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EAST AFRICA CRIMINAL JUSTICE CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK

Civil Society Organizations for Criminal Justice Reform



E-newsletter 11: December
2015

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THE EAST AFRICA CRIMINAL JUSTICE CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the December 2015 edition of the East Africa Criminal Justice Civil Society Network newsletter. In this edition we give a round-up of criminal justice news and resources from East Africa and worldwide. The e-network promotes best practice, information updates and dialogue on criminal justice reform in the region, including specific initiatives on *alternatives to imprisonment, juvenile justice* and the *UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)*.

Please send any news items and information that you would like included for the next issue to Diva at FHRI: mukisadiva@gmail.com by 1 February 2016.

Congratulations! Exchange visits between East African NGOs working with women in the criminal justice system.

PRI and FHRI are delighted to announce the winners of the East Africa Civil Society criminal Justice Network exchange visit competition! Congratulations to [Africa Prisons Project](#) who will be hosting as well as FARAJA and Clean Start Solutions who will be participating as visitors.

Thank you to all organisations that submitted applications. The exchange visit will take place 2-5 February 2015 in Uganda. APP and FHRI will co-host the participants from Kenya and Uganda.

For further information contact Diva at FHRI: mukisadiva@gmail.com

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN



NEWS AND EVENTS

New Research shows Uganda needs to improve implementation of good policies to protect children of prisoners

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative and Penal Reform International conducted research in summer 2015 to find out the extent to which Article 30 and General Comment No. 1 have been implemented in Uganda. The research found that children of prisoners experience stigma and discrimination because their parents were in prison. The findings also showed that the child protection system in Uganda is extensive on paper but under-resourced and provision of alternative care for this group of children is patchy. The full [report](#) and [executive summaries](#) are available online.

In this [blog](#), Diva Mukisa, Project Coordinator FHRI highlights some of the findings from the PRI and FHRI [research](#) on children of imprisoned parents and the extent to which the ACERWC General Comment No. 1 and Article 30 have been implemented in Uganda.

On 26th November, the report was launched in Kampala and over 30 stakeholders participated in a roundtable to discuss the findings of the report, some of the discussions culminated in the agreement by the participants to form an active coalition for children with imprisoned parents in Uganda. For further information including joining the coalition for children with imprisoned parents, contact Diva at FHRI: mukisadiva@gmail.com

Conference to Assess the Situation of Children in Africa 25 years after the adoption of the African Charter of the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)

The Conference to assess the Situation of Children in Africa 25 years after the adoption of the ACRWC was held on 20th and 21st November 2015 in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia. Around 200 participants, including children, representatives from States Parties, the African Union, UN agencies and civil society organisations, from all over Africa attended the conference to assess the status of child rights in Africa 25 years since the adoption of the ACRWC, and to develop an agenda on the promotion and protection of the rights of children in Africa for the next 25 years. PRI and FHRI attended the conference and launched their joint research on children of imprisoned parents in Uganda. Read more about PRI and FHRI presentation on Children of Imprisoned Parents in Uganda at the ACERWC Conference [here](#).

Uganda: Report calls for non-custodial sentences for mother.

BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

Children Living in Prison: Insights from Sierra Leone (2008): A research report by AdvocAid prepared for the Quaker United Nations Office around the impact of prison on children and reforms required.

Children in the Shadows, Children Paying the price of their Parents imprisonment (2015): This publication by Wells of Hope presents findings, experiences and risks faced by children with imprisoned parents in Uganda.

International Coalition for Children with Incarcerated Parents (INCCIP): INCCIP was launched in May 2015. The aim of INCCIP is to connect individuals and organizations currently working on issues related to children of prisoners, to offer these organizations support through the sharing of information and best practices, and to harness efforts to make things better for children of prisoners throughout the world. To join or know more contact francis@ssuubi.com

Safeguarding the rights of girls in the criminal justice system - Preventing violence, stigmatization and deprivation of liberty: A report on the critical role of criminal justice systems to prevent incidents of violence against girls, bring perpetrators to justice, and ensure recovery and social reintegration for victims.

Sudan's child welfare council aims to abolish child death penalty

PRISON CONDITIONS AND ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

NEWS AND EVENTS

East Africa: Excellence in Training on Rehabilitation in Africa (EXTRA)

Jailed for watching daytime TV: the need for prison reform in Africa

PRI's EXTRA project aims to test a new model for effective delivery of Community Service Orders (CSOs) in three pilot regions of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and is supported by funding from the UK Government (UKAID). The goal of the project is to reduce the unnecessary use of imprisonment for convicted offenders. Read more about the EXTRA project [here](#).

Kenya: First ever Tedx event in an African prison, October 2015

"Behind the imposing walls, you learn that transition is not all about what many have stereotyped it to be. You learn to appreciate that transitions are meant to impact lives" **Peter Ouko (right)**, inmate and law student supported by Africa Prisons Project and one of the TEDx Kamiti Prison Speakers. Kenya Prisons Service, Kamiti Maximum Security Prison was the first time a TEDx event was held in an African prison. A total of ten speakers drawn from both inside and outside the prison walls, including prison staff, inmates and innovators from the technology and education sectors talked on the theme **"Loud Silent Voices."** Read more in the Africa Prisons Project November newsletter [here](#).

Nigeria's lawyers have an important role to play in promoting a fairer and more equitable justice system: Blog, highlighting the links between corruption and the country's overcrowded prisons.

