



1989-2014:
25 years of promoting fair and
effective criminal justice worldwide

Annual report 2014



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Message from the Chair

A thank you, farewell and a rallying call from PRI's outgoing Chair, David Daubney.

2014 marked 25 years since PRI was established by a group of campaigners led by the former Tunisian political prisoner and activist, Ahmed Othmani, whose experiences – personal, in Ahmed's case, led them to start a new organisation dedicated to tackling the egregious but frequently overlooked conditions in many prisons around the world through constructive programmes of policy and practical reform.

I think it is probably true to say that despite the passing of time, Othmani and his contemporaries would recognise only too well many of the – still appalling – conditions that exist in prison facilities around the world today. They would also recognise the low priority and low level of investment given by some governments to making criminal justice processes fair and non-discriminatory and prisons, clean, decent and humane.

“ Our cause remains necessary not only on its own merits but also as a prerequisite for the creation of societies where people want to live, work and invest. ”



PRI's new global report – *Global Prison Trends 2015*, launched this April at the 13th UN Crime Congress in Doha, Qatar, documents in full the ongoing growth in prison numbers, which have outstripped general population growth in many instances; the continued detention of children – some held in solitary confinement, others alongside adults; and the counter-evidential belief that punitive sentencing policy will make societies safer and happier, including in my homeland of Canada, once a recognised leader in good corrections and evidence-based criminal justice legislation.

However, there is, I believe, room for some optimism too. *Global Prison Trends* also documents the pockets of good and promising practice: the few countries that are deliberately pursuing policies of 'decarceration'; those that are establishing probation services and community service programmes and using technology to improve services; and the others that are providing innovative programmes which seek to address the causes of crime not reinforce them.

As a Board member since 2006 and Chair since 2011, it has been my pleasure to have seen the role that PRI has played in some of these successes both at the international level and in the individual countries we work in.

I have many fond memories of PRI – particularly my first invitation to speak at a PRI conference on community service in Zimbabwe in 1997 and the truly worldwide conference held in the UK in 1999 where hundreds of penal reformers gathered to look ahead to the new millennium. This was a time of hope and optimism for sensible justice and prison policies.

Nobody ever said that the path to criminal justice reform is smooth, or produces easy wins. Or that those who square up to the challenge are always popular. However, our cause remains necessary not only on its own merits but also as a prerequisite for the creation of societies where people want to live, work and invest.

As I step down as Chair this year, the international community is finalising what the next set of global development goals will be. I am delighted to see that the proposed agenda recognises that the rule of law, development and poverty reduction are inextricably linked. Without equitable access to the law for all and trustworthy legal processes and institutions, there will be no investment or long-term growth. With its many years of experience working collaboratively to establish strong, effective and human rights respecting institutions, I anticipate that PRI's experience and expertise will continue to be widely sought.

I will conclude by thanking my colleagues on the Penal Reform International Board, and all the staff across PRI, for their support and hard work over the years.

David Daubney, April 2015

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 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.

Images (clockwise from left): International conference on Criminal Justice and Human Rights – Recent Trends, co-hosted with UN OHCHR and the Jordanian prison service, Amman, Nov 2014; Training on gender-sensitive prison management for UN peacekeepers, Sweden, Nov 2013; PRI Policy Director, Andrea Huber, UN General Assembly panel on the UN Bangkok Rules, New York, Oct 2014; Community service project managed by PRI partner, the Kenya Probation and Aftercare Service [Photo © Alan Gichigi].



Our goals

We want to see:



Our themes

Our work encompasses the rights and treatment of suspects, offenders and prisoners throughout the criminal justice process.

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

LEGAL AID

WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

PRE-TRIAL JUSTICE

VULNERABLE GROUPS

ENDING THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY

LIFE AND LONG-TERM IMPRISONMENT

HEALTH IN PRISONS

REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE

OVERCROWDING

NON-CUSTODIAL ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

PRISON CONDITIONS

GLOBAL ADVOCACY

FIND OUT MORE:

Find out more about what we are doing at
www.penalreform.org/priorities.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Snapshots from 2014

Last year, we saw new standards emerge, new legislation passed and a high demand for PRI expertise and resources...

IN 2014...

WE WERE INVITED TO...

...CONTRIBUTE TO EXPERT
PANELS...

...AND ENGAGE WITH
INTERNATIONAL BODIES.

REGIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS WERE
NEGOTIATED...

...AND SOME SIGNIFICANT
NEW PIECES OF NATIONAL
LEGISLATION WE HAD
LOBBIED FOR CAME INTO
FORCE.



In **March**, we participated in the Human Rights Council's first ever high-level panel on the death penalty. The issues we raised about conditions on death rows around the world were picked up by panellists in their concluding remarks.

In **September**, in a rare appearance by an NGO, PRI participated in a Panel Discussion on the human rights impact of prison overcrowding at the Human Rights Council's 27th Regular Session.

And in **November**, we contributed to an expert consultation on the prevention of torture and ill-treatment of children deprived of their liberty hosted by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture. PRI's Regional Director in Central Asia gave a presentation on the treatment of children in detention in Central Asia.

In **September**, we participated in an expert meeting hosted by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on tackling corruption in prisons. This meeting will inform a much-needed handbook the UNODC will publish on anti-corruption measures.

In **November**, we facilitated a one-day workshop on developing a gender-sensitive approach to detention monitoring for the three UN anti-torture bodies, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture, the Committee against Torture (CAT), and the Subcommittee for Prevention of Torture (SPT). This was the first time the three bodies had come together formally to discuss a substantive issue (see page 14).



The first new text for the revised UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners was negotiated in **April** (see page 14). Especially promising is a proposed new Rule on searches, which should become the first such provision in international standards.

And in another first, the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child launched its first General Comment on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The General Comment deals with Article 30 of the Charter, the only international treaty provision explicitly protecting the rights of children of prisoners.

PRI has played an active role in the development of both.



Kazakhstan's new legal codes were approved in **July** after a two-year revision process. The new codes contain some new provisions which should lay the foundations for a more humane penal system, including providing for an expanded probation service (see page 11). The Codes came into force in January 2015.

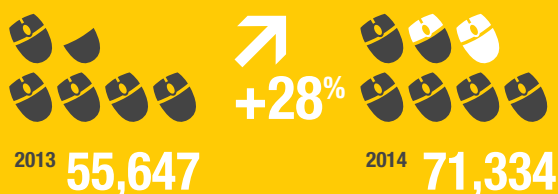
Ten years in the making, Jordan's new Children's Act gained parliamentary approval in **July**. The new law, for example, raises the age of criminal responsibility and gives judges the option to issue a community service order rather than a prison sentence for children and young people (see page 13).

OUR WEBSITE AND OUR
RESOURCES CONTINUED
TO GROW IN POPULARITY.

AND... WE CELEBRATED.

25th
ANNIVERSARY

NUMBER OF VISITORS TO OUR WEBSITE:



NUMBER OF PUBLICATION DOWNLOADS:

12,274

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO VIEWED OUR BLOG:

9,345

The most popular was viewed

1,100
times

"How to build for
success: prison
design and
infrastructure as a
tool for rehabilitation"

Part of a

**MONTHLY
EXPERT SERIES**

viewed

2,500
times overall

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO JOINED OUR FIRST E-LEARNING COURSE:

266

"Women in detention:
putting the Bangkok
Rules into practice"

From

63 countries



In April, we celebrated our 25th anniversary as an organisation. The occasion was marked in London with a panel discussion on 'If prison doesn't work, what does?' chaired by our Secretary General, Juliet Lyon. This event was also an opportunity to commemorate one of our co-founders, Tunisian political prisoner and activist, Ahmed Othmani, on the tenth anniversary of his death.

Finally in December, we were awarded a Juvenile Justice without Borders International Award by the International Observatory on Juvenile Justice (IJJ) for PRI's 'outstanding work to promote fairness and stronger safeguards in criminal justice systems over the last 25 years'.

The occasion was marked again in Vienna at a special reception at the UN Crime Commission where we launched a new short animated film – *Is a prison sentence always the solution?*



Alternatives to imprisonment

Fair and proportionate sentencing and greater use of non-custodial measures



GLOBAL LEVEL:

PRI pushed for greater recognition of the need and benefits of non-custodial measures, as well as the social and economic costs of the excessive use of imprisonment, at various international fora last year.

In September, we participated in a plenary panel of the Human Rights Council and called on the Council to address prison overcrowding and poor prison conditions as a human rights violation. Following advocacy by PRI and others, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights has been tasked with producing an in-depth report on overcrowding and the overuse of detention in 2015.

Also in September, we contributed to a Global Consultation of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on proposed draft principles and guidelines on the right of people deprived of their liberty to challenge the lawfulness of their detention. PRI stressed that restrictions on the right to liberty are problematic in human rights terms not only if the detention is unlawful, but also if it is arbitrary, unnecessary or disproportionate.

