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East Africa Criminal Justice Civil Society Network  
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# EAST AFRICA CRIMINAL JUSTICE CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK



*Civil Society Organizations for Criminal Justice Reform*

E-newsletter 6: July 2014

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- [Women in the criminal justice system](#)

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## THE EAST AFRICA CRIMINAL JUSTICE CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Welcome to this edition of the East Africa Criminal Justice Civil Society Network newsletter, 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)*. There are currently 130 members of the e-network!

Please send any news items and information that you would like included to **Diva at FHRI**: [mukisadiva@gmail.com](mailto:mukisadiva@gmail.com) by **19 August**.

### NGO OF THE MONTH

*Each e-bulletin has a 'NGO of the month' feature to recognise key achievements of NGOs working in the criminal justice sector. If you would like to be featured, please email Diva [mukisadiva@gmail.com](mailto:mukisadiva@gmail.com)*

# JUVENILE JUSTICE

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### **Tanzania: Juvenile detention centres to be set up countrywide**

The government of Tanzania is planning on building juvenile detention centres in every region in efforts to prevent children from being traumatized when mixed with adults in prison. Currently there are six juvenile detention centres, one juvenile court and one school for juveniles. The government in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has introduced a special project to carry out a study on the matter and come up with technical recommendations for a long lasting solution. Read more [here](#)

### **Uganda: Justice for Children Program Reviewed**

The Justice for Children Program (J4C) which is implemented by [Centre for Justice Studies and Innovations \(CJSI\)](#) and supported by UNICEF has been hailed as a champion for the cause of children in terms of children's protection, rights and obligations. This was during the review of the J4C program held in Kampala on June 12. The review was a stock-taking event to evaluate the programme for the last 2 years, identifying bottlenecks and challenges as well as map out strategies oriented toward ensuring proper delivery of justice services to children. Read more [here](#)

### **Tanzania: Behind the walls of juvenile detention centres in Tanzania**

A report on inspection of children in detention facilities conducted by the [Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance \(CHRGG\)](#) in Tanzania has raised serious questions over Tanzania's commitment in protecting the rights of children. According to the report, despite the fact that Tanzania is currently experiencing an increased number of children detainees the condition in detention and treatment of children fall far short of international human rights standards and that children are not receiving reintegration and rehabilitation services. Read more [here](#) or click [here](#) to contact CHRGG for report details.

### **Uganda: Juvenile justice facilities still lacking**

Ms. Sylvia Mukasa, the director of programmes at [Centre for Justice Programmes and Innovations](#) discusses the way forward on how to better the administration of children justice in the country. Read full article [here](#)

### **Uganda: Justice for children and realities of remand homes**

The Children's Act stipulation on how to treat child offenders is clear, with the children's welfare as the focus. Sadly, this is not the situation in many cases around the country. Read full article [here](#)

### **Namibia: Interview with Ndumba Kamwanyah on Juvenile Justice Reform in Namibia**

Mr. Kamwanyah, an early pioneer of Namibia's juvenile justice system gives his views on the challenges involved in getting the public to accept the new juvenile system, how they can better use the media to reach youth, and not allowing rule of law programs to

undermine local initiatives. Read full interview [here](#)

### **Call for a global study on children deprived of liberty**

Click [here](#) to visit the new website on the global study on Children Deprived of Liberty and to give your support to the campaign. A variety of resources and publication are also available on the website.

### **Blog: Protecting girls from all forms of violence in the criminal justice system**

Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais explains how the new *Model Strategies and Practical Measures for the Elimination of Violence against Children*, which the UN General Assembly is expected to adopt in October, will bring together international and regional standards to promote this aim. Read full blog [here](#)

## **BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Model Law on Juvenile Justice and related Commentary: A technical assistance tool in the area of Justice for Children designed to provide legal assistance to States in the process of reviewing or developing legislation in the area of juvenile justice.

Factors influencing youth crime and juvenile delinquency: This article highlights several underlying factors that influence criminality among the youth and juvenile delinquency imprisoned at Kamiti Youth Corrective Training centre which is the only penal institution for young male offenders aged 17 – 21 years in Kenya.

The Administration of Juvenile Justice in Tanzania: Prospects and Challenges: This article by Hanifa T. Massawe discusses the challenges behind the administration of juvenile justice in Tanzania in the light of the New Law of the Child Act of 2009.

