death penalty

In May 2013, PRI and the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) Uganda organised a high-level study visit for 14 parliamentarians from nine countries – Belarus, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Morocco, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda.

The objective was to bring progressive parliamentarians together to make contact and share experiences and strategies on how to work towards the abolition of the death penalty and the implementation of humane alternative sentences.

All the MPs returned home with renewed enthusiasm to lead on abolition in their own countries, and some have been able to take positive action to promote the abolition of the death penalty.

*Above: Kazakhstan MP, Aigul Solovyeva, speaking at a PRI event in 2013.*

### Jordan

Jordan has maintained a de facto moratorium on the death penalty since 2006; however between April 2012 and February 2013, 26 people were sentenced to death. There are currently 109 prisoners on death row, including nine women.

Two MPs from Jordan joined the study visit, Hazem Qashou and Mustafa Yaghi. In June, both became founding members of the Jordanian Parliamentarians Coalition against the death penalty, which was established with support from PRI.

The Coalition has since participated in regional and international activities, including the Intra-Arab Parliamentarian sessions at the World Congress Against the Death Penalty in Madrid in June, and a regional conference on the death penalty in the Arab world, co-organised by PRI and the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, in Algeria in December.

The Coalition now has 27 members, including the former president of the Lower House, and will be formally launched in 2014.



“

Inspiring exchange of views with MPs from retentionist countries, inc #Uganda #Belarus. MPs committed to #abolition of #deathpenalty @PenalReformInt

”

Tweeted by Michael Cashman MP, 16 May 2013



Right: Study visit MPs with members of the UK House of Lords, including Baroness O'Loan and PRI founding member, Baroness Vivien Stern, May 2013.

## Uganda

While there have been no civilian executions in Uganda since 1999, seven death sentences were passed in 2012.

Alice Alaso, one of the two Ugandan MPs who participated in PRI's study visit, was given permission by the Ugandan parliament in September 2013 to draft a Private Members' Bill seeking to abolish mandatory death sentences, successfully arguing that the existing laws are outdated, prevent the courts from taking into account the particular circumstances of the offence, and should be replaced with life imprisonment. While the Bill is currently waiting to come before Parliament, tabling such a Bill is itself a significant step.

“

The [Kazakhstan] constitution states that every person has the right to live. There are no exceptions to this.

”

Aigul Solovyeva, member of the Parliamentary Working Group on the Criminal Code and study visit participant, January 2014

## Kazakhstan

The 18 different offences that attract the death penalty fall under two categories: terrorist offences resulting in fatalities and especially grave crimes committed in wartime. However, Kazakhstan's Criminal Code is currently under review, and abolitionist groups, including PRI, have been advocating intensively for a reduction in the number of death-penalty applicable offences in the revised Code.

Two Kazakhstani MPs – Aigul Solovyeva and Svetlana Bychkova – participated in the study visit and have been active in this campaign. Aigul Solovyeva, for example, made a strong intervention in the Parliament on the right to life and spoke out against the death penalty on World Day against the Death Penalty in October.

Advocacy to improve the conditions and treatment of life-sentenced prisoners under the revised Criminal Executive Code has also seen success, with a new provision stating that life-sentenced prisoners have the right to a secondary education. Both Aigul Solovyeva and Svetlana Bychkova voted for this amendment.

→ Read about our work to support legislative reform in Kazakhstan on pages 20-21.

“

[PRI's] First Prison Forum has changed our minds and attitudes.

Berdallin Baurzhan, Chairman, Committee of the Criminal and Executive System, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kazakhstan

”



## ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

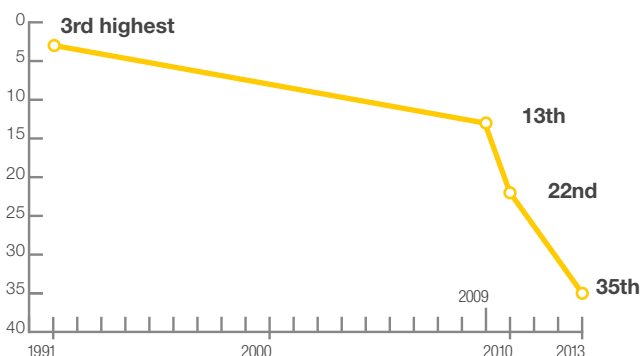
### The race out of the Top 50: supporting the reduction of the prison population in Kazakhstan

In December 2013, the Kazakhstan government published its first ever official strategy to reduce the country's large prison population.

Kazakhstan has the 35th largest prison population in the world. The rate of imprisonment has been falling steadily, but at 295 per 100,000 people, it is still almost twice as high as the European average. Only 30 per cent of sentences in Kazakhstan are non-custodial, which is low by international standards.

The Ten-Point Action Plan to reduce the prison population is the result of a productive collaboration between PRI Central Asia with the Kazakh Supreme Court, the General Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Its goal is to ensure that by 2017 Kazakhstan is no longer ranked among the top 50 countries with the largest prison populations.

Quickening pace of change: Kazakhstan's position in the world prison population index 1991-2013



Source: From a collection of infographics produced by PRI Central Asia to promote criminal justice reform in Kazakhstan last year.

Commitments under the plan include:

- wide-ranging sentencing reforms, including non-custodial sanctions for drug possession
- greater use of alternative sanctions such as probation and electronic monitoring
- greater use of early release mechanisms such as parole
- improved rehabilitation services to reduce reoffending.

While the reduction of the prison population has been a focus of PRI advocacy for a number of years, the Prison Forum held in March on the topic of probation and electronic monitoring was a significant milestone.

The Forum was the first such national event on a prison issue, and was organised jointly by PRI and the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Office of Human Rights Ombudsman. It was attended by 205 participants including senior public officials, MPs, senior members of the judiciary and the prison service, academics, diplomatic missions, international organisations, international experts and NGOs. The live online broadcast was watched by 500 viewers.

The Forum also provided further impetus for the development of a fully-fledged probation system and the introduction of electronic monitoring.

Currently provision for probation in law and practice is limited. However, as part of the new strategy to reduce the prison population and to reduce high rates of reoffending by former prisoners, the government agreed to develop the probation service and introduce electronic monitoring. The new probation service will be established in a new law and provide for probation services pre-sentencing, pre-release and post-release.

As well as advocacy initiatives such as the First Prison Forum, PRI Central Asia has actively supported the development of probation, for example, providing expertise on the Criminal Executive Code and on drafting the new law, which is expected to be approved in 2015.

Above: PRI's Executive Director, Alison Hannah, at Kazakhstan's First Prison Forum, March 2013.



“

We have considered this very important research analysis which outlines helpful strategies for decision-making about parole and have started to develop a questionnaire for parole board members in line with this document in order to assess risks and needs of offenders.

Grigol Giorgadze, Deputy Minister of Corrections, Georgia

”

## ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

### Addressing the overuse of imprisonment and reducing prison overcrowding in Georgia

In 2013, PRI South Caucasus continued its long-term work to promote early release mechanisms, such as parole and compassionate release, and non-custodial sentences, with considerable success.

Under the punitive criminal justice policies of the previous Georgian government, the country's prison population rose by 300% between 2003 and 2010. Non-custodial alternatives were rarely used.

The prison population today (9,185) is less than half what it was only a year ago in 2012 (19,349). While an amnesty granted by the new coalition government in January 2013 played the largest part in this, more sustainable reforms are also having an effect.

Between 2010 and June 2013, PRI South Caucasus was funded by the Open Society Foundations to challenge the overuse of imprisonment in Georgia and reduce the size of the prison population.

In 2013, the team focused in particular on improving the decision-making of parole boards. For example, in March, PRI commissioned an expert to produce research and a guide on conducting risk and needs assessments for parole. This was presented to officials from the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance and local parole boards at a meeting in June, together with a presentation by PRI on the research findings from its survey of women prisoners (see page 8).

*Above: Training for probation officers, Georgia.*

Decision-making by parole boards, particularly relating to women prisoners, has improved, with parole boards now considering detailed reports from prison psychologists and social workers, interviewing prisoners themselves, and taking into account women's care-taking responsibilities, participation in rehabilitation programmes and their health.

Overall, the number of prisoners granted parole increased by 33% in 2013 compared to 2012. The number of women granted parole increased still further: January to June 2013, 73 women were released on parole, compared to only 8 in the same period in 2012.

Over the course of the project, PRI also sought to increase the use of non-custodial sentences and other early release mechanisms, such as compassionate release on grounds of age or health.