And our first animated short film – *Is a prison sentence always the solution?* – launched in May, was translated into six languages and watched by over 2,500 people. The film contrasts the 'revolving door' effect of a prison term with the benefits of a community-based sentence for minor, non-violent offences.

NATIONAL LEVEL:

At a national level, we continued to pursue adoption of alternative measures into legislation and policy, and promote their implementation.

New legal codes lay foundation for probation services in Central Asia

Our contribution to the revised Criminal Code and Criminal Executive Code of Kazakhstan has been widely recognised. The new Codes came into in January 2015 and provided for the establishment of a probation service (see *In Depth*, right). We also supported the development of draft new Criminal Codes in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. In both countries, the draft new codes also provide for the introduction of probation, and are expected to be approved in 2015.

“ Another excellent @PenalReformInt Embassy funded event on criminal code reform. ”

Greg Quinn, Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy, Kazakhstan, on a PRI regional conference in March to support the concurrent reviews of criminal legislation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Probation service in Georgia continues to develop, and shares experience with wider region

In Georgia, non-custodial sanctions are being used more frequently and PRI continued its support of many years to the probation service. Several of PRI's recommendations were included in the Probation Reform Action Plan for 2014-2017, including expanding the functions of the probation service, pre-sentencing reports for juveniles, and a commitment to raising awareness about non-custodial sentences, which

our research had shown to be low. In a new initiative, we organised training for juvenile probationers on their rights under the law and on the work of probation officers.

We also facilitated study visits by officials from Armenia and Azerbaijan where alternative measures are less developed. The visits prompted high levels of interest and positive feedback from participants. In Armenia, legislation which will introduce probation is currently awaiting parliamentary approval.

“ In Armenia, we will soon enact a new Criminal Code and other normative acts regulating the probation system. As a result of our study visit to Georgia, we will ensure the successful implementation of these changes in Armenia. ”

Judge/study group participant.

Further steps towards greater use of non-custodial measures in MENA

In 2014, Jordan drew closer to the introduction of community service as an alternative sanction. A community service order is now a sentencing option for children following the adoption of a new Juvenile Law in 2014. The Law provides for judges to issue a community service order in place of imprisonment for juveniles, making this mandatory for first-time offenders. PRI played an active role in the drafting of the juvenile law, convening experts and criminal justice stakeholders to develop recommendations to put to the governmental working group.

PRI also engaged in the development of a legislative basis for community service for adult offenders, participating in a governmental Penal Code Working Group and advocating for adequate inclusion of alternative measures in any revisions.

In Morocco and Tunisia, where there is already an existing but underused basis in legislation for alternatives, PRI held workshops for judges to encourage their use.

“ PRI’s workshops were important because they encouraged open dialogue and helped to create a community of judges. If PRI doesn’t keep pushing for alternatives, no one will be talking about it. ”

Tunisian Judge, Evaluation 2014.

Ukrainian Criminal Executive Inspections receive probation training

In February 2015, the Ukrainian Supreme Council adopted a long-awaited law on probation, in which it is envisaged that existing Criminal Executive Inspections (CEI) will form the basis of a future probation agency. Up until now, the CEI has had only an enforcement role in the implementation of non-custodial sanctions. PRI’s training seminars introduced staff to social welfare approaches to supervising juvenile and adult offenders serving non-custodial sentences.

IN DEPTH:

Kazakhstan takes further steps towards expanded probation service

Kazakhstan has one of the highest rates of imprisonment in the world. However, it has been falling steadily particularly over the last few years (from 35th highest in 2013 to 38th in 2014), and at the end of December 2013, the Government committed to a Ten Point Action Plan to reduce the prison population and to move out of the top 50 states with the highest prison populations by 2017.

PRI Central Asia is working with the Government to support the implementation of the Action Plan, including supporting the development of a national probation service to provide safe and effective supervision of people serving non-custodial sentences, people on bail and parolees.

The new criminal codes which came into force in January 2015 significantly widened the scope of the probation system. PRI advocated intensively for greater provision for non-custodial measures throughout the drafting of the new codes and in 2014 worked with the government on the drafting of a follow-up law to the new Criminal Executive Code which will regulate the work of a probation service and how it will work with other government agencies.

“ Jointly with PRI we will now start working on a new probation service law for Kazakhstan. ”

Svetlana Bychkova MP.

PRI, however, stressed the importance of a separate law on probation which will provide the necessary basis for a separate probation agency in line with international standards. In October, PRI organised a successful awareness-raising visit to the Netherlands for members of the Parliament, the General Prosecutor’s Office and prison service to meet with probation officials. Following the visit, one of the participants tabled a draft law on expanding the probation service.

This probation law will be a focus for lobbying in 2015, as well as the need for more probation officers and for greater funding to support their work.



Baroness Vivien Stern addresses a regional conference held in March 2014 to support the concurrent reviews of criminal legislation in Central Asia.

Children in the criminal justice system

Promoting child-friendly justice systems

GLOBAL LEVEL:

In 2014, we provided expert input at high-level fora concerned with the protection of children in conflict with the law, notably the 25th anniversary conference marking the Convention of the Rights of the Child in Leiden in November.

However, our efforts last year focused particularly on providing assistance to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) to promote its first ever General Comment – on Article 30 the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Article 30 is the only international treaty provision explicitly protecting the rights of children of prisoners.

We translated the General Comment and published a short illustrated guide in English, French and Arabic outlining the principles behind and scope of Article 30. The General Comment and short guide were launched at an event co-hosted by the ACERWC and PRI, at the Keeping Children Safe international safeguarding conference in South Africa in September, attended by over 200 participants from across Africa and Europe.

We joined 60 other NGOs, as well as States, UN human rights agencies and experts, in a successful call for a Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty, which will seek to fill the serious gap in data and information about the number and situation of children in detention worldwide. PRI is one of a group of nine core NGOs, coordinated by Defence for Children International, which led the Call. The UN General Assembly formally requested that the Study be carried out in a resolution in December.

NATIONAL LEVEL:

At a national level, we continued to lobby for and implement a range of practical measures to improve protection of children in contact with the law.

New helpline to provide a lifeline for children in detention in Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan, we received official permission to launch a telephone helpline for children in closed institutions to report ill-treatment. This initiative addresses a recommendation by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to establish an independent complaints mechanism for children.

Helpline operators, trained by PRI in conjunction with UK organisation, *Childline*, will be able to call upon 30 different government services to take action in response to calls. The helpline will be overseen and funded by the Ombudsman in the future.

This helpline is one initiative in a three-country programme covering Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan to tackle violence against children in places of detention – in particular to end the use of solitary confinement and ensure separation of children from adult prisoners. The programme is wide-ranging, pursuing legislative reform (see *In Depth*), training staff working with children, providing social and psychological support services, and conducting systematic monitoring.

Jordan's Children's Act introduces greater use of restorative and alternative measures

Efforts by PRI, NGOs, and state agencies over several years came to fruition in Jordan with parliamentary approval of a new Children's Act in July. Amongst other measures, the new law raises the age of criminal responsibility from seven to 12, puts greater emphasis on alternative restorative measures including community service, and gives the juvenile police the authority to resolve disputes for minor offences.

Since the law's adoption, PRI has focused on increasing understanding of its provisions among institutions and stakeholders affected, including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, detention facility heads, and detention monitors. We are also participating in the working group drafting new bylaws relating to community service and aftercare procedures for children.

PRI also worked with the Ministry of Justice in Jordan on ensuring its 2014-2016 Strategy is child- and gender-sensitive. Its new Strategy Action Plan, developed during a four-day consultative workshop, includes nearly 50 child-friendly activities that the Ministry must implement. Commitments include the creation of specialist juvenile courts across Jordan and recruitment of specialist juvenile judges.

“It took us ten years to pass a modern law that tackles issues linked to our children when they are in conflict with the law. PRI's strong involvement and strong will and belief made a difference.”

Mustafa Yaghi, Ex-President and Member of Legal Commission, House of Representatives, Jordan.

PRI manual to guide monitoring of children's detention facilities in Georgia

In Georgia, our monitoring tool for children's detention centres, produced with support from UNICEF, has been taken up by members of the Georgian National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) and the Ombudsman's Office and will be used for inspections from 2015 onwards. The tool gives general guidance on monitoring, international standards, and interviewing children, and provides practical tools to help the monitoring body carry out their duties most effectively. PRI also ran a workshop for detention monitors on how to use the tool and its resources.

“We strongly believe that the guide will be an effective tool for improving monitoring. Training was fruitful, involving discussions, presentations and exchange of ideas.”

Nika Kvaratskhelia, Head, National Preventive Mechanism of Georgia.

IN DEPTH:

New legislation restricts solitary confinement for children in Central Asia

The UN Special Rapporteur on torture has found that the use of solitary confinement for children amounts to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment.