Child Justice - A Five Year Strategy for Progressive Reform 2013-2017: Government of the United Republic of Tanzania's *Five Year Strategy for Progressive. Child Justice Reform 2013-2017 (Child Justice Strategy)*

## **ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT**

### **NEWS AND EVENTS**

#### **Tanzania: Study calls for reform of Prisons**

According to a report compiled by the Inmate Rehabilitation and Welfare Services-

Tanzania ([IRAWS-T](#)) Tanzania should reform the Prisons Department as part of efforts to decongest prisons. The report proposes that Tanzania adopts the Offender Decongestion Strategy (ODS) and best practices from other countries that have successfully tackled the problem. Click [here](#) for the media article or contact John at IRAWS-T on <mailto:mgosiwasui87@gmail.com> for the report.

### **Tanzania: MPs blame government over bad prison conditions**

Members of Parliament, while debating the 2014/2015 budget, said prisoners still face years of confinement in cramped and dirty quarters and get insufficient food rations. They said prison conditions reflected government neglect and abuse of the rights of imprisoned members of the society. Read more [here](#).

### **Tanzania: Prisoners too have right to elect governments of their choice**

An article by Kiangiosekazi Wa Nyoka highlighting the fact that prisoners should be able to exercise their right to vote as Tanzania is a signatory to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Click [here](#) to read the article in detail or contact John from IRAWS-T directly on [mgosiwasui87@gmail.com](mailto:mgosiwasui87@gmail.com)

### **Kenya: Prisons to release top performing inmates**

The Naivasha G.K Prison has announced plans to release on probation all inmates who perform well in national examinations. The announcement comes in the wake of good performance by some of the inmates in 2013 KCSE examinations. The move by the prison is to motivate inmates to continue their education while in prison. Read more [here](#)

### **Kenya: Prison Paralegal Justice Centers, Kituo Cha Sheria (Centre for Legal Empowerment)**

Jackline Mwendu, Programme Officer from [The Centre for Legal Empowerment](#), provides insight into the unique ways Kituo Cha Sheria paralegals are providing legal aid to prisoners in Kenya. Read full article [here](#)

### **Uganda: Issue papers Review and Reform of the Prisons Act No.17 of 2006**

In order to actively involve the community at an earlier stage, the Uganda Law Reform Commission has decided to publish issue papers for appropriate investigations as the first step in the consultation process. The purpose of this is to announce an investigation, and stimulate debate on identified issues by way of including specific questions on relevant issues. The deadline for commenting was in April but the process of review is ongoing, the issue paper on the Prisons Act Reform can be downloaded [here](#)

### **Uganda: APP-University of London Students Providing Basic Legal Support to Fellow Inmates**

African Prisons Project is providing study opportunities for prison staff and inmates to study law with the University of London International programme. A key objective for the students under the programme is to train and share their knowledge and skills acquired through their study with fellow inmates. Click [here](#) to read more about the initiative.

**Tanzania:** [Prisons set to establish more development projects](#) including tailoring and

furniture factories so that prisoners can gain useful skills to assist their rehabilitation.

**Kenya:** [Yatta prisoners demand conjugal rights](#)

**Nairobi:** [Inmates miss court as biting shortage of fuel hits prisons](#)

**Uganda:** The Auditor General wants an end to the bucket system used as a toilet facility in most prisons in the country. Read more [here](#)

## BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

[Presumed Innocent, behind bars: The problem of lengthy pre-trial detention in Uganda:](#) Based on analysis of the situation in eight Ugandan prisons, this report by [Avocats Sans Frontieres \(ASF\)](#) focuses on the problem of lengthy detention of accused persons in Uganda and aims to propose specific legal solutions to ameliorate this longstanding issue.

[Is a prison sentence always the solution?:](#) A new short animated film from PRI, looking at the damaging impact of the unnecessary use of imprisonment around the world and making the case for greater use of non-custodial measures.

## WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

### NEWS AND EVENTS

#### The UN Bangkok Rules

Bangkok Rules are a set of standards adopted by the UN General Assembly on 21 December 2010, which supplement existing standards for the treatment of prisoners by addressing the specific needs of women in the criminal justice system for the first time. For more information on the Rules see PRI's [short guide](#) on the Rules.