→ The use of **community service** is gradually increasing. Between 2005 and 2010 community service orders represented less than 0.5% of all applied sentences. In 2013, this had risen to 1.8%. PRI provided support to the government to establish community service in law, supported the National Probation Agency to implement community service orders by training probation staff and developing tools for supervision, and raised public awareness of the value of community service.

→ In December 2012, the Georgian government activated a **compassionate release programme**. In 2013, over 100 prisoners were granted compassionate release, compared to only 25 the year before. PRI established a working group of NGOs to advocate for compassionate release. The recommendations produced by the group were influential in shaping the new statute which formed the basis of the new decision-making body.

In November 2013, PRI South Caucasus received a grant from the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) which will enable it to continue to develop community service and early release mechanisms in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

# Legislative and policy development

Our specialist expertise enables us to provide technical assistance to governments and prison authorities seeking to draft penal legislation and policy in line with international and regional standards.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

### Influencing the direction of penal reform in MENA

In **Tunisia**, PRI worked to influence the direction of criminal justice as part of the wider process of constitutional reform.

In January, PRI's Middle East and North Africa office organised an international conference on priorities for prison reform in partnership with the Tunisian Ministry of Justice and under the patronage of the Tunisian president.

Attended by 600 delegates including the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Human Rights and Transitional Justice, as well as many judges, police officers, prosecutors, academics, social workers, government officials, activists and civil society organisations, the conference discussed alternatives to imprisonment, tackling overcrowding, aftercare and reintegration and the needs of women and children in prison.

PRI is working to influence priorities for criminal justice at this critical stage of Tunisia's political reform process. This conference – the first such national conference to address prison issues – was a crucial first step to identify what the priorities should be.

The conference produced a number of recommendations, for example, introducing new alternative sanctions to imprisonment into law; improving prison infrastructure and living conditions; new measures to improve the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners including strengthening the role

of civil society; and improving staff training. PRI is currently working with the Tunisian Ministry of Justice to develop these into a strategic framework.

In **Jordan**, PRI supported the development of a National Strategy for the Department of Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres for 2014-2016.

Over the course of 2013, PRI's Middle East and North Africa office carried out a number of activities to support the development of this Strategy. In April, it organised a conference under the patronage of the Jordanian Prime Minister with a view to gaining cross-sectoral support for a national plan for reform. 250 participants attended, including experts from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen and Kuwait, who shared best practices from their regions.

The conference produced a set of recommendations which informed the Strategy. The final document will be formally launched in April 2014 and act as a roadmap for a number of important reforms over the next two years. These include, for example, a range of measures to improve the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners, expanding both pre- and post-release support; investment in prison management and in continuous training for prison service staff, and the improvement of prison infrastructure in line with international standards.

Criminal justice reform work in Jordan and Tunisia is supported by a three-year grant from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

“

For prison reform to succeed, everyone must be involved, and partnerships with civil society and with international organizations are essential.

Prime Minister Hammadi Jebali of Tunisia, speaking at a PRI conference, January 2013

”



## PRISON CONDITIONS

### Supporting the development of criminal justice legislation in Russia

PRI's office in Moscow contributed its expertise to several legislative and policy Working Groups last year.

#### Extending public oversight of detention

PRI Moscow participates in the Working Group on Affairs of Public Oversight Commissions (POCs) and Penitentiary Reform, which operates under the Presidential Council on the Development of Institutions of Civil Society and Human Rights. The group's aims include developing legislation related to public control in places of detention and providing assistance to Public Oversight Commissions (POCs) and their members.

PRI made a number of recommendations last year related to the 2008 Public Control Act which provides for POCs in each region of Russia, including that the Act should be in compliance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), and that future legislative amendments should strengthen existing monitoring mechanisms (the POCs) with a view to the future development of a National Prevention Mechanism as envisaged under OPCAT. PRI also recommended that the list of places of detention that Public Oversight Commissions are allowed to visit is extended, to include immigration detention facilities, for example.

PRI's recommendations were included in the list of recommendations prepared by the Working Group and sent to the government for consideration.

#### Bringing regulations governing the treatment of prisoners into line with international standards and good practice

In Autumn 2013, PRI participated in meetings of the Working Group on protection of human rights in places of deprivation of liberty, which reports to the State Duma Committee on Affairs of NGOs and Religious Organisations.

This Working Group is currently supporting the preparation of amendments to the Internal Rules of Correctional Institutions. These Rules regulate the rights and duties of prisoners in correctional colonies, but contain a number of poorly defined provisions. As a result, prison administrations and staff have considerable latitude in interpreting the Rules as they wish, often leading to infringements of prisoners' rights.

For example, the Rules do not refer to public monitoring or the rights of Public Oversight Commissions; they do not compel prison administrations to provide prisoners with a full copy of the Internal Rules; and they do not oblige administrations to inform prisoners of their health status or the treatment they need, or how to obtain medical care outside prison.

The amendments prepared take into account human rights standards, including the European Prison Rules and the UN Bangkok Rules, and were presented at a roundtable in mid-November to representatives of the Federal Service of the Execution of Punishments (FSIN), the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, the Presidential Council, Public Oversight Commissions and lawyers. They are currently under consideration by the government.

*Above: PRI's MENA staff meet the Minister of Justice in Tunis.*



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

### Supporting the revision of criminal codes in Central Asia

After two years, the process of criminal code revision in Kazakhstan is now drawing to an end. The draft new Codes contain many revised or new provisions which will support the ongoing development of a more humane criminal justice and penal system in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are all currently in the process of reviewing their respective criminal codes. PRI's Central Asia office has engaged with the revision process in all three countries, but particularly intensively in Kazakhstan where four different codes have been under review during 2012 and 2013.

Supported in part by a one-year grant from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRI Central Asia has undertaken a wide range of activities to ensure that the revised Codes contribute to the development of a less punitive legislative framework. Significantly, these included membership of the parliamentary working group responsible for drafting the new Criminal Executive Code, the only NGO to do so, and also regular participation in the parliamentary working group on the Criminal Code.

Last year, PRI attended 19 meetings of the Working Group on the Criminal Executive Code. Its expert contributions and advocacy have contributed to a number of positive changes in the Code (see opposite).

At the end of 2013, several important issues were still under discussion. Of particular concern are a proposal to introduce a new short custodial sentence for petty offences into the Criminal Code; the continued existence of the death penalty, again in the Criminal Code; and proposals by the Prison Service to introduce new restrictions on prisoners' rights, such as compulsory prison uniforms and very low limits on personal living space, into the Criminal Executive Code.

PRI Central Asia will continue to focus on these issues in 2014 through its membership of working groups, as well as other activities. It has been awarded a grant by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to continue this work.

“

We have managed to change the criminal executive legislation very significantly and this happened primarily because of the support of Penal Reform International.