Supported by funding from the EU and from the UK Government, PRI has been working with authorities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to remove the use of 'disciplinary isolators' in juvenile detention facilities from legislation and practice. Forms of solitary confinement for children have been permitted in all three countries. Research by PRI in Kyrgyzstan, for example, found that at least 80 children had been placed in a disciplinary isolator in one pre-trial detention centre over the course of 2013-2014.

In Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, revised criminal legislation (approved in Kazakhstan in January 2015 and due for approval in Kyrgyzstan later in 2015) has reduced the time allowable for solitary confinement from seven days to 72 hours for juveniles. PRI was active in advocating for an end to solitary confinement and provided extensive technical assistance to the Working Groups drafting new legislation in both countries. PRI will continue to advocate for the complete removal of solitary confinement from criminal legislation. In Tajikistan, a review of the relevant legislation will start in 2015.

During Working Group discussions, legislators raised questions about what disciplinary measures are appropriate for children in detention and about international good practice.

In response, PRI began to develop a briefing paper on effective disciplinary measures that uphold children's rights and could be implemented in places where children are deprived of their liberty.

A draft version of this paper was presented at a conference at Leiden University to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A final paper will be published in 2015 and will be used to advocate for and provide technical assistance to states looking to end the use of solitary confinement.



Knut Haanes, Deputy Children's Ombudsman of Norway, PRI conference on protecting children from violence in closed institutions, Tajikistan, Sept 2014.

Conditions of and treatment in detention

Improving safeguards against torture and ill-treatment

GLOBAL LEVEL:

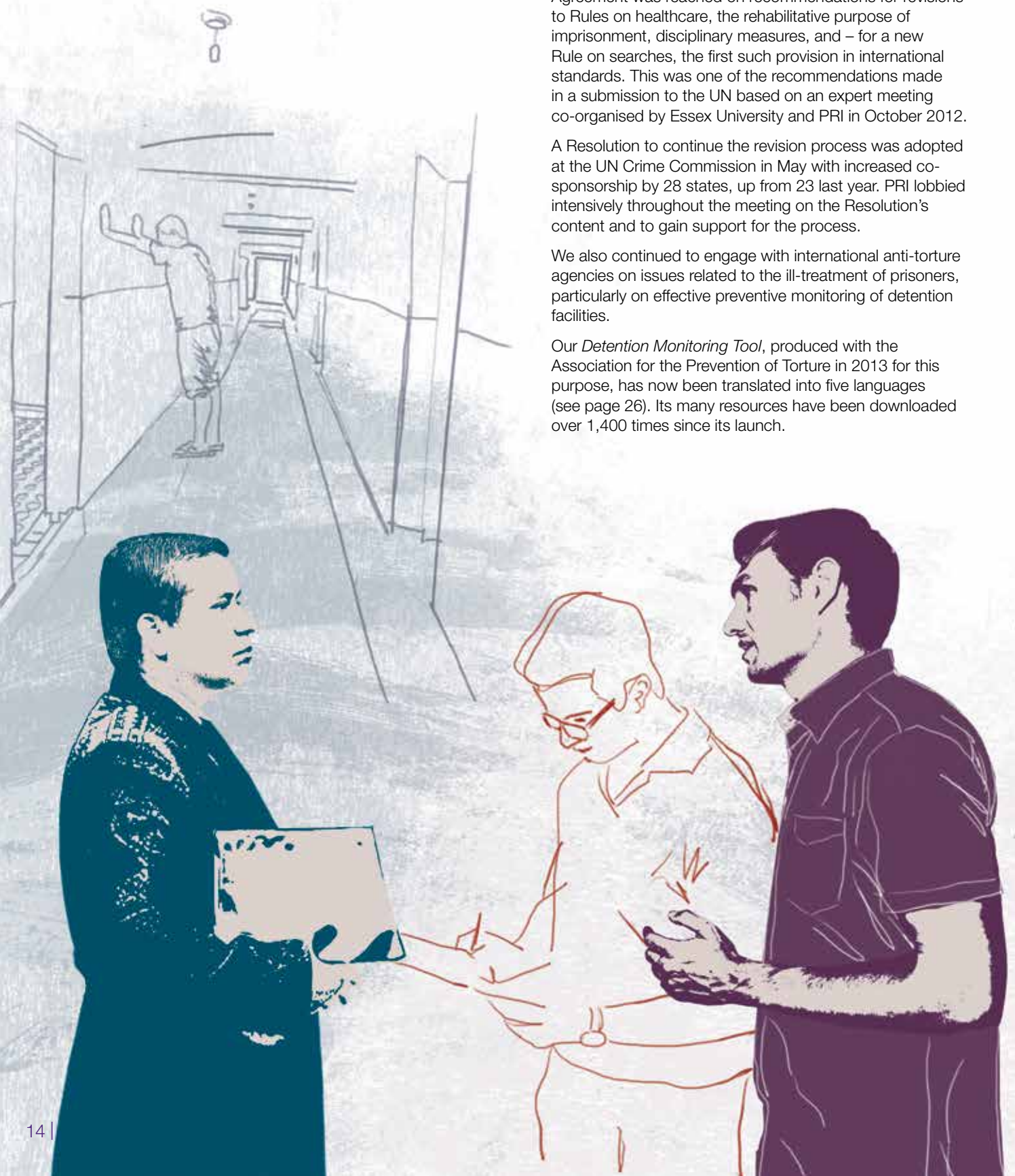
At a global level, we continued to support the UN process reviewing the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMR). After their adoption in 1955 the SMR became a blueprint for prison condition standards and widely used operationally, but have since been superseded by newer criminal justice and human rights standards. Negotiations on the revised Rules began in 2011 with a first Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting (IEGM).

The third IEGM took place in April 2014 attended by delegations from 60 countries to continue the negotiations. Agreement was reached on recommendations for revisions to Rules on healthcare, the rehabilitative purpose of imprisonment, disciplinary measures, and – for a new Rule on searches, the first such provision in international standards. This was one of the recommendations made in a submission to the UN based on an expert meeting co-organised by Essex University and PRI in October 2012.

A Resolution to continue the revision process was adopted at the UN Crime Commission in May with increased co-sponsorship by 28 states, up from 23 last year. PRI lobbied intensively throughout the meeting on the Resolution's content and to gain support for the process.

We also continued to engage with international anti-torture agencies on issues related to the ill-treatment of prisoners, particularly on effective preventive monitoring of detention facilities.

Our *Detention Monitoring Tool*, produced with the Association for the Prevention of Torture in 2013 for this purpose, has now been translated into five languages (see page 26). Its many resources have been downloaded over 1,400 times since its launch.



And notably, PRI was invited by the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) to facilitate a joint workshop on gender-sensitive monitoring for the three key UN bodies tasked with the prevention of torture: the SPT, the UN Committee against Torture, and the UN Special Rapporteur on torture. The aim of the workshop was to increase their capacity to address gender-specific issues when reporting on the conditions and treatment of women detainees.

NATIONAL LEVEL:

At a national level, we focused on promoting the establishment and development of effective detention monitoring mechanisms.

Half of Kazakh detention facilities receive visit from new National Preventive Mechanism (NPM)

2014 was the first year of operation for the newly established National Preventive Mechanism. PRI's Central Asia team was intensively engaged in the negotiations to establish the NPM, supporting the drafting of a law, working with the Ombudsman's office to develop procedural regulations, and providing training for new NPM members.

Carrying out their first monitoring visit in March 2014, NPM monitors visited 277 closed institutions, including 72 prisons. Criminal charges were filed against staff in three institutions for torture or ill-treatment. In 2014, PRI supported the operation of the NPM, including providing training for its members, staff of closed institutions, relevant agencies and NGO representatives, and organising a multi-lateral meeting to improve cooperation between relevant agencies and the NPM.

Jordan's first independent inspection team carries out its first year of monitoring visits

Our Middle East and North Africa office has led the development in Jordan of an independent inspection team to monitor social care institutions for children including juvenile detention centres. 2014 was first full year of operation for the inspection team, during which it carried out 39 visits. The team is a product of a partnership between PRI and the Ministry of Social Development and is the first body in Jordan with guaranteed, regular and unrestricted access to inspect children's facilities.

PRI provided operational and financial support to the team, and provided training workshops for team members on good practice, recognising and addressing sexual and physical abuse, and report writing.

Support for public monitoring bodies in Russia stepped up

In Russia, we focused on supporting the work of the Public Oversight Commissions (POCs), elected regional councils with a mandate to visit detention facilities. Our familiarity with the POCs will inform a new project supported by the MacArthur Foundation to strengthen their capacity to monitor the treatment of pre-trial detainees. Preparations started in the autumn for a training programme for POC members and a survey in 24 regions to document the treatment of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly, in police and pre-trial detention facilities.