#### Uganda: Africa Prisons Project (APP) raising funds to enable female inmates to access the University of London's Post Graduate Law course

APP are raising money through Crowd funder to enable 2 female inmates to access legal education with the University of London. Already 15 male students and one female have been aided in accessing qualifications via distance learning. African Prisons Project wants to support a further 12 women in accessing this. Click [here](#) to read more or support the initiative.

#### Kenya: Life of children in prison

Langata Women's Prison, a maximum-security facility, 10 km from Kenya's capital, Nairobi is home to around 700-1000 inmates with more than 50 children under the age of

four living inside the prison with their mothers. Read more about the children of Langata prison [here](#).

### **Kenya: Women in and out of prison - what they go through**

A post by Jayne Nyapaul Coordinator at FIDIPA on the challenges women in prison face in Kenyan and the work FIDIPA does to support them. FIDIPA aims at giving relevant participatory tools to enable them to define and take control of their own development needs. To read more about prison work by Jayne Nyapaul and FIDIPA click [here](#)

### **DRC: Rape 'routine' in DR Congo prisons**

A report by Freedom From Torture indicates that security officials "routinely" rape women in prisons in DR Congo as punishment for their political activities. According to the report medical reports of 34 women showed many of them had been brutally gang-raped. The women - who included traders and professionals are aged between 18 and 62. Read more [here](#)

### **Sierra Leone: "In the Dry Season"**

A video from [AdvocAid Sierra Leone](#), a woman in Kenema Female Prison recites a poem she has learnt in a literacy class run by EducAid and AdvocAid and supported by the Sierra Leone Prison Service. Watch video [here](#)

**Uganda:** [Inmates take on officers at Netball during a Women's Day event at Luzira Women's Prison, Kampala](#)

### **Call to action: Empower women. Resist injustice. Transform lives.**

The [Centre for Crime and Justice Studies](#) (CCJS), in collaboration with [Women in Prison](#), has issued a call to action challenging the harms faced by women in criminal justice systems and support services. [Read the call and sign up](#) to show your support.

### **Women and the UN Principles and Guidelines on Legal Aid**

On 24-26 June, the International Legal Foundation hosted an [International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems](#) in Johannesburg, South Africa. Andrea Huber (PRI), spoke at the conference on gender aspects in legal aid, welcoming the [UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems](#) and their acknowledgement of the need for special measures to ensure legal aid for women, but also warning that they are just a first step to ensuring that women are not disadvantaged at any stage of the criminal justice system. [Read a blog adapted from her presentation](#).

### **Annual Day of Discussion on Women's Rights at the Human Rights Council in Geneva**

PRI co-hosted a side-event on the human rights of women in detention, together with [DIGNITY](#) (Danish Institute Against Torture), [OHCHR](#) and the Permanent Missions of Denmark and Chile. A panel discussion by some of the key actors focused on women's rights at the international level. The event was webcast live - watch the recording [here](#).

Sudan: [Sanitary conditions in Torit state prison inadequate, say women's group](#)

Zimbabwe: [Smaller prisons hit with sanitary wear shortage](#)

## BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

[Conditions for Women in Detention - Needs, vulnerabilities and good practices](#): A study by DIGNITY on the needs, vulnerabilities and violations of women in detention in Albania, Jordan, Guatemala, the Philippines, and Zambia.

[Research Report on the Treatment of Women Detainees in China - Using the Bangkok Rules as the Starting Point of Analysis](#).

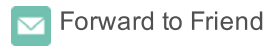
[UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems](#): The new Guidance acknowledges the need for special measures to ensure legal aid for women by encouraging states to incorporate a gender prospective into all policies, laws, procedures, programmes and practices relating to legal aid to ensure gender equality and equal and fair access to justice. It also states that states should take active steps to ensure that “where possible, female lawyers are available to represent female defendants, accused and victims.”

[Integrating gender into security sector oversight](#): Three guidance notes by DCAF, OSCE/ODIHR and OSCE Gender on integrating gender into internal police and armed forces oversight, as well as oversight of the security sector by Ombuds Institutions and National Human Rights Institutions

[UN Bangkok Rules toolbox](#): A range of practical resources by PRI to assist stakeholders with working towards implementation of the Bangkok Rules, other international standards and best practices.

[Bangkok Rules e-course](#): 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 Bangkok Rules quarterly e-bulletin](#) on women in detention and the Bangkok Rules. To sign up email [info@penalreform.org](mailto:info@penalreform.org)



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