Zhakyp Assanov, Deputy Prosecutor General of Kazakhstan

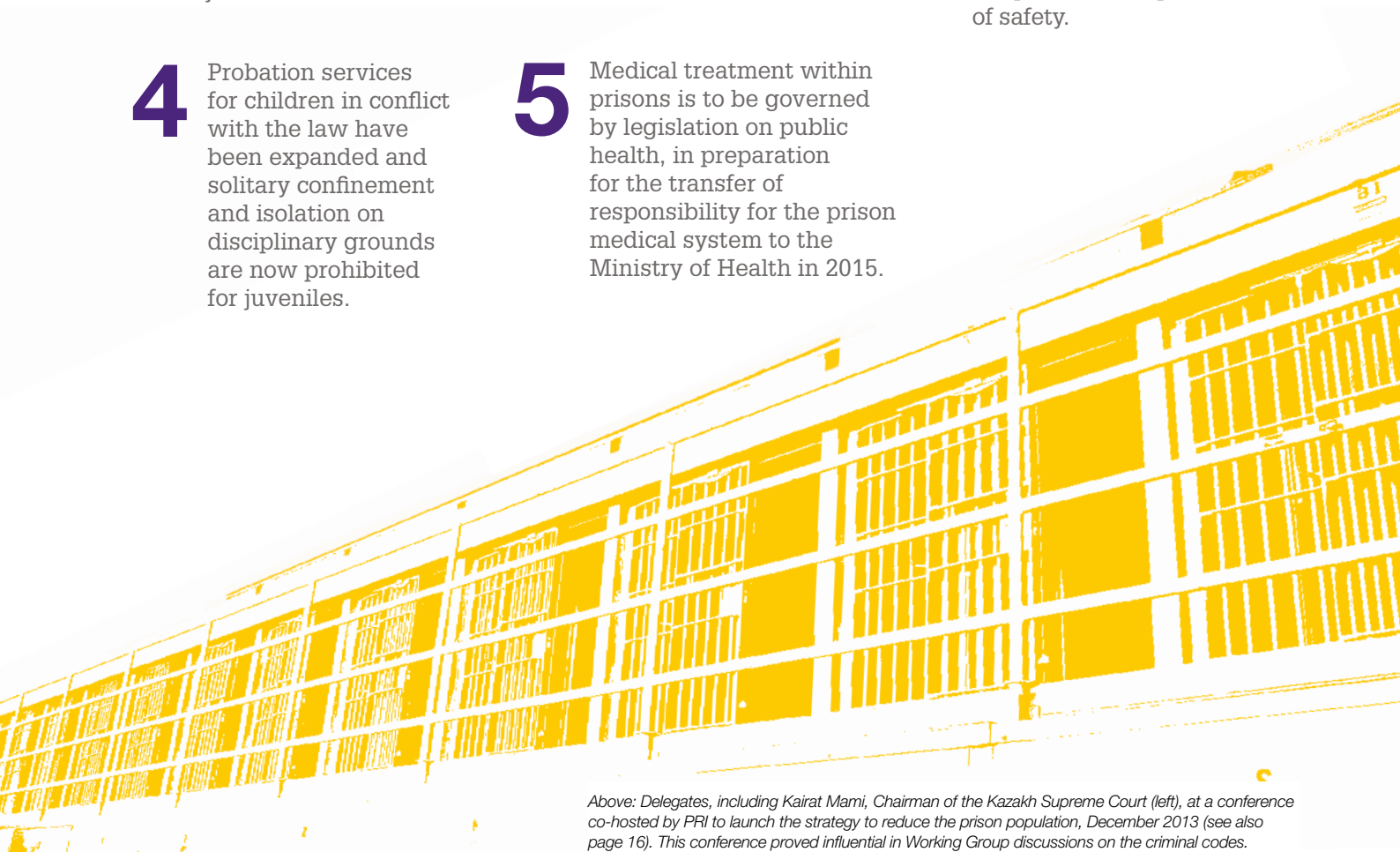
”

*Above: Delegates at the roundtable on life imprisonment and the death penalty in Kazakhstan's new criminal code, supported by the EU and the British Embassy in Astana, February 2013.*



## Positive changes to Kazakhstan's revised Criminal Executive Code:

- 1** The Code (Article 3) now places emphasis on resocialisation, rather than correction, as the principle aim of imprisonment. This is a significant step for a penal system historically predicated on a punitive approach to criminal justice.
- 2** The right to health and the right to personal security are now guaranteed and limiting the rights of prisoners who make complaints is prohibited.
- 3** Safeguards against torture have been strengthened. Where there is a threat to their life, health or dignity, prisoners no longer need to make complaints in writing, but can apply verbally to any prison official, who must respond immediately and escort the prisoner to a place of safety.
- 4** Probation services for children in conflict with the law have been expanded and solitary confinement and isolation on disciplinary grounds are now prohibited for juveniles.
- 5** Medical treatment within prisons is to be governed by legislation on public health, in preparation for the transfer of responsibility for the prison medical system to the Ministry of Health in 2015.



Above: Delegates, including Kairat Mami, Chairman of the Kazakh Supreme Court (left), at a conference co-hosted by PRI to launch the strategy to reduce the prison population, December 2013 (see also page 16). This conference proved influential in Working Group discussions on the criminal codes.

# Developing effective criminal justice institutions

We support the establishment of new systems, institutions and practices through a range of practical programmes tailored to the individual country context.



## TORTURE PREVENTION

### Building the capacity of independent monitoring mechanisms for children in Jordan

2013 was the first year of operation for Jordan's independent inspection team responsible for monitoring social care institutions. Since 2012, PRI has provided technical assistance to the Jordanian government to support this new mechanism.

The team was formed following the commissioning of a Royal Committee to investigate allegations of systematic abuse of children in special education centres, first revealed by a BBC Arabic documentary in 2012. It was launched in March and formally started work in July 2013.

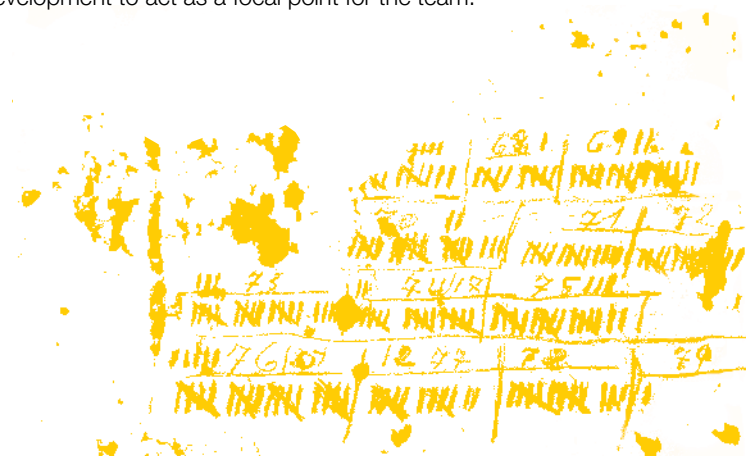
In line with international standards governing anti-torture bodies, the inspection team is a voluntary body of 35 experts from several fields and includes doctors, social workers and civil society representatives. It has guaranteed unrestricted access to all care facilities in Jordan, including juvenile detention centres.

PRI and its local partner, the Change Academy, provided initial training for team members, including a joint workshop for inspection team members and the Juvenile Police Department, to share knowledge and experience on monitoring. PRI developed a monitoring checklist to inform and guide visits, and it is also working with the team to

create an operational manual and code of conduct which will set out its structure and reporting procedures.

Over the course of last year, the team has conducted inspection visits to 30 care facilities, including three of six juvenile detention centres, across Jordan. So far, it has submitted 30 reports to the Ministry of Social Development with recommendations for action. Based on the team's recommendations, the Ministry issued warnings to two centres for people with disabilities for human rights violations and actions were taken against staff members responsible.

PRI's work is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Social Development, which was renewed for a further year in December 2013. PRI is advocating strongly to ensure the sustainability of the inspection team. Progress has already been made, for example by the creation of a special unit within the Ministry of Social Development to act as a focal point for the team.



Above: Photo © Eric Gourlan, men's prison, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. With kind permission.



“

The Independent Inspection Team was commended by the UN Human Rights Council in its Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review for Jordan 2014: For social care institutions, the national team for monitoring and inspection is fully composed of civil society organizations for the best interests of the beneficiaries.

”



Right: Members of Jordan's independent inspection team, 2013.



## TORTURE PREVENTION

### Building the capacity of independent monitoring mechanisms in Central Asia

In July 2013, **Kazakhstan** passed a new law establishing a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) which will enter into force in 2014.

Throughout 2011 and 2012, PRI's Central Asia office was intensively engaged in negotiations to establish an NPM for Kazakhstan, which would fulfil its obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

PRI's advocacy and in particular its engagement in the parliamentary Working Group responsible for drafting the new law, resulted in some significant improvements, including the following.

- Children's facilities are included within the mandate of the NPM.
- The NPM will now be funded directly from the government budget and the transport costs of NPM members covered.
- Public Monitoring Commissions will continue to operate without restrictions.
- Members of the NPM will include independent experts and civil society.
- The mandate of the NPM was extended to include all types of police detention.
- NPM members have the right to meet detainees in private and to receive complaints. There are no restrictions on the number of visits or on the number of people in the group visiting a particular facility.

After the adoption of the new law, PRI focused on supporting the Ombudsman's Office, a constituent body of the new NPM, to draft procedural regulations and has provided training for NPM members including Ombudsman staff. Two government decrees governing the work of the NPM have since been adopted and five regulations approved by the Ombudsman. These include a number of key advocacy points for PRI, providing for guaranteed confidential meetings with detainees, the independence of local and regional NPM groups, and the freedom of the NPM to choose the facilities they visit.

PRI Central Asia is also implementing a project in neighbouring **Kyrgyzstan** to improve the capacity of detention monitoring mechanisms to prevent the torture and ill-treatment of women and children in closed facilities.

In the first year of the project, PRI supported the drafting of internal rules and procedures for the regional Public Monitoring Commissions (PMCs) and for the new National Torture Prevention Centre. These are now in operation.