IN DEPTH:

Electro-shock batons kept out of Georgian prisons

In 2014, the Georgian Ministry of Corrections initiated new amendments to the Code of Imprisonment proposing to legalise the use of new instruments of restraint, including stun guns or electric shock batons. Instruments of restraint pose a high risk for torture or other ill-treatment, and are often deliberately used as a torture tool. International standards require that restraints are used restrictively, only in exceptional cases, and where other methods have been exhausted and failed.

Alongside the Criminal Justice Reform Alliance of Georgia, a new government-recognised coalition of civil society NGOs established by PRI in 2013, PRI lobbied against inclusion of the amendment, participating in meetings on the proposed amendments and meeting senior officials to raise awareness about the risks of electroshock weapons. The amendment was not adopted into the Code.

Other new instruments of restraint were included in the revised amendments to the Code (for example, pepper spray); however, PRI successfully advocated that these may only be used by specially trained staff.

The problem of torture in Georgian prisons was thrown into the spotlight in Autumn 2012 when the media exposed widespread use of torture and ill-treatment against inmates. Since then, PRI has – along with other civil society organisations – pressed for the re-establishment of a truly independent public monitoring system, with civil society participation, to complement the work of Georgia's National Preventive Mechanism.

PRI maintained a high level of engagement with the government on this issue in 2014. In June, PRI was invited by the Ministry of Justice to sit as an observer member of its Anti-torture Interagency Council, whose role it is to develop an Anti-torture National Strategy and yearly Action Plan, and PRI successfully lobbied for creation of a Council sub-group on public monitoring.

PRI has also continued to support Georgia's National Preventive Mechanism and in December was invited by the Ombudsman at the end of the year to participate in the Consultative NPM Council to improve the effectiveness of the NPM. PRI's first recommendations included better and transparent guidelines for the recruitment of NPM members and clear documentation of their role and duties. These have now been incorporated into induction training for new members.



Prison yard, Georgia.

Abolition of the death penalty

Campaigning for the abolition of the death penalty and for humane alternative sanctions



GLOBAL LEVEL:

At an international level, we continued to advocate for an end to the use of the death penalty at various international fora.

This included working collaboratively with other NGOs to garner States' support for the 2014 UN General Assembly Resolution for a global moratorium on the death penalty. Global support for a moratorium was the highest yet, with 117 States voting in favour, up from 111 in 2012 and 104 in 2004. All of the countries where PRI works through our multi-regional programme funded by the European Union voted in favour of a moratorium or abstained, including Uganda, which abstained for the first time.

We also developed a stream of work to shift and revitalise debates around the death penalty, both through engagement with journalists and through developing advocacy and resources addressing lesser known issues, including in particular the impact of the death penalty on people other than the offender.

Our first international investigative journalism competition produced three winners from Belarus, Jordan and the USA. The prize winners' visit to London in October prompted detailed discussions about the situation in their countries between the winners, and with the NGOs, government officials and journalists they met. One winner described the visit as:

“ The most productive, engaging, intellectually and professionally stimulating two days of my years of reporting. ”

Winner, PRI death penalty journalism competition, 2014.

The first paper in a new series examining the wider impact of the death penalty – *Fighting for clients' lives: the impact of the death penalty on defence lawyers* – was published in April and downloaded 183 times on one day. It was one of ten PRI publications on the death penalty to be cited in the fifth edition of *The Death Penalty: A Worldwide Perspective* by Carolyn Hoyle and Roger Hood, one of the most comprehensive and highly-regarded English-language publications on the death penalty.

A significant percentage of death sentences are imposed for terrorism-related offences. Our briefing on the death penalty, terrorism and international standards, published in April focused on the definition of 'most serious crimes' under international law and on fair trial guarantees.

NATIONAL LEVEL:

At a national level, we continued our efforts to remove the death penalty from legislation, and also to improve the often inferior standard of treatment for prisoners held on death row and those serving life sentences.

“ Kazakhstan and Uganda saw significant improvements of conditions for death row prisoners. ”

Independent evaluation (Strategihuset) of PRI EU funded project on the abolition of the death penalty 2013-2015, 2014.

Guards working with lifers in Kazakhstan trained in communication and resolving conflict

PRI also provided training last year for guards working with life-sentenced prisoners in the Kostanay region of Kazakhstan. Working in prisons for life- and long-term prisoners can put an emotional strain on guards, as well as detainees. This training focused on helping guards to develop effective communication, conflict resolution and emotional coping strategies.

Life sentenced prisoners in Kazakhstan were given hope of the possibility of earlier parole in a new provision in the revised Criminal Code, which now permits some prisoners to apply after 15 years instead of 25. PRI was intensively engaged in supporting the drafting of the new codes (see page 10) which came into force in January 2015. The Code also reduced the number of death penalty applicable offences from 18 to 17.

“The training was perceived by authorities as of very high quality, very relevant and a fresh input from outside.”

Independent evaluation (Strategihuset), 2014.

Death row prison officers trained in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

Fifty-eight prison officers in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda were enrolled on two-day courses on managing prisoners on death row and international human rights standards on the death penalty in April. The training aimed to increase awareness of the importance of treating prisoners with dignity and of positive prisoner-staff relationships to the safe management of prisons.

This training was facilitated by PRI's partner in East Africa – the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) (see page 22) – with a local partners. According to recent reports, there are 2,757 prisoners on death row in Kenya, 410 in Tanzania and 222 in Uganda.

PRI engages Russian Federal Penitentiary Service on improving conditions for life-sentenced prisoners

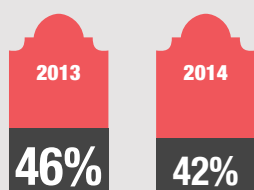
In Russia, two seminars with senior staff at prison colonies for life-sentenced prisoners produced a number of proposals for amendments to internal prison service guidance, including the need for more psychologists in these colonies and widening possibilities for parole. PRI also worked with the Russian Federal Penitentiary Service Institute of Law and Economy on a collection of articles on working with lifers. The book will be distributed to all prison service departments and institutions.

IN DEPTH:

PRI survey suggests a drop in support for the death penalty in Belarus

PRI carried out two public opinion surveys polling over 1,100 respondents in each, the first in 2013 and the second a year later in 2014. The results showed a drop in support for the death penalty, with 42 per cent of respondents saying they wanted to keep capital punishment as it is or to widen its scope in 2014, compared to 46 per cent in 2013.

Support for the death penalty



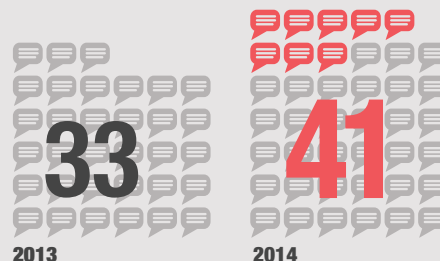
The surveys were part of a European Union funded project implemented by PRI's Moscow office which aimed to increase public awareness about the use of the death penalty in Belarus, the only country in the European region to still carry out the death penalty.

Project activities included awareness raising activities with different social groups – teachers, students, youth groups, lawyers and religious organisations – through focus groups, public discussions and cultural events. Partners included research consultants, SATIO, who carried out the surveys, the InterChurch Mission, the Belarus Helsinki Committee and the Belarusian Association of Journalists.

The project also sought to strengthen and revitalise media coverage of the death penalty. Workshops and trainings for journalists were held, as well as a competition for investigative journalism. Close cooperation and advocacy with the media produced good coverage of the issue over the course of the project.

This project has led to closer cooperation with Belarusian authorities. PRI was invited by the General Prosecutor's Office to enter into a permanent arrangement to provide training for prosecutors. It is also in discussion with the Ministry of Interior about developing a training programme for staff of the Criminal Executive Inspections department on social reintegration and monitoring offenders serving non-custodial sentences.

Regional and national media pieces



Journalist, Adaria Gushtyn, winner of both our Belarusian and international investigative journalism competitions.

Rehabilitation and reintegration

Promoting rehabilitation as the primary aim of all criminal justice systems

In 2014, we worked in partnership with local NGOs in joint advocacy and in the provision of employable skills and training inside prisons and support services after release.

Second Prison Forum in Kazakhstan highlights importance of employment for rehabilitation

Finding and keeping a job after imprisonment is one of the most difficult challenges prisoners face, but one of the best guarantees against re-offending. In Kazakhstan, we focused on raising the government's awareness about the importance of employment to reintegration, holding a national Prison Forum dedicated to the provision of employment opportunities inside prison. The Prison Forums are a new initiative; the first last year – which focused on probation and electronic monitoring – was the first large national event on a prison issue.

The event, which attracted over 200 participants, was announced via the Communications office of the President, hosted by the General Prosecutor's Office and supported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It included presentations by experts from Germany and Russia who shared good practice and experience and from former prisoners who spoke about the difference suitable training had made to their employment prospects after release. The conference produced a set of recommendations on improving employment prospects for prisoners, including proposals for strengthening skills development in prisons and for tax incentives for businesses to get involved.

The event was widely attended by and covered in the press.