Uganda: [Activists decry increase of women in prison](#)

Tanzania: [UNODC launches programme to improve health services in prisons](#)

Kenya: [Bill to reduce prison stay for 'good' inmates](#)

Ghana: [Ghana to develop a prison inmate location system](#)

South Africa: [Judge's report describes 'sickening conditions' at Pollsmoor prison](#)

South Africa: [Awaiting trial prisoner who claimed to have not eaten for weeks dies in court cells](#)

South Africa: [4,200 inmates removed from 'inhumane' South African prison](#)

Africa (general): [Ten innovations that could change the face of Africa's justice sector](#)

Cameroon: [Rights Groups: Cameroon Prisons Severely Overcrowded](#)

Namibia: [Inmates acquire crucial skills at prison workshop](#)

BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

Pay No Bribe for Bail (2015): A policy report on corruption within the bail system in Sierra Leone, produced as part of AdvocAid's ASJP funded 'Pay no Bribe for Bail' campaign, launched in October 2015.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights issues report on overcrowding: The report addresses human rights implications of the overuse of detention and prison overcrowding and recognises that its effect is especially negative for specific minority groups such as women, children and disabled persons. PRI had advocated for this report and was among the organisations that provided input.

Ten awesome innovations that could change the face of Africa's justice sector (2015): Authored by Hannah Onifade, this publication compiles a list of ten entries by Africans that could really make a difference within African justice sectors.

The future of prisons in Africa by Prof Lukas Muntingh

WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

NEWS AND EVENTS

In the spotlight: Clean Start Solutions, Kenya

Clean Start Solution's mission is to break the cycle of Poverty- Crime - Incarceration. They seek to bring positive change through social justice advocacy and reforms and have done this initially by founding an initiative called "Support Me In My Shoes". From this effort grew the social enterprise Clean Start, which provides female inmates and ex-inmates with training and employment opportunities in the services industry. Creating viable employment and income-generating activities targeted towards individuals with criminal records is increasingly gaining recognition as an effective strategy to break the cycle of incarceration and poverty and is a focus area for Clean Start Solutions. Clean Start Solutions will be participating in the exchange visit between NGOs working in the areas of justice for women and girls in conflict with the law planned for 2 – 5 February 2016. For more information click here.

Uganda: Training of women prison officers on the UN Bangkok Rules

On 22nd and 23rd October 2015 FHRI and PRI held a two day training for Women Prison Officers and officers from the Community Service Department on the UN Bangkok rules. This training was the first ever such training in East Africa for prison officers on the Bangkok Rules. The training drew on the needs identified by the PRI-FHRI joint research "Who are women

[prisoners? Survey results from Uganda](#)” and looked at the practical implications of implementing the UN Bangkok Rules in Uganda’s prisons, especially where there is limited resources and budget.

The officers were trained on how the prison system and individual personnel can respond to the link between women prisoners and violence and abuse of women; How to provide healthcare to women prisoners that recognizes their particular physical and mental health needs and how to provide suitable vocational training to the women so that they can earn an income on release. This training is part of a global programme to implement the provisions of the UN Bangkok Rules. Read more [here](#).

Find out more about [PRI work with women prisoners and the UN Bangkok Rules in East Africa](#).

Kenya: Gender-sensitive community service and probation orders

In this new project, PRI and the Kenya Probation Service will investigate current practices regarding women who receive community service orders, seeking the views and experiences of magistrates and probation staff, and women who have served community service or probation orders. The findings will be used to develop gender-sensitive offender assessment tools and guidelines, as well as relevant training material. The project is funded by the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ). Read more about the project [here](#).

Global: [Number of women in prison globally rises: new statistics](#)

Sierra Leone: [AdvocAid win Namati Justice Prize for their work with women prisoners in Sierra Leone](#)

Sudan: [Young woman risks 20 lashes for ‘indecent dressing’ – UN experts urge Sudan to overturn “outrageous conviction”](#)

BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

[Justice for Girls \(2011\)](#): A report concerning girls in conflict with the law and sexual exploitation in Sierra Leone. Produced by AdvocAid in conjunction with African Prisons Project, Justice Studio and Defence for Children.

[Women, Debt and Detention \(2012\)](#): An Exploratory Report on Fraudulent Conversion and the Criminalization of Debt in Sierra Leone.

[Training curriculum on women and imprisonment](#): A training curriculum on Women and Imprisonment published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in cooperation with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the Thailand Institute of Justice.

Information note on non-custodial measures for women offenders: An information note on non-custodial measures for women offenders published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Gender in Tunisian prison reform: Following a roundtable in Tunis on 'The Bangkok Rules: Challenges and Priorities for Tunisia' in May 2014, the Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF) published this report which examines detention conditions for women and provides practical recommendations to amend the current legislation and practice.

World Female Imprisonment List, based on research by Roy Walmsley on women and girls in prison around the world. The report by ICPR provides information on female prison populations in 219 countries and reveals trends in female imprisonment.

The UN Bangkok Rules on Women Offenders and Prisoners: A short guide. (PRI) Bangkok Rules e-course: You can still enrol for the Bangkok Rules e-course. This is a free, online training course for professionals, practitioners and anyone working with women in the criminal justice system. Watch the introduction video and register here.

Read more about developments and issues affecting women in the criminal justice system in the latest edition of PRI's quarterly e-bulletin on women in detention and the Bangkok Rules. To sign up email info@penalreform.org



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