It also carried out a programme of training for PMC members on monitoring methodology, after which monitoring teams carried out visits to eight children's facilities. A number of recommendations were made following the visits, and in the case of one institution where evidence of serious abuse was found, children were removed and the facility restructured.

The project activities attracted significant media attention in both national and regional outlets, with journalists accompanying monitoring teams during their visits to facilities, as well as covering other promotional events to raise public awareness of the issue of torture for children in Kyrgyzstan and gain support for the work of monitoring bodies.

“

PRI had a huge role in creating this Department.

Interview with a member of the Juvenile Police Department, October 2013

”



## JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

### Diverting children from the criminal justice system in Jordan and Yemen

Since 2011, PRI has been working in **Jordan** to create a specialised police department to deal with children in conflict with the law, diverting and resolving cases at a police level and reducing the number of children entering the formal justice system and being detained.

International standards and good practice insist upon the importance of a separate justice system for children under the age of 18. PRI's Middle East and North Africa office, together with local human rights organisations, had long advocated for a specialised juvenile police unit, and in January 2012, a pilot project – the Juvenile Police Department (JPD) – was established in North Amman.

This initiative was supported by a two-year grant from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2011-2013). Over the course of the project, PRI provided technical expertise to help establish the department's structure, mission, vision and mandate. It provided training for judiciary, police officers and social workers on restorative justice, interviewing skills, conflict management and mediation. It developed a procedural guide for juvenile police officers, a staff handbook, and a code of ethics for the Department. It also provided communications and media support to help the Department promote public confidence in it as a restorative justice institution.

In Jordan, the number of children held in detention has fallen over the last three years, pre-trial by 40 per cent and post-trial by a striking 97 per cent. In 2013, the Juvenile Police Department resolved 89% of children's cases it received. Over 600 cases have been diverted from custody since it was established. Estimates indicate that outside the JPD's jurisdiction in North Amman, only around 30 per cent of cases are diverted at police level.

*Above: Prison officer training at the new PRI-sponsored training centre in Sana'a, Yemen.*

In 2013, PRI drew on its experience in Jordan to develop a specialised police unit in **Yemen**.

Conditions and treatment for children in prison in Yemen are harsh. While separate institutions are available, difficulties in age determination often means that children are tried as adults and children are often sent to adult prisons.

In partnership with UNICEF and Yemen's Ministry of Interior, PRI helped to establish a juvenile police unit in Sana'a under the Family Protection Department.

Like the Juvenile Police Department in North Amman, a key aim of the unit is to solve children's cases at police level and prevent children from entering the formal justice system and their detention. PRI furnished the centre with child-friendly facilities, provided training for 60 police officers, and developed a police procedural guide.

In 2014 with financial support from UNICEF, new juvenile police units will be opened in the Yemeni districts of Aden, Taiz and Hudidah.

PRI has also been working with the Ministry of Justice in Yemen on a pilot project to create a child-friendly court in Sana'a. A list of minimum standards which should exist in any children's court was produced as part of the project. The Sana'a court, for example, follows child-friendly procedures at prosecution level, child-friendly court design, and all children who come before the court must be represented by a lawyer.

Five more courts will be established in other districts in 2014.

“

PRI's in-country offices have the vital ability to bridge the gap between local cultures and international thinking.

”

Martin Seddon, independent expert

“

Staff training is key to the delivery of prison reform. In PRI's India Training of Trainers programme, we require trainers to leave with a time bound commitment to future training within their sphere of influence in their own jurisdiction.

John Podmore, former UK prison governor and expert trainer for PRI

”

## TRAINING

### Building the skills and knowledge of those working with people in conflict with the law

In 2013, we provided expert training in 16 countries: Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Georgia, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Russia, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

During the year, we delivered more than 40 courses, workshops or seminars on topics including human rights and good prison management; the gender-sensitive treatment of women offenders and prisoners; conducting evidence-based journalism on criminal justice issues; the rights of prisoners on death row and those sentenced to life imprisonment; effective supervision of community service placements; and preventive monitoring.

Over 1,100 participants took part in our training. We trained a large number of prison staff and managers for whom in many countries there is often only a few weeks' basic training, but also a wide range of other stakeholders who work in or engage with the criminal justice system. These included judges and magistrates, police, Ministry of Justice officials, probation officers and community service supervisors, members of monitoring bodies, lawyers and NGO staff, journalists, social workers and child protection officers, teachers and religious representatives. They also included members of UN bodies, with PRI's Policy Director delivering a presentation on international standards to the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), as part of a training session on pre-trial detention organised by the University of Bristol and the Open Society Justice Initiative.

We place a strong emphasis on sustaining the impact of training. This might be through 'training the trainer' programmes, for example in Kenya, where we trained members of the Probation Service and the judiciary to become trainers of community service supervisors (page 26). Or it might be through working with authorities to develop training curricula – for example, in Jordan and Algeria, where we are working in partnership with prison departments to develop human rights focused training for new prison and police personnel (page 26).

We also produced several large new training resources this year, not least our first e-learning course on the UN Bangkok Rules (page 27), but also a new edition of the popular juvenile justice training manual (page 32), and a new practical tool to support preventive monitoring bodies to conduct effective visits to places of detention (page 32).

**40** courses, workshops and seminars, delivered to over **1,100** participants

→ Turn over to see some highlights from our training programme in 2013.

# Training highlights 2013

## Middle East and North Africa: sustainable human rights focused training for prison staff

In **Yemen**, PRI worked with the Ministry of Interior to establish a prison officer training centre in Sana'a. The centre officially opened in March 2013 and offers two courses, one on a human rights based approach to prison management and another covering basic prison management skills. Completing the courses will be mandatory for all prison officers and will reach 3,000-4,000 officers over the next five years. The centre will sit within the Yemeni Prison Department and will be funded by the Ministry of Interior.

In **Algeria** and **Jordan**, as part of PRI's work to institutionalise human rights learning in the prison service, we have worked

with prison departments in both countries to create teaching curricula on a human rights based approach to prison management with a special focus on vulnerable groups. These courses will be mandatory for all officers in police and prison training academies who work with prisoners. In Jordan, the curriculum was finished in 2013 and teaching will start in April 2014. In Algeria, the development of the curriculum is underway and will be launched in 2014.

## Kenya: building confidence and capacity in community service

Work to improve the capacity of the courts and probation services in **Kenya**, **Uganda** and **Tanzania** to make greater use and improve the implementation of non-custodial alternatives to imprisonment continued in 2013.

In 2012, we trained 320 members of the judiciary in three countries on Community Service Orders, including 160 in two districts in Kenya. In 2013, we concentrated on the same two districts in **Kenya**, in this phase training 40 Community Service supervisors, whose participation and effectiveness is vital in ensuring confidence in the effective enforcement of Community Service Orders both among the judiciary and the general public. Supervisors included teachers, local Chiefs, hospital staff and police officers. We also ran a four-day training of trainers' course for 16 members of the Judiciary and Probation Service.

Six months later, feedback shows that the training has had a positive impact. Two courts in the district reported an increase in referrals from magistrates to the probation service. All of the placement supervisors said they had made changes

to the way they manage placements, citing in particular improvements in allocating work, reporting to and liaising with other stakeholders, and improved relationships with offenders. The Kenyan Probation Service has since committed to further training in other districts.

PRI and the Probation Services in **Kenya**, **Tanzania** and **Uganda** will now use this experience to design, test and implement a new model for effective delivery of community-based sentences, focusing on the judiciary, supervisors and the general public. This two-year project will start in 2014.

## India: professionalising the prison service

Over 2013, PRI, together with NGO Penal Reform and Justice Association (PRAJA), the Academy of Prisons and Correctional Administration (APCA), Vellore, and the Regional Institute of



I have begun to use the services of NGOs and officers of other wings of the criminal justice system. I now review CCTV footage, conduct surprise visits and obtain regular reports from subordinates.

Prison superintendent, Tamil Nadu, **India**

After the workshop, I used my notes to help me relate with offenders without discrimination. I was able to sensitise other members of staff.

Participant, Community Service Supervisors' training, Lugulu Secondary School, Webuye, **Kenya**

In my role as women's prison monitor, I will be able to use this knowledge to push for change.

E-course participant, Bernie Donnelly, Chairperson of Dochas Visiting Committee (Mountjoy Prison Campus), **Ireland**



Correctional Administration, Kolkata, trained 50 prison managers from two regions of India as trainers on human rights and prison management.