PRI continues to press for expansion of rehabilitation and reintegration support in Georgia

Government involvement in the delivery of rehabilitation services is currently limited in Georgia and PRI is advocating for greater state investment and institutionalisation of services. Through the Criminal Justice Reform Alliance of Georgia (see page 23), PRI commissioned the Rehabilitation Initiative for Vulnerable Groups (RIVG), a civil society partner, to produce a report on the availability and accessibility of rehabilitation services in prison and probation systems across the country. The published report will identify gaps in provision, including for vulnerable groups, and examine staffing levels. Following up on the report with government stakeholders will be a priority in 2015.

On a practical level, PRI supported its longstanding local partner NGO, Women in Business, to negotiate with the government property agency to establish a temporary shelter for women prisoners on release. In line with international experience which shows that many prisoners face homelessness when they leave prison, extensive surveys among women prisoners in Georgia in 2013 revealed that loss of housing was one of the chief consequences of a prison term – 36 per cent said they had lost their homes and 40 per cent that they would benefit from assistance finding accommodation when they were released. The new shelter, set up and furnished with financial assistance from the EU, will be open to women for the first six months after release and will offer other forms of assistance, such as support with job-seeking.

'Through the gate' support for women piloted in Manouba prison, Tunisia

In Tunisia, PRI worked with the Ministry of Justice and the Tunisian Organization for Penal and Security Reform to pilot aftercare service provision in Manouba women's prison in Tunis. The pilot drew on experience from two pilots in Jordan in 2013 which provided pre- and post-release support to women in Juweideh prison and men in Um'Lulu prison.

There is limited support for prisoners after release in many countries, including Tunisia. Research conducted by PRI at Manouba prison in 2014 found that of the women who had been in prison previously, only 16 per cent had received assistance on their release.

Eight women are currently enrolled on the six-month pilot programme. Like the majority of women prisoners, the women are serving sentences for low-level non-violent crimes including theft, drug possession and prostitution. Each woman is paired with a social worker who works with her to develop an individualised reintegration plan. A range of tailored support is on offer including help with job-seeking, finding accommodation, liaising with families, arranging medical treatment, and emergency financial aid if needed.

The pilot will be evaluated at the end of the programme to assess its success in helping women reintegrate into society, secure employment and avoid reoffending.

IN DEPTH:

Secure future for juvenile rehabilitation centres in Armenia

At the end of 2013, PRI and its Armenian partners, the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) and the Civil Society Institute (CSI), concluded a three year project to improve the administration of juvenile justice in Armenia. As part of the project, two rehabilitation centres were established in the cities of Yerevan and Abovyan to support children in conflict with the law. Children were referred by judges to the centres who then worked with police, schools, trustee and guardianship bodies to provide individualised responses to address offending behaviour and to prevent re-offending.

An independent evaluation of the project concluded that:

“ The Rehabilitation Centres promoted multi-agency working, changed children's behaviour, prevented crime, enhanced their educational attainment and aspirations and changed public perceptions. ”

Independent evaluation, 2014.

Both centres continue to operate. The centre in Yerevan is now supported by FAR and after lobbying by local NGOs, in 2014 the local authority agreed to fund the centre in Abovyan. The Centres enjoy wide support from local stakeholders and from the children themselves:

“ The biggest success is that we don't have the repeat of a crime. Before, it was always a very common thing. ”

Head of Police Department for Juveniles, Abovyan.

“ I'm planning after 12th grade to enter university and do social science [...] I don't know how it will go, but these dreams were given to me while attending this centre. ”

17-year-old girl, Yerevan.



Rehabilitation centre, Armenia, 2014.

Women in the criminal justice system

Promoting gender-sensitive criminal justice and penal policies

GLOBAL LEVEL:

PRI is a lead advocate for greater international recognition of the specific needs of women offenders and for implementation of the UN Bangkok Rules into criminal justice and penal policy.

More international stakeholders, and in particular UN bodies, are now expressing interest in incorporating a gender-sensitive approach to criminal justice issues into their work.

In June, our side-event at the UN Human Rights Council co-hosted with Dignity: the Danish Institute Against Torture, included representatives from UN Women, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, the UN Working Group on discrimination against women, and the office of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women. The event reached a total of 110 people on the day and 60 people joined online. At the UN General Assembly in October, the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) joined PRI on a panel with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Women and the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. 19 UN member states were represented.

“ PRI’s expertise on the issue of women and discrimination in criminal justice systems and the UN Bangkok Rules have greatly contributed to OHCHR’s work on this issue. We have distributed PRI’s excellent Toolbox to colleagues and field offices who are engaged on this topic. ”

Veronica Birga, Chief of the Women’s Human Rights and Gender Section, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Our six-country programme of research into the background and profile of women offenders continued last year with two further *Who are women prisoners?* reports, surveying women prisoners in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and in Jordan and Tunisia.



The first in the series, *Who are women prisoners? Armenia and Georgia*, published in 2013, informed our submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) prior to its country review. Two particular issues which PRI had raised – lack of gender-sensitive drug treatment programmes and longer family visits for women prisoners – were included in the Committee's report.

The UN Bangkok Rules Toolbox – our suite of resources designed to support implementation of the Rules – was promoted widely and translated into Arabic and Russian.

With the Toolbox complete, we delivered training on the Bangkok Rules to over 300 people from a wide range of professional bodies, intergovernmental organisations and NGOs and from India to New Orleans. (See *In Depth*, right).

NATIONAL LEVEL:

At a national level, we continued to press for recognition of the specific needs of women prisoners and offenders in policy and practice.

Women in Kazakh prison get the medical treatment they need

Our research with women prisoners in Kazakhstan in 2013 revealed healthcare to be what women felt they needed most to be able to reintegrate successfully back into society.

Improved medical care is now the focus of a three-year project at a women's prison in Atyrau prison in western Kazakhstan. All 228 women in the facility in 2014 received a medical check-up and were referred to a specialist if necessary. New medical equipment has been installed in the prison and extra medical staff hired. The project has also succeeded in ensuring there is a system in place enabling women who are released to continue to access treatment when they return home.

Results from this project will support advocacy for more doctors in prisons and underline the importance of transferring responsibility for prison health services to the Ministry of Health.

Draft new legislation in Russia promises to benefit imprisoned mothers and their children

In Russia, amendments to penal legislation are expected to deliver improvements to the treatment of pregnant women, women with children and single fathers. PRI contributed with other NGOs to the drafting of amendments, working with the Ministry of Justice and other agencies. The new draft legislation, which includes several recommendations made by PRI, proposes that courts must automatically consider a suspended sentence for pregnant women, mothers and single fathers; longer family visits for women with children and single fathers during which they can leave the prison grounds; and short visits out of prison for mothers to visit children in other cities.

First prison nursery opens in Algeria with PRI support

In Algeria, a nursery was set up in the women's wing at Al Bouira prison. The nursery provides child-friendly spaces where children living in prison with their mothers can leave the crowded dormitories they live in alongside other adult prisoners to play with other children. This is the first such nursery in Algeria.

IN DEPTH:

Our e-learning course takes off and PRI takes part in pre-deployment training for UN peacekeepers

In 2014, we focused on rolling out training on the UN Bangkok Rules through our free 10-module **e-learning course** which was launched at the UN General Assembly at the end of 2013, as well as through face-to-face training.



85% said their understanding of gender-sensitive prison regimes was 'very good' after the course, compared to only 20% before.

In a follow-up survey with a smaller group of participants, **82% said they had made some or many changes to the way they work** since taking the course, from being more aware of gender issues when working with women offenders, to advocating for the implementation of the Bangkok Rules with government, prison authorities and other stakeholders.

FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING

was delivered to **60** prison and NGO staff

This included Training of Trainer sessions for the staff of our partner in Pakistan, the DOST Welfare Foundation, who will roll out the training to their staff who work in prisons in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa border province in 2015, and a similar session for prison staff from eight Indian states.

It also included two training sessions for the United Nations Prison and Probation Officer Course (UNPriProC) run by the Swedish Prison and Probation Service for future UN peacekeeping officers as part of their pre-deployment training. The September training in Rwanda involved female officers from Rwanda, Sweden and Finland; and the November training in Sweden, officers from Sweden, Norway, Finland and Rwanda. Our sessions were designed to equip officers with the necessary knowledge to address to address gender-specific issues during their deployment.

The UNPriProC course will now include a Bangkok Rules training component on a permanent basis.

“We believe that co-operation of this kind, where prestige is less important and results are prioritised, is [how] we can find ways forward towards mutual interests and a better understanding of corrections in different contexts.”

Karin-Malin Eriksson, Expert, Office of International Affairs, Swedish Prison and Probation Service.

Our global reach

PRI might be relatively small for an international organisation – with five offices and 40 staff globally, but we could be found in some distant corners of the world last year.

In all our regions, we work in informal and formal partnerships with intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental bodies. Our formal partnerships are hugely important, allowing us to implement programmes in countries and in regions – such as East Africa and South Asia – where we don't have staff on the ground. Our informal partnerships take a variety of forms, including a range of joint advocacy groups and networks.

We also seek to facilitate the sharing of experience and good practice in criminal justice in a number of ways including through bilateral study visits, inviting international experts to regional fora and bringing national experience and expertise to international discussions.

These are just a few examples of many from 2014.

KEY

- Implementing partnership
- △ Study visit
- International / regional conference
- ◇ Partnership for advocacy

PRI ↔ Uganda

PRI works together with the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) on juvenile justice, death penalty abolition and the treatment of women prisoners. FHRI's local knowledge and expertise and access to offenders in prisons and police facilities, ensures our work in Uganda remains relevant and sustainable. PRI supports FHRI by providing resources, expertise and training, sharing international good practice, and enabling FHRI's experience to contribute to regional and international advocacy.

PRI's recent support for FHRI has facilitated joint initiatives with other local NGOs to push for better treatment of children in conflict with the law. In 2014, this joint advocacy contributed to, for example, a government commitment to build more remand homes for children to reduce prison congestion and ensure children are separated from

adults. PRI's expertise also enabled FHRI to carry out unique research into the needs of women prisoners last year. The resulting report, due out in 2015, will be used to advocate to government on improving conditions for women offenders and prisoners. (see page 27). ○

India ↔ UK

Ten senior prison officers from India travelled to the UK for a two-week exposure visit – including a training course at the Scottish Prison Service College – to learn about various aspects of the UK prison system. △

“All the visits, lectures and sessions were very important ... and increased my knowledge of prison administration. Now I am going back with so much exposure on reform and rehabilitation.”

Participant.

Armenia and Azerbaijan ↔ Georgia

Government officials from Armenia and Azerbaijan travelled to Georgia in 2014 to discuss the development of probation, meeting the Georgian National Probation Agency, Ministry of Justice officials, judges and NGOs, and visiting Georgia's recently opened half-way house, the country's first open prison for long-term prisoners prior to release. △

“The concept of the halfway house was very new for us. I believe this concept should be introduced in Armenia as well.”

Judge and participant, Armenia.

Worldwide ↔ Jordan

An international conference on criminal justice and human rights co-hosted with the OHCHR and the Jordanian prison service

drew speakers from the UN, the EU, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the League of Arab States, as well as civil society leaders and experts from Kuwait, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen, Thailand, and the US. □

Norway ↔ Tajikistan

Norway's Deputy Ombudsman for Children joined fellow Ombudspersons from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan for a conference on the role of ombudsmen in tackling violence against children in detention. The conference was co-hosted with UNICEF and local partner the Child Rights Centre. □

Kenya ↔ Namibia (worldwide)

In November, the Assistant Director of Kenya's Probation and Aftercare Service attended the 16th annual conference of the International Corrections





and Prisons Association (ICPA) in Namibia to present Kenya's experience of developing alternatives to imprisonment at the final plenary session. He joined PRI's Executive Director who gave a presentation of PRI's work to reduce imprisonment in Africa over the last 10-15 years. □

Georgia ↔ Georgia

The Criminal Justice Reform Alliance is a national network with 30 institutional members from across Georgia, set up by PRI in 2013 in order to strengthen the influence of civil society in criminal justice reform.

In 2014, Alliance members undertook various activities together, including research, training and advocacy. In March, for example, the Alliance responded to two deaths in custody, calling for effective investigation and for the reinstatement of public monitoring of Georgian prisons (see page 15). The Ministry of Corrections met Alliance

members the following month to discuss security, suicide prevention and public monitoring. ◻

Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the USA ↔ Vienna

PRI coordinates a group of international NGOs wanting to engage in the current United Nations review of the UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners (SMR). The group includes the American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (Argentina), Conectas Direitos Humanos (Brazil), Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género (Chile), International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral Care (Brazil), and the Friends World Committee for Consultation.

In 2014, members of the group submitted a second (Essex) paper with recommendations on the review for consideration by

the third Inter-governmental Expert Group, updated their joint briefing to delegations, and advocated ahead of and during the negotiations (see page 14). ◻

PRI ↔ China/ Hong Kong

In February, PRI co-hosted a symposium on the UN Bangkok Rules in Hong Kong organised by the Dui Hua Foundation, the first PRI sponsored event in China. PRI gave a keynote speech presenting our UN Bangkok Rules Toolbox (see page 26). Around 45 participants attended, approximately half international stakeholders – including the Gender Unit of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Working Group on discrimination against women – and half from China/ Hong Kong.

London ↔ Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania

PRI has been working with the probation departments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania

for several years to improve the implementation of Community Service Orders (CSOs). In 2014, we started a new project together – Excellence in Training on Rehabilitation in Africa (ExTRA) – which aims to test a holistic model for effective delivery of CSOs in pilot districts in each country. ○

“ In Dar es Salaam, the use of CSOs has almost doubled since PRI sponsored training for magistrates. Similarly after the conference on alternatives sponsored by PRI last November, our departmental budget increased almost four times because a senior official who attended strongly supported our department during the budget process. ”

Charles Nsanze, Probation Department, Tanzania.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning: new tools to track progress

We are committed to strengthening our ability to capture and communicate our effectiveness in order to learn what does and does not work in the development of fair and effective criminal justice systems worldwide.

The nature of PRI's work presents a number of challenges. Much of our activity is advocacy and policy-based and produces intangible outcomes, 'raised awareness' for example, which can be difficult to measure. Furthermore, progress in criminal justice reform is often slow. Results achieved at an institutional level, changes to laws and policies for example, take time to reach and change the lives of beneficiaries – suspects, defendants, prisoners and former prisoners: certainly longer than the two- to three-year timeframe of the average project.

To respond to these challenges, in the past year we have developed a number of monitoring tools to track, assess and learn from our advocacy work. We have, for example, developed a tool which allows us to track progress towards our legislative and policy goals, and developed a Community

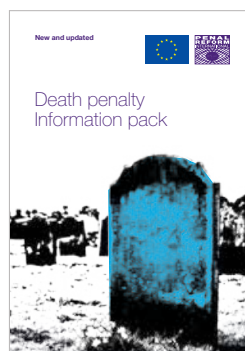
Service Scale Rating System to assess the extent to which our project countries in East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) have improved their Community Service Order systems within targeted areas. We are also piloting another scale-rating system to assess how far we have influenced key international stakeholders to use and reference the UN Bangkok Rules in their work.

We have also tested and developed theory-based evaluation methods that have helped us to rigorously assess and effectively communicate the medium- to long-term impact of our projects and programmes.

Evaluations of our projects are posted on our website. For more information, visit: www.penalreform.org/about-us/impact-2/

Images (clockwise from left): PRI coordination meeting for NPM members and government agencies, Kazakhstan (see page 15); the Human Rights Council, Geneva (see page 10, 20) [Photo © B Schrott]; Site visit to PRI health project, Atyrau women's prison, Kazakhstan (see page 21); and the 'multiplier effect' at work as PRI partner DOST trains its own staff on the UN Bangkok Rules (see page 21).





Highlights from 2014

Alternatives to imprisonment

Is a prison sentence
always the solution?

Multimedia

Two-minute animated film highlighting the damaging impact of the unnecessary use of imprisonment and the benefits of non-custodial alternatives.

- ENGLISH
- RUSSIAN ■ ARABIC
- SPANISH ■ FRENCH
- GEORGIAN ■ ARMENIAN

“ [This film] is very powerful and I think will engage the public as well as states and other key stakeholders. ”

Lorna McGregor, Director, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex.

Death penalty and alternative sanctions

Death penalty information pack (new edition)

A short guide to the fundamental issues and arguments linked to the abolition of the death penalty, reviewing current trends towards abolition and highlighting relevant international and regional human rights norms and standards and examples of good practice.

- ENGLISH ■ FRENCH

THE ‘WIDER IMPACT’ SERIES

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

How are lawyers affected by defending death penalty cases, where failure means execution? And how do they respond when their clients are killed?

The first in a new series of short papers examining the impact of the death penalty on people other than the person sentenced.

- ENGLISH

“ [This paper] will, I think, touch a chord in any reader who approaches this issue with an open mind. ”

Lawyer, India.

The death penalty, terrorism and international law

Brings together the key arguments to identify appropriate state responses in the face of terrorism.

- ENGLISH ■ ARABIC

Justice for children

Neglected needs: girls in the criminal justice system

Examines discrimination faced by girls in criminal justice systems and the measures needed to strengthen protection of their rights.

Published in partnership with the Inter-agency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ).

- ENGLISH

A short guide to General Comment No.1 on Children of incarcerated and imprisoned parents and primary caregivers

Illustrated summary of the first ever General Comment by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) on Children of incarcerated and imprisoned parents and primary caregivers (Article 30 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child).

Produced in partnership with the ACERWC.