Training took place at two regional training institutes, based in **Vellore** (for Southern States) and **Kolkata** (for Eastern States). Each four-day workshop was followed by a high-level seminar with members of the judiciary, government, civil society and academics to discuss national and regional priorities for penal reform.

As part of the programme, participants developed detailed plans for delivering training to colleagues and subordinates in the prison or region where they work. Follow-up evaluations will take place in 2014 to assess progress made.

Two further training sessions will be held in **Delhi** and **Chandigarh** in early 2014.

## Russia: training senior prison management

PRI's Moscow office is currently carrying out a one-year project funded by the Vol'noe Delo Foundation to train senior prison management on international standards related to good prison management, treatment of offenders and preparation for release.

This training forms part of a larger project to establish an effective reintegration system for former prisoners in the Russian region of **Nizhny Novgorod**. Prison colonies are run along military lines, often with poor coordination and communication between different ranks and between departments. PRI's training is designed to improve the management and leadership skills of high-level staff and communication at all levels in order to help create prison environments which will support the effective rehabilitation of prisoners.

The first training course took place in December 2013 in **Lukoyanov**, and was attended by 26 members of senior management, including prison governors, human resource managers and senior psychologists. 19 different institutions were represented including pre-trial facilities, women's and juvenile colonies and resettlement colonies. Three further training courses will take place in 2014 reaching around 90 prison personnel in total.

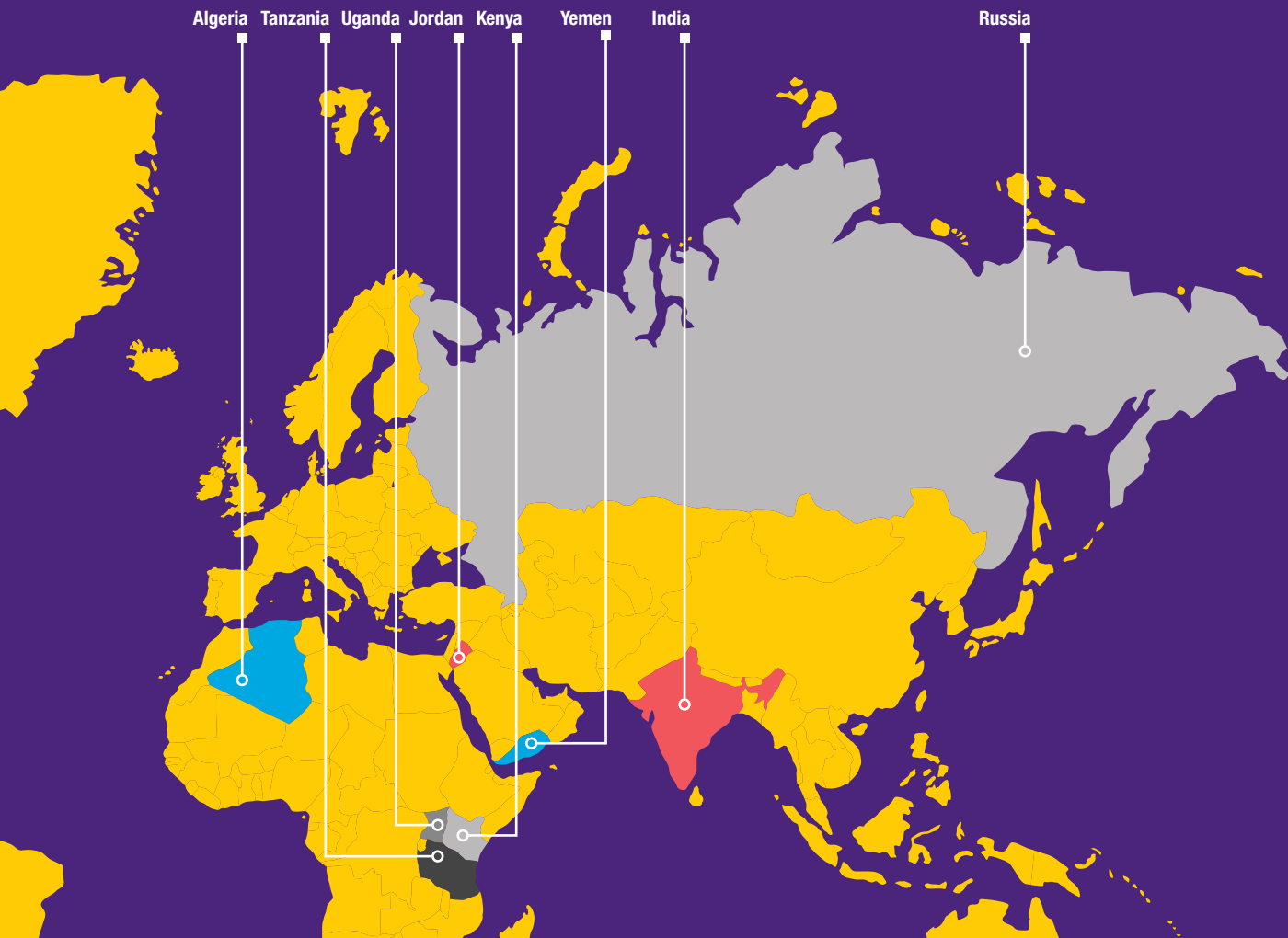
## Putting the UN Bangkok Rules into practice: PRI's first online learning course

In October 2013, PRI launched its first online e-course at the United Nations in **New York** (see also page 33). This free online course on the UN Bangkok Rules combines analysis, interactive assessments and application of the Rules to real life

situations and is aimed at policy-makers, prison administrations and other professionals working with women and girls in the criminal justice system.

From the launch in October until December 2013, 104 people started the course and 36 successfully completed it.

The course is also being taken up by training institutions. At an international level, for example, states deploying correction officers to UN peace-keeping operations have expressed interest in using the course to incorporate gender aspects and the Bangkok Rules into the training of correction officers prior to their deployment. At a national level, the Academy of Prisons and Correctional Administration (APCA) in India will make completion of the e-course mandatory for all new prison officer recruits.



# Working in partnership with civil society

In every area of work, we engage with civil society organisations both in joint advocacy and in delivering practical programmes, including service delivery to beneficiaries.



## REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

### Towards a national pre- and post-release support programme in Jordan

In Jordan, we are working with the correctional and rehabilitation department and the NGO, Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI), on a pilot pre-release and post-care programme in two prisons.

This pilot project is operating in two prisons near Amman – one men’s prison, Om’Lulu, and one women’s prison, Juweideh – and aims to provide support for inmates coming up for release. There is a high-level of reoffending in Jordan – around 45 per cent – and limited existing provision to support reintegration of former prisoners. Both men and women face stigma as former prisoners. Women face particular hardship, with many abandoned by their families and no accommodation or place of safety to go to when released.

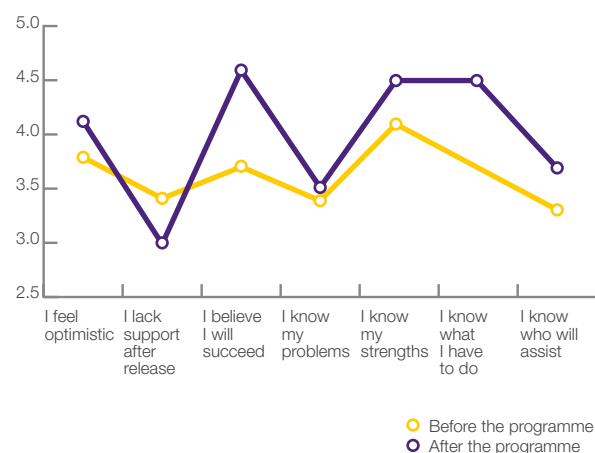
Each prisoner has an individualised reintegration plan which takes their particular needs into account and the project provides a range of tailored support. This included help with job-seeking and finding accommodation, liaising with their families and mediating with the families of victims, medical treatment and emergency financial aid if needed.

Follow-up surveys show that 18 of the 20 former prisoners who have taken part in the pilot so far have benefited from

the project, either successfully getting a job or starting a business, reconciling with their families or regaining custody of children. None of the participants have reoffended.

40 prisoners are expected to benefit over the course of the pilot project. Lessons learned from this pilot, together with good practice and expertise from the Mohammad IV Foundation for Reintegration in Morocco, will form the basis for advocating for future expansion into a national aftercare programme.

Feeling positive: results of a beneficiary questionnaire, Om’Lulu men’s prison, Amman



Above: Exhibition of artwork produced by women prisoners as part of the PRI-Women in Business pre-release support project in Georgia.

“

When I was nominated for the pre- and post-release care programme, I did not take the issue seriously. I was depressed and had lost hope in life due to my large debt. With the support of Penal Reform International, I now have a new life. I am reunited with my family, I feel respect for myself, I can talk about my experience and I am no longer afraid to face the society. I own a small restaurant and I started paying my debts. I will support the other girls in my group to start their own small business and join the programme.

Asya, project participant. Asya served one year in prison for fraud. She received a small loan from the project to start a restaurant in Amman.

”



REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

## Working together to provide pre-release support to women prisoners in Georgia

In Georgia, we worked with the Georgian NGO Women in Business on an EU-funded project to provide pre-release support to women prisoners.

This project took place at Rustavi No.5 prison near Tbilisi, where the majority of Georgia’s women prisoners are held. The women prisoners at Rustavi were also surveyed as part of PRI’s research in Georgia in May 2013 and identified employment, health and counselling, and childcare and reunification with families, as their most urgent support needs when leaving prison.

Demand for the support offered by the project was high, in particular as the project timeframe coincided with a wide-scale prison amnesty and the activation of early release mechanisms. Over a two-year period, project partners provided support to 810 women prisoners. 160 women took part in vocational and business training courses and a further 80 received job seeker training. Professional psychological support and legal assistance were provided to 420 women, and direct assistance with renewing contact with children to 47.

PRI South Caucasus contributed technical assistance on international standards and gender-sensitive prison management, providing training on human rights and workshops for 70 prison officers, prison administrative staff, medical personnel and social workers.

PRI facilitated dialogue with policy-makers and prison authorities, for example, successfully advocating for risk assessments and information about the needs of women taking part in the project to be taken into account by parole boards. It also organised a working meeting with the Parole Commission to discuss how the gender-specific needs of women prisoners could systematically be taken into account in parole decision-making processes in the future.



Above left: Partners’ meeting, pilot Pre-release and Post-care Programme, Jordan.

Above right: Muwaqqar men’s prison, Jordan.

“

I am planning to work towards bringing the civil society on board in promoting non-custodial sanctions.”

Conference participant: Director, Probation Unit, Lesotho



Right: Community service tree planting project, Kampala, Uganda.

ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

## Connecting civil society and government in East Africa

In East Africa, we have worked on several new initiatives this year to support the growth of civil society and its capacity to promote and implement alternatives to imprisonment.

While examples of good practice in civil society/government partnership-working exist in the region, there is often a lack of understanding that civil society work can complement government services and many NGOs work in isolation.

In November, we held a four-day conference in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, on alternatives to imprisonment. Sixteen Heads and senior representatives of Community Service and Probation Departments from Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe attended, together with representatives from eight civil society organisations working on criminal justice in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

As well as providing opportunities to share experience and good practice, the conference was a rare opportunity for civil society organisations to share a platform and make contact with government probation and community service officials.

The conference also hosted the inaugural meeting of the Africa Alternatives to Imprisonment Network (APC Network), an Africa-wide initiative designed to facilitate cooperation between probation and community service departments across the continent.

### The East Africa Civil Society Criminal Justice E-Network

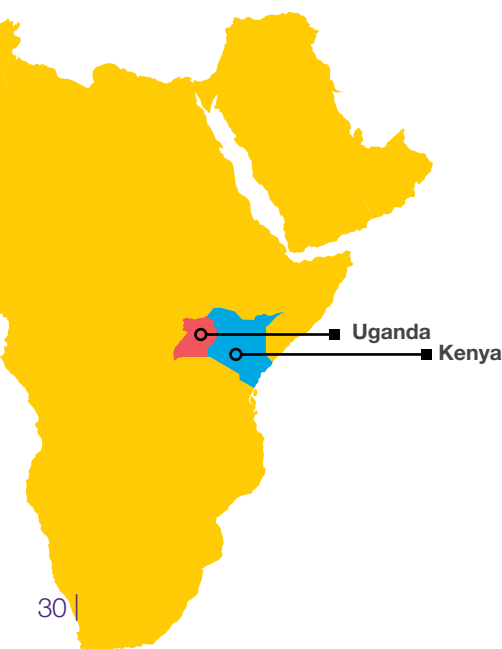
PRI and our partner the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative in Uganda established a new e-network for civil society to promote best practice, information sharing and dialogue on criminal justice issues across the region. The network has so far sent out four newsletters to 125 subscribers and has been well received.

“

The idea of forming an e-network has come at the right time as it is going to fill an important gap.

Resource Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI), Kenya

”



### Contacts made at PRI's Alternatives Conference have led to new cooperation between government and civil society.



In **Uganda**, the Community Service Department is now actively discussing possibilities for collaboration with the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative.



In **Kenya**, the Nairobi Probation Service has identified partners to support women offenders, including Faraja, a Nairobi-based NGO and conference participant.





“

PRI played an important role in mobilising civil society in advocating for the reopening of places of detention and in allowing NGOs to reestablish their presence in them for other types of work.

”

Krassimir Kanev, independent evaluator to PRI's EU-funded project – Strengthening institutions and building civil society capacity to combat torture in nine CIS countries – 2010-2013

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

### Increasing the influence of Georgian civil society in criminal justice reform

In Georgia, 2013 ended with a significant breakthrough for civil society with the government agreeing to re-establish civil society monitoring boards after a long campaign, and the formation of a government-recognised coalition for civil society NGOs in the criminal justice sector.

PRI's South Caucasus office has long had an important and well established role as a leading advocate for civil society participation in criminal justice reform in Georgia.

In particular, it has led calls for the reestablishment of civil society involvement in public monitoring of detention facilities. Public monitoring commissions, which had included members of human rights NGOs, had been dissolved in Georgia following the designation of a National Preventive Mechanism in 2009. Despite the greater pressure for improved oversight of prisons after a torture scandal in Georgian prisons in Autumn 2012 and a change of government, the Ministry of Corrections had held its position that no further public monitoring was needed.

Over the course of 2013, PRI continued to press for the reintroduction of public monitoring in a number of fora, coordinating a group of NGOs to lobby the parliamentary Human Rights Committee for example. On a practical level, it also, with the support of a grant from the Eurasia Foundation, built a small coalition of NGOs to carry out joint monitoring visits to prisons in East Georgia.

Following the agreement, the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance will use a draft statute prepared by PRI in 2012 as a source for shaping the model proposed.

In October, PRI's coordinating role within civil society active in the field of criminal justice was strengthened with the creation of the **Criminal Justice Reform Alliance of Georgia** under a new EU funded PRI project to strengthen the voice and influence of civil society in criminal justice reform.

While civil society in Georgia provides a valuable source of continuity in an often politically unstable environment, advocacy and lobbying efforts have in the past sometimes been fragmented and limited to organisations based in Tbilisi.

The Alliance, which has 30 civil society members from across Georgia as well as lawyers and academics, will be a platform from which civil society can bring much-needed expertise to influence government decision-making, policy development and implementation in the justice sector.

Above: Tsira Chanturia, PRI Regional Director in the South Caucasus, at the launch of the Criminal Justice Reform Alliance of Georgia.

# Highlights from 2013



## The use and practice of imprisonment: current trends and future challenges

Outlines current trends in prison populations, the use of new technologies in the penal system, and challenges facing penal systems around the world.

At the Crime Congress in Doha in April 2015, PRI will launch a **new annual publication** based on this discussion paper, which will provide an update on global developments in penal reform and criminal justice each year.

More information will be available on our website in 2014. [English](#)

## The death penalty and alternative sanctions

### Counter-terrorism in Kazakhstan: why the death penalty is no solution

Examines evolving standards and practice internationally and considers how Kazakhstan can meet its human rights obligations whilst countering terrorism

and maintaining the security of its people. [English](#), [Russian](#)

## Alternatives to imprisonment

### The unintended negative consequences of the 'war on drugs'

This briefing paper discusses the many unintended negative consequences of the 50 year 'war on drugs' and sets out what parliamentarians can do about it. [English](#)

### The probation and parole system in Pakistan: assessment and recommendations for reform

Analyses the current probation and parole system in Pakistan with recommendations for reform. [English](#), [Urdu](#)

### Alternative sanctions in Russia: status, problems and prospects

Surveys the range of non-custodial sanctions available in Russia, including how they developed and their application and impact in practice, and makes recommendations for reform. [English](#), [Russian](#)

## Torture prevention

### Detention monitoring tool: addressing risk factors to prevent torture and ill-treatment

Practical guidance to support monitoring bodies conduct effective visits to places of detention. Developed in partnership with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT).