- ENGLISH ■ ARABIC
- FRENCH



Women in the criminal justice system

WHO ARE WOMEN PRISONERS? RESEARCH SERIES

Findings from surveys with women prisoners in seven countries in four regions. Designed to support the development of effective law, policy and practice to support the gender-sensitive treatment of women prisoners.

“Extremely interesting and rich!”

Enrico Bisogno, Team Leader, Crime Statistics, UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

■ ENGLISH ■ RUSSIAN

Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Jordan and Tunisia

■ ENGLISH ■ ARABIC

Toolbox on the UN Bangkok Rules

The UN Bangkok Rules Toolbox

New languages!

The complete UN Bangkok Rules Toolbox is now available in:

■ ENGLISH ■ ARABIC
■ RUSSIAN

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.

Index:

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

Published in partnership with the Thailand Institute of Justice.

■ ENGLISH ■ ARABIC
■ RUSSIAN

Short guide

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.

E-learning course

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.

Torture prevention and preventive monitoring

Detention monitoring tool

Practical guidance to support monitoring bodies conduct effective visits to places of detention.

Produced in partnership with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT).

New languages!

Now available in:

■ ENGLISH ■ RUSSIAN
■ ARABIC ■ SPANISH
■ FRENCH ■ GEORGIAN

Coming soon in 2015

Global Prison Trends

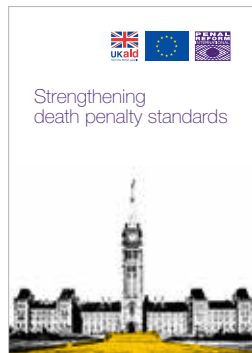
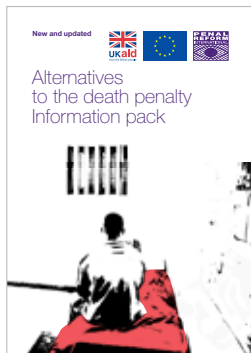
Global Prison Trends 2015

A new report describing key global trends in the use and practice of imprisonment and identifying some of the challenges that states face in organising their penitentiary system in line with international norms and standards.

The report includes a Special Focus on the impact of the 'war on drugs' and its implications for prison management. Significant international developments, recent research projects, and precedent-setting court decisions are highlighted throughout.

Global Prison Trends is intended to be an annual publication. Tracking trends and challenges in criminal justice systems will be vital to designing and assessing measures intended to strengthen the rule of law as a means to advancing sustainable development.

■ ENGLISH



Podcast: Global Prison Trends in depth

PRI staff and expert guests discuss Global Prison Trends 2015 with BBC broadcaster Paddy O'Connell. (15 mins)

■ ENGLISH

BLOGS

And don't forget...

...our 2014-2015 expert blog series addressing current trends and pressing challenges in criminal justice and penal reform:

How prison design and infrastructure can support the rehabilitative goal of imprisonment

How criminal justice systems can address the medical and social care needs of elderly prisoners

Why prison systems urgently need to tackle corruption

All blogs are available in text and audio format at www.penalreform.org/blog.

■ ENGLISH

Death penalty and alternative sanctions

Alternatives to the Death Penalty Information Pack (new edition)

Short guide to the fundamental issues and arguments linked to abolition of the death penalty and alternative sanctions. It 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.

■ ENGLISH ■ FRENCH

The death penalty: myths and realities

14 myths about the death penalty debunked. Ideal for use in advocacy and education.

■ ENGLISH

Strengthening death penalty standards

How can we strengthen international minimum standards on the application of the death penalty? This study examines recent developments nationally, regionally and internationally and suggests ways that death penalty standards can be or have been improved.

■ ENGLISH

Sharia law and the death penalty

This report on the status of the death penalty in Islamic law and jurisprudence is aimed at non-Islamic audiences wanting to understand and engage on this important aspect of the capital punishment debate.

■ ENGLISH

THE 'WIDER IMPACT' SERIES

The death penalty and prison guards

How are prison guards affected by overseeing prisoners on death row or even participating in executions? What effects does it have in the short and the longer term?

■ ENGLISH

Women in the criminal justice system

Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Uganda

The last in our series of surveys with women prisoners. Produced in partnership with the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, Uganda.

■ ENGLISH

The added value of the UN Bangkok Rules

This new article by PRI's Policy Director, Andrea Huber, outlines the background and profile of women offenders and prisoners, and discrimination faced by women throughout the criminal justice process, drawing on a wide range of recent research from several countries.

■ ENGLISH

Justice for children

Voice of the Child report 2015

Findings from an in-depth survey of 274 children detained in 15 closed institutions across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, designed to assess the prevalence of violence experienced by children in detention centres and state-run residential institutions.

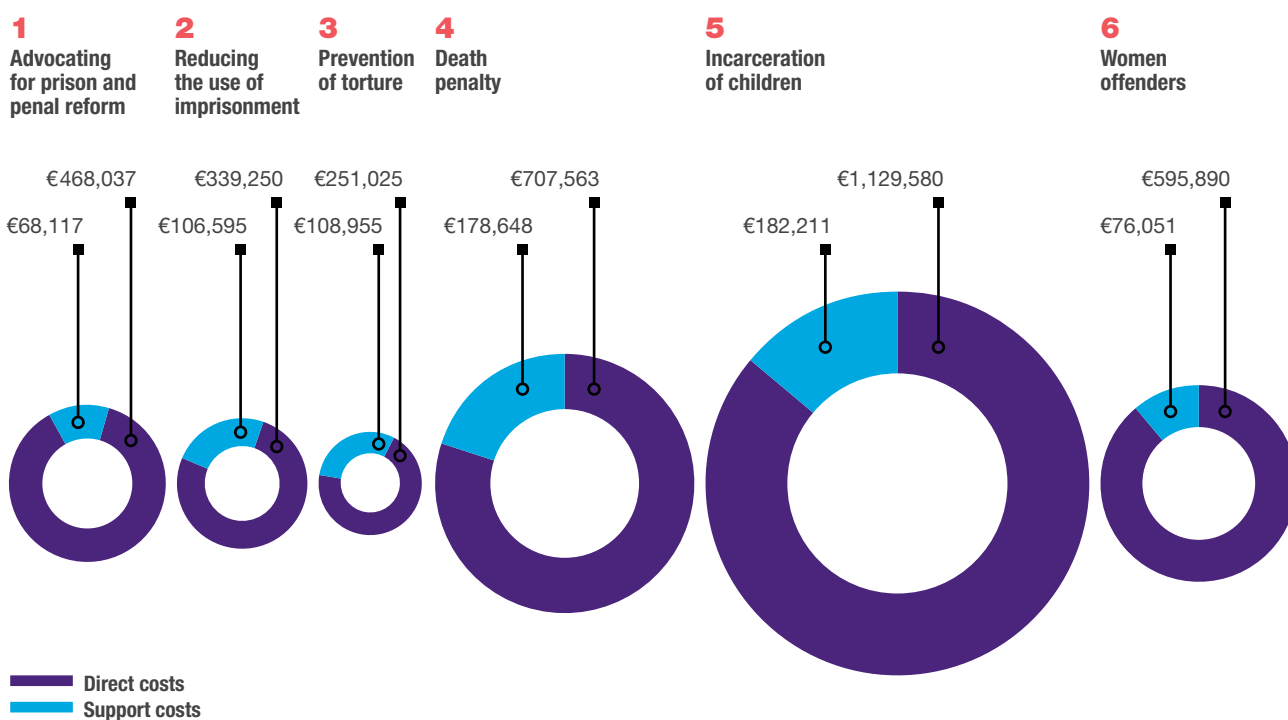
■ ENGLISH

Our donors

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

	Totals €
Department for International Development, UK	1,416,305
European Union	1,317,691
Swedish International Development Agency	627,771
Open Society Foundations	209,510
UNICEF	169,890
British Embassy, Astana, Kazakhstan	159,592
British Embassy, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	142,970
Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK	133,558
Other income	67,215
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	58,802
Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe	58,201
UNDEF	32,676
UNOPS	32,178
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	20,190
Association for the Prevention of Torture	13,470
Child Rights Centre, Tajikistan	12,689
Vol'noe Delo – Russian Foundation	10,468
UN Women	8,407
Foundation for Human Rights Initiative	5,862
British Embassy, Yemen	5,157
Eurasia Partnership Foundation	1,591
Total	4,504,193

	Direct costs	Support costs	Totals €
Costs of generating voluntary income			142,862
Governance costs			44,818
Exchange rate gain			(-146,101)
1 Advocating for prison and penal reform	468,037	68,117	536,154
2 Reducing the use of imprisonment	339,250	106,595	445,845
3 Prevention of torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment	251,025	108,955	359,980
4 Abolition of the death penalty	707,563	178,648	886,211
5 Incarceration of children as a last resort	1,129,580	182,211	1,311,791
6 A proportionate and sensitive response to women offending	595,890	76,051	671,941
	3,491,345	720,577	4,253,501



Who's who at PRI

PRI is a truly international organisation with a multi-national Board and staff.