The Tool includes:

**Four** thematic papers examining regulations and practices throughout the criminal justice process with a systemic lens:

- **Institutional culture in detention: a framework for preventive monitoring**
- **Women in detention: a guide to gender-sensitive monitoring**
- **LGBTI persons deprived of their liberty: a framework for preventive monitoring**
- **Balancing security and dignity in detention: a framework for preventive monitoring**

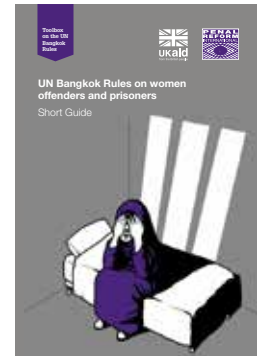
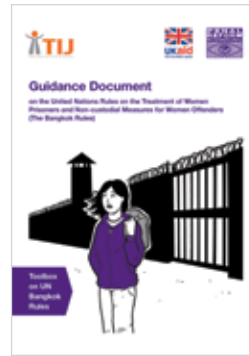
**Five** factsheets which provide practical guidance on how monitoring bodies can focus on a number of



## Look out for... PRI's anniversary expert blog series 2014-2015

- Does the human right to liberty set boundaries on the length of prison sentences?
- How can the design of a prison building be used as a tool to support the rehabilitative goal of imprisonment?
- How are women offenders' histories linked to violence against women?

From the Crime Commission 2014 to the Crime Congress in 2015, we will be addressing some of the most interesting trends and pressing criminal justice challenges in a series of expert guest blogs on our website at [www.penalreform.org](http://www.penalreform.org).



systemic issues that are particularly high risk factors for torture or ill-treatment:

- Body searches
- Instruments of restraint
- Pre-trial detention
- Staff working conditions
- Video-recording in police custody

Currently available in [English](#) and [Russian](#). Other languages may follow.

## Justice for Children

### Protecting children's rights in criminal justice systems: a training manual and reference point for professionals and policymakers

Comprehensive training resource for those involved in working with children involved in the justice process, including child victims and witnesses.

Topics covered include child protection, crime prevention, law enforcement, trial procedures, sentencing and rehabilitation.

Based on international and regional standards, with examples from other countries and including challenging and thought-provoking questions and case studies at the end of each topic. It also includes a sample training module for trainers. [English](#), [Russian](#), [Arabic](#)

## Justice for Children briefing papers

This series continued this year with two new papers:

Briefing 4: **The minimum age of criminal responsibility.** [English](#), [Russian](#)

Briefing 5: **The right of children deprived of their liberty to make complaints.** [English](#)

Briefings 1-3 published in 2012 cover the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; independent monitoring mechanisms; and children with parents in conflict with the law.

## Women in the criminal justice system

### Who are women prisoners? PRI research series

In 2013, we published the first in a series of research reports into the background and characteristics of women prisoners.

**Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Armenia and Georgia** reports on findings from a survey of 65 and 70 per cent of the female prison population in Armenia and Georgia respectively, carried out by PRI in May 2013.

Two further reports – **Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan** ([English](#), [Russian](#)) and **Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Jordan and Tunisia** ([English](#), [Arabic](#)) – will be published in 2014.

## The UN Bangkok Rules Toolbox

The UN Bangkok Rules Toolbox is a suite of resources designed to support the implementation of the 2010 UN Rules on the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders. In 2013, we added a number of new resources:

### Short Guide

A short illustrated guide to the Bangkok Rules, providing an overview of the typical profile of women offenders and their needs, and what the Rules cover. [English](#)

### Guidance document and Index of implementation on the UN Bangkok Rules

**Guidance document:** A guide to each Bangkok Rule, suggested measures for implementation at policy and practical level, with examples of good practice to inspire new thinking.

## Toolbox on the UN Bangkok Rules

**Index:** A comprehensive checklist for an assessment of implementation of the Rules, structured for different actors. Can be used in developing policies and strategies.

Both documents are jointly published with the Thailand Institute of Justice. [English](#), [Russian](#), [Thai](#), [Arabic](#)

### E-course

A self-paced, free online course combining analysis of the Rules, interactive assessments and application of the Rules to real life situations, with a certificate issued on completion. [English](#), [Russian](#), [Arabic](#)

# Coming soon in 2014

## The death penalty and alternative sanctions

### Belarusian public opinion on crime and punishment, including the death penalty

This detailed survey of public opinion about crime, punishment and the death penalty in Belarus sampled 1,100 adults, comparing attitudes across different ages, genders, place of residence, educational or financial situation and religious beliefs. [English](#), [Russian](#).

### Fighting for clients' lives: the impact of the death penalty on defence lawyers

How are lawyers affected by defending death penalty cases when failure means execution?

This briefing paper was written by Susannah Sheffer and draws on her book *Fighting for their lives*. [English](#)

### The death penalty, terrorism and international law

The death penalty is retained for terrorism offences in many countries, but how does it conform with international standards? This paper brings together key arguments to identify the appropriate state responses in the face of terrorism. [English](#)

### "No punishment can bring my son back": True life stories from Uganda

This paper from PRI's partner, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, will highlight

the stories of people released from death row and the impact that imprisonment has had on them and their families. [English](#)

### Information pack: Death penalty – NEW EDITION

A new updated edition of this useful resource which reviews current trends towards abolition, highlights relevant international and regional human rights norms and standards, and includes examples of best practice at the national level.

### Information pack: Alternative sanctions to the death penalty – NEW EDITION

A companion to the Death Penalty Information Pack, this short guide reviews current trends in the application of life and long-term imprisonment, highlights relevant international and regional human rights norms and standards, and includes examples of best practice at the national level.

## Global advocacy

### Second report of the Essex Expert Group on the review of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

This report will follow the second meeting of a group of independent experts, 'the Essex Expert Group', in preparation for the 3rd Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting (IEGM) on the revision of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners taking place in Vienna in March 2014. See also page 10 of this report.

Supplements the Experts' first report, the 'Essex paper' (2012).

## Justice for children

### Neglected needs: girls in the criminal justice system

A PRI Justice for Children briefing, produced in partnership with the Inter-agency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ), examines the discrimination faced by girls in criminal justice systems and the measures needed to strengthen protection of their rights. This also forms part of the UN Bangkok Rules Toolbox, see page 33.



## Multimedia: is a prison sentence always the solution?

In early summer 2014 we will launch a new **two-minute animated film** to highlight the damaging impact of the unnecessary use of imprisonment and promote greater use of non-custodial alternatives. The film will be available on our website at [www.penalreform.org](http://www.penalreform.org) in English initially, and in Russian and Arabic later in the year.

PRI produces a wide range of publications and resources on criminal justice and penal reform, including short briefing papers on key topics, training resources and research papers and in several languages. For a full list of our resources, please visit [www.penalreform.org](http://www.penalreform.org) For resources in Arabic, please visit [www.primena.org](http://www.primena.org)