Board members in 2014

Membership of PRI's Board aims to reflect different regions of the world.

(in alphabetical order)

Imman Ali

Bangladesh (co-opted as Deputy Treasurer, November 2014)

David Daubney

Canada (Chair)

Maria Eugenia Hofer Denecken

Chile

Olawale Fapohunda

Nigeria (Deputy Secretary-General)

Natalya Khutorskaya

Russia

Juliet Lyon

UK (Secretary-General)

Amin Mekki Medani

Sudan (retired, July 2014)

Simone Othmani-Lellouche

France/Tunisia

Bryan Stevenson

USA

Anthony Tang

Hong Kong (retired, April 2014)

Vera Tkachenko

Kazakhstan

Anton van Kalmthout

Netherlands (Treasurer)

Dirk van Zyl Smit

UK (Deputy Chair)

Ping Wang

China

The General Board elects from its members an Executive Board consisting of the Chair, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and their deputies.

For more information about our Board Members, visit:
<http://www.penalreform.org/about-us/board-and-governance/>



Staff members in 2014

LONDON (HEADQUARTERS)

Alison Hannah
Executive Director

Andrea Huber
Policy Director

Nikhil Roy
Programme Development Director

John Usher
Head of International Finance

Oliver Robertson
Project Manager, Death penalty and alternatives

Jo Honeybone
Programme Coordinator, DFID PPA

Omar Khan
ExTRA (Excellence in Training on Rehabilitation in Africa)
Project Coordinator

Nick Curley
Evaluation and Organisational Learning Adviser

Jenny Clarkin
Programme Officer

Olivia Rope
Programme Officer

Becky Randel
Research and Fundraising Coordinator

Jatinder Seehra
International Finance Officer

Pauline Jobson
Executive Assistant

Harriet Lowe
Information and Communications Officer

Tríona Lenihan
Policy and Communications Intern

Peter Keeling
Policy and Communications Intern

MOSCOW (RUSSIA, UKRAINE AND BELARUS)

Vika Sergeyeva
Regional Director

Alla Pokras
Project Manager

Sergey Shimovolos
Project Manager

Natal'ia Egorova
Accountant

Marina Matrosova
Programme Assistant

AMMAN, JORDAN (MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION)

Taghreed Jaber
Regional Director

Haitham Shibli
Communication and Research Director

Muhammad Shabanah
Juvenile Justice Project Manager

Hala Al Zoubi
Juvenile Justice Project Officer

Dr Mohammad Almoussa
International Human Rights Law Advisor

Bahaa Akkad
Administrative and Financial Officer

Huda Abu Atiyyeh
Executive Assistant

Dana Tantash
Communication and Research Officer

ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN (CENTRAL ASIA REGION)

Saule Mektepbayeva
Regional Director

Azamat Shambilov
Project Coordinator

Zhanna Malayeva
Project Coordinator

Ilyas Nurmaganbetov
Project Coordinator

Dinara Dildabekova
Project Manager

Sandygul Saktanova
Project Assistant

Assel Bulatbekova
Head of Secretariat

Galina Salikhova
Accountant

TBILISI, GEORGIA (SOUTH CAUCASUS REGION)

Tsira Chanturia
Regional Director

Irena Gabunia
Fundraiser/Project Coordinator

Nazi Janezashvili
Programme Coordinator

Miranda Merkviladze
Project Coordinator

Nodar Sidamonidze
Accountant

Ketevan Otiashvili
Administrator/Projects Assistant

Message from the Executive Director

Tangible progress in a difficult political climate and a new Strategic Plan.

In our 2013 report, we noted the damaging impact on our work of a globally volatile and uncertain political environment. Sadly, this trend has continued, particularly with the rise of Islamic State in the Middle East, the conflict in Ukraine and continuing restrictions on human rights organisations operating in Russia and elsewhere. These developments shrink the space in which PRI and other human rights organisations can work effectively. Funding is more difficult to obtain; relationships with government and official bodies may be undermined; and it becomes more difficult to plan for long-term change.

“Policy-makers – and indeed donors – national and international – also need to look at what happens inside prisons if they truly want to reduce crime.”

It is a tribute to PRI's dedicated staff that despite these obstacles, we continue to find ways to make progress. This report sets out some of our key achievements and highlights over the whole year. As always, our regional offices delivered programmes of reform to improve the conditions and treatment for men, women and children in the criminal justice system. Our work with local partners in East Africa and Pakistan has built on results gained and the strong partnerships formed in previous years. Throughout the year we delivered training and participated in expert group meetings, international conferences and events in many different parts of the world.

Our funding from UK Aid enabled us to intervene in the international policy debate on a large range of issues including probation, parole, human rights, arbitrary detention, children of incarcerated parents, corruption, violence against children, reintegration, prisoner empowerment, gender sensitive monitoring, proportionate sentencing for women and children, the cost benefits of alternatives to detention and many others. We took the lead in promoting proportionate treatment for women offenders through advocacy and training on implementation of the UN Bangkok Rules on women offenders and prisoners. The revision of the UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners – a key set of standards for prisons the world over – took a step forward last year, and we are pleased to see the process now moving on to the next stage and the adoption of the revised standards.



Our expert guest blog series – marking PRI's 25th anniversary – stimulated a great deal of interest in newly emerging topics (such as the influence of prison architecture on the rehabilitation of prisoners and the rise of radicalisation in prisons). It also prefaced the arrival of a new PRI study on global trends in imprisonment launched a few weeks ago at the 13th United Nations Crime Congress in Doha, Qatar.

Obtaining global information about crime statistics, sentencing and penal policies has always been a huge challenge; however, there is a constant demand for evidence-based policy and information about good practice. *Global Prison Trends* – which we anticipate being an annual publication, examines trends in the use of imprisonment, the extent and nature of prison populations, and prison management practice. It provides invaluable information for policy-makers on a range of issues not previously drawn together in one place and its recommendations will provide a solid basis for reform in line with international standards.

A great deal of our work involves the provision of technical assistance and advocacy (such as expert input into drafting legislation, regulations, handbooks and advising on good practice and international standards). The information we produce is widely used beyond our direct networks as the PRI website and publications provide resources and guidance to penal reformers in all regions of the world.

For us, it is, however, in our practical programmes – and particularly in prison work schemes, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes – that we can see our impact on prisoners, our ultimate beneficiaries, most tangibly. In the Middle East and North Africa, our office has set up two pilot schemes – the first such – to provide 'through the gate' support to prisoners coming up for release in Jordan and Tunisia. The samples are small but the results are promising. In Kazakhstan, our Central Asia office dedicated its second national prison forum to employment issues. A comprehensive manual of all the different types of work prisoners and former prisoners can do – *100 jobs for prisoners* – was launched at the forum and should provide prison administrators with a wide range of options to provide both meaningful occupation and a sense of purpose in prison and skills to help prisoners after their release.

I was struck recently at a United Nations debate on integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the post-2015 development agenda how much attention was paid to crime prevention and how little to preventing reoffending, rates of which are shockingly high in many (diverse) countries. Policy-makers – and indeed donors – national and international – also need to look at what happens inside prisons if they truly want to reduce crime.

This focus on preventing re-offending is an integral part of our new strategic plan for the next five-year period (2015-2020). The plan is based on a clearly articulated set of values, protecting the human rights of suspects, defendants, offenders and prisoners within the criminal justice system. It will guide us towards our vision of fair, effective and proportionate criminal justice systems worldwide that are non-discriminatory and respect the rights of disadvantaged people and is expressed in four separate strands:

- A criminal justice system that respects the rule of law, upholds the rights of suspects and defendants and prevents the unnecessary use of pre-trial detention;
- Fair and proportionate sentencing that takes account of the circumstances of both the offence and offender;
- Humane treatment and conditions for prisoners and prevention of torture in all places of detention;
- Safer communities through rehabilitation, reintegration and interventions to reduce re-offending.

Next year we hope to be able report to you on further progress towards these outcomes.

Alison Hannah

How to keep in touch with PRI

GLOBALLY:

Browse our latest news, blogs and resources on our website: www.penalreform.org

We produce several e-newsletters. You can sign up for our **monthly PRI news round-up** at www.penalreform.org or our quarterly update on our work on the UN Bangkok Rules by emailing 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 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

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

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

PRI Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Website: www.primena.org (Arabic)

Facebook: facebook.com/menaregion

Sign up to PRI MENA's **quarterly e-newsletter** by emailing: priamman@penalreform.org.

PRI South Caucasus

Website: 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

“ Very few organisations, like PRI, can actually claim to have established policy change, adjusted legal frameworks and introduced improved, tangible new practice. ”

Independent evaluation (*Strategihuset*) of PRI European Union funded project on the abolition of the death penalty 2013-2015, 2014.

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