# Our donors

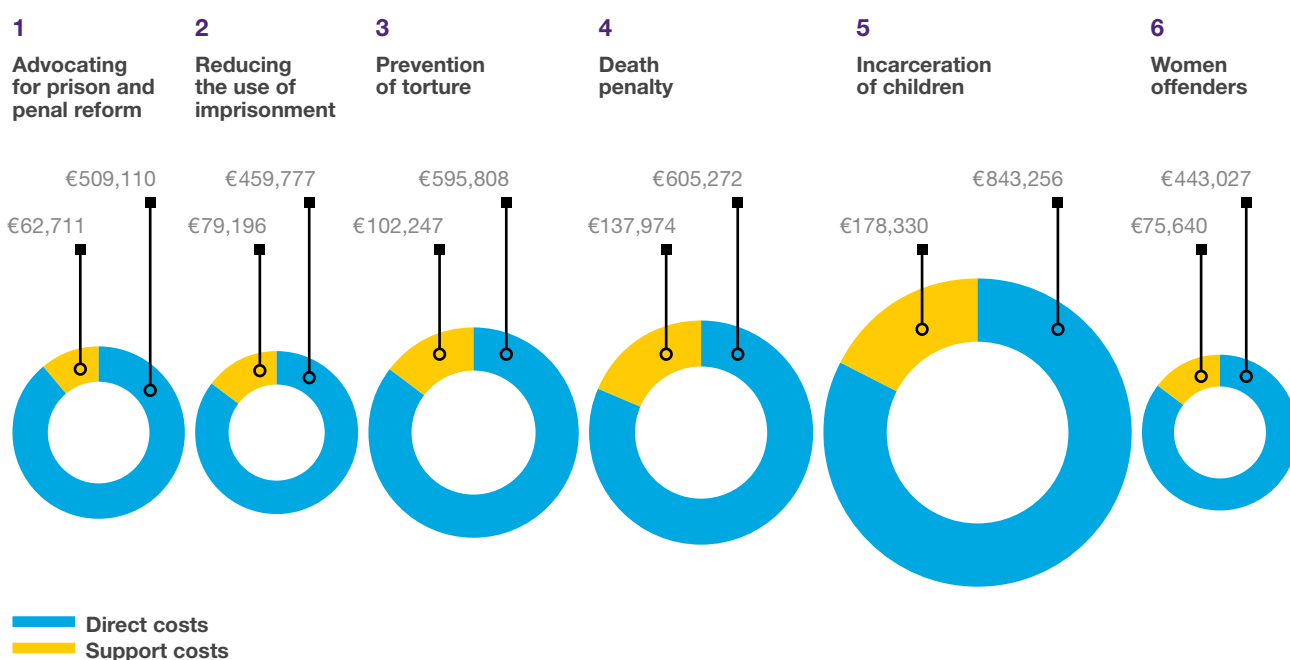
PRI would like to thank the following donor organisations and institutions for their support.

|  | Totals<br>€      |
|--|------------------|
| Department for International Development, UK               | 1,289,970        |
| European Union   | 1,259,117        |
| Open Society Foundations (OSF)                             | 477,814          |
| Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)            | 396,907          |
| UNICEF   | 313,908          |
| Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK                        | 153,860          |
| Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands             | 133,630          |
| Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs                      | 90,987           |
| Netherlands Embassy in Astana (Kazakhstan)                 | 39,412           |
| Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs                | 35,448           |
| British Embassy, Astana, Kazakhstan                        | 18,223           |
| Commonwealth Secretariat                                   | 9,978            |
| Norwegian Helsinki Committee                               | 6,944            |
| German Embassy, Kazakhstan                                 | 5,234            |
| Foundation for Human Rights Initiative                     | 5,300            |
| UN Women   | 5,015            |
| Vol'noe Delo Foundation                                    | 4,866            |
| Eurasia Partnership Foundation                             | 3,755            |
| British Embassy, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan                       | 2,330            |
| Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) | 1,211            |
| Hungarian Helsinki Committee                               | 1,061            |
| Norwegian Women's Training                                 | 946              |
| United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)                      | 877              |
| Other  | 360,614          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>4,617,407</b> |

# Financial summary

## 2013 expenditure

|  | Direct costs     | Support costs  | Totals<br>€      |
|--|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Costs of generating voluntary income                                   |                  |                | <b>120,707</b>   |
| Governance costs   |                  |                | <b>48,681</b>    |
| <b>1</b> Advocating for prison and penal reform                        | 509,110          | 62,711         | <b>571,821</b>   |
| <b>2</b> Reducing the use of imprisonment                              | 459,777          | 79,196         | <b>538,973</b>   |
| <b>3</b> Prevention of torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment | 595,808          | 102,247        | <b>698,055</b>   |
| <b>4</b> Abolition of the death penalty                                | 605,272          | 137,974        | <b>743,246</b>   |
| <b>5</b> Incarceration of children as a last resort                    | 843,256          | 178,330        | <b>1,021,586</b> |
| <b>6</b> A proportionate and sensitive response to women offending     | 443,027          | 75,640         | <b>518,667</b>   |
|  | <b>3,456,250</b> | <b>636,098</b> | <b>4,261,736</b> |



Alison Hannah

# Message from the Executive Director

Summing up and moving forward



2013 has been a very successful year for PRI, not least because of our continuing support from the UK Department of International Development which has enabled us to expand and develop new projects. This funding supports our international advocacy work to highlight the need for effective torture prevention mechanisms, a more sensitive approach to women offenders and to review the Standard Minimum Rules for prisoners, which will bring them into line with current good practice. It also facilitates our work with partner organisations in East Africa and South Asia, identifying ways to improve probation and community-based sanctions for offenders and implementing more humane ways to deal with child offenders and women prisoners. It has enabled us to invest resources in our website and newsletters so that good practice and new developments can be disseminated more widely and updated more frequently.

We also took steps last year to establish more effective ways to monitor, measure and evaluate the impact of our work so that we can improve the quality of our interventions for the future.

2014 is the year when we start to develop our next five year strategic plan, to guide our activities for the period 2015–2020. This is quite a challenge at a time when the global political environment seems increasingly more volatile and uncertain. Already in the first few months of 2014 we have seen the war in Syria show no sign of abating and a number of other countries in a state of conflict or post-conflict upheaval or confusion. The Russian government has cracked down on non-governmental organisations receiving funding from abroad, particularly human rights organisations. Many have closed down as a result or are afraid to openly challenge repressive or punitive acts by government. We work in countries that are affected by these changes, which makes it harder to bring about reform in an unstable environment where prison reform is not high on the political or popular agenda. Yet even in these difficult circumstances, change is still possible and while it may not be possible to support criminal justice reform in Egypt at the moment, for instance, we have been able to contribute to establishing a more child-friendly justice system in Jordan.

“

2013 has been a very successful year for PRI, not least because of our continuing support from the UK Department of International Development which has enabled us to expand and develop new projects.

”

We have also been able to support the juvenile justice sector in Iraq. While we are not currently working in Ukraine, we are working in Belarus to build support for abolition of the death penalty. And the government in Kazakhstan has made great progress towards reducing its prison population as part of a long term plan for penitentiary reform.

Although progress in penal reform is often slow, there is growing awareness that a high prison population does not reduce the crime rate or make societies safer and that penal policy is a matter of political choice. In fact there is increasing evidence that the rate of imprisonment and crime rates are unrelated, as crime rates have dropped in countries with very different approaches to imprisonment.

2014 is our 25th anniversary year. It is also the tenth anniversary of the death of our founder member and former Executive Chairman, Ahmed Othmani. His inspirational leadership was the cornerstone of our organisation and the mission spelt out in our Constitution is still just as relevant for our work today as it was in 1989, our founding year. While progress has been made in some countries, there are still many where imprisonment will lead to mental illness, disease and death. High rates of pre-trial detention and overcrowded conditions remain the reality in many parts

of the world. Torture and ill-treatment are still a fact of life in many prisons and our work to support effective torture prevention will continue to be high priority. The needs of children and women often remain overlooked, causing life-long damage to the individuals concerned and their families. The need for sanctions that allow minor offenders and vulnerable groups to remain in the community remains as high as ever.

In 2014 we will be developing new programmes to support effective criminal justice systems and prevent the unnecessary use of detention. We will promote fair and proportionate sentencing policy and practice that enables the circumstances of the offence and the offender to be taken into account. We will continue to seek ways to prevent torture and provide humane treatment and conditions for prisoners. We aim to make societies and communities safer through interventions that encourage rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders, so that re-offending is reduced. None of these changes will be easy to achieve, nor will they come about quickly. However, we can draw on the courage and insight of our founder members in adopting a long term view of how effective change happens. This is reflected in the way we work and we can see that it brings results over time.

“

We aim to make societies and communities safer through interventions that encourage rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders, so that re-offending is reduced.

”



Alison Hannah has extensive experience in the field of social and legal justice in the UK. She joined PRI as Executive Director in 2007.



---

# How to keep in touch with PRI

---

## Globally

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

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

Our partner in **East Africa**, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, produces quarterly newsletters on criminal justice issues in the region. Email [mukisadiva@gmail.com](mailto:mukisadiva@gmail.com) to register.

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

## Regionally

### PRI Central Asia

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

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

Twitter: [@AstanaPRI](https://twitter.com/AstanaPRI)

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

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

Facebook: [facebook.com/menaregion](https://facebook.com/menaregion)

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

### PRI South Caucasus

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

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

### PRI Russia, Ukraine and Belarus

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







Penal Reform International  
60–62 Commercial Street  
London E1 6LT  
United Kingdom

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

[@PenalReformInt](https://twitter.com/PenalReformInt)

