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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 7: September 2014

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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)*.

Please send any news items and information that you would like included to **Diva at FHRI**: mukisadiva@gmail.com by **27 October**.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

NEWS AND EVENTS

Uganda: Waning hope for West Nile Juvenile remand home

Uganda: In the ideal world, child offenders are supposed to be sent to juvenile correctional centres. Unfortunately, this is not the case in West Nile. Read full article [here](#)

Uganda: Gulu Battles Child offenders

In Uganda anyone below 18 is considered a child and is likely to receive lenience in case of an offence. Many children particularly arrested from districts outside Gulu, are brought to the Gulu main prison with an age tag of above 18 for lack of holding facilities for children. Read more [here](#).

Kenya: Refugee boy lives in different prison cells

A two-year-old boy is among thousands of aliens detained in police stations across the country, raising fears of human rights abuses in the ongoing Operation Usalama Watch campaign. The little boy has been held in the women's cell at the Industrial Area Police Station for days. But he has been to four other police stations around the city for several months. Read more [here](#).

South Africa: Safeguarding Conference

The safeguarding conference was held on 3-5 September 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa. The conference under the theme "*Keeping Children Safe in Africa: Identifying and Addressing the Challenges*" was designed to identify specific challenges and potential solutions to creating safe environment for children in Africa. At the conference, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) launched General Comment No1 (GC1) on "Children of Incarcerated and Imprisoned Parents and Primary Caregivers". It provides guidance on implementation of article 30 of the African Children's Charter. The conference was organized and led by a consortium of organizations including USAID/UNICEF Nigeria/War child Holland/Plan/Save the Children/Terre Des Hommes/SANTAC. Click [here](#) for more information on conference.

BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

Handbook on Juvenile Justice in Zambia: On August 6, Cornell Law School and the Center for Law and Justice released a new handbook for judicial officers and legal practitioners on juvenile law in Zambia. The handbook aims to function as a practice guide for judicial officials and legal practitioners who work in the area of juvenile law. It addresses a range of issues, including the constitutional, statutory, and human rights framework of juvenile law, special issues that arise in cases of child sexual abuse, and procedural protections for juvenile witnesses.

Protecting children's rights in criminal justice systems: a training manual and reference point for professionals and policymakers (PRI): It provides a practical approach to addressing issues that arise for children in criminal justice systems, illustrated by examples from other countries and including challenging and thought-provoking questions and case studies at the end of each topic.

Justice in Matters Involving Children in Conflict with the Law: Model Law on Juvenile Justice and Related Commentary: (Professor Carolyn Hamilton, UNODC, 2013) This Model Law is designed to provide legal guidance to States in the process of juvenile justice reform and assist them in drafting juvenile justice legislation

ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

NEWS AND EVENTS

Kenya: Hope triumphs for Kamiti's 'learned friend'

When Peter Ouko arrived at Kamiti Maximum Prison 14 years ago, he was a distraught 28-year-old man whose life had come to a grinding halt after he was sentenced to death for his wife's murder. Ouko went against all odds to make history as the first prisoner in Kenya to get a Diploma in Law from the prestigious University of London. For full article, click [here](#)

Uganda: Prisons to phase out 'bucket toilets'

Uganda prisons will be rid of the dehumanizing 'night soil bucket' system in the next two years as part of a grand scheme to improve hygiene in reformatories. This system has been highlighted in a number of reports by the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) for being "unhygienic and dehumanizing". Read more [here](#)

Uganda: Three inmates at Uganda's maximum security prison and one former inmate presented with Diploma in Common Law at Uganda's Maximum Security Prison.

On Tuesday 19 August, three inmates at Uganda's maximum security prison and one former inmate under the APP Scholarship Programme were presented with their Diploma in the Common Law by the University of London. The three inmates are the first ever inmates to receive qualifications in law in Ugandan prisons. Read more [here](#)

Uganda: Prisons defends hard labour for HIV+ inmates

The commissioner for prisons in charge of inspection, has defended the practice of subjecting prisoners living with HIV/AIDS to 'hard work' saying 'exercising' is good for their health. Read more [here](#).

Tanzania: Rehabilitation plan could decongest prisons

Following the announcement by President Jakaya Kikwete of building ultra-modern prisons in the country, Consolata Chitinka of SAUT interviewed The Executive Director of Inmates Rehabilitation and Welfare Services Tanzania (IRaWS-T), Mr John W. Nyoka about such a plan that is said to decongest prisons if implemented. [Here](#) are the excerpts from the interview.

Tanzania: Tanzania Touts Suspects' Human Rights

Tanzania will lead African countries to implement the Luanda Guidelines geared towards improvement of the human rights of suspects and detainees. Luanda Guidelines are a set of principles and rules aimed at solving the legal problems that relate to human and peoples' rights and fundamental freedoms, upon which African governments may base their legislation. For more detail, click [here](#)

Tanzania: What Works in Prison?

It is very interesting that of late, the Tanzania Prison Service is coming very close to the public unlike in the past that everything had to end up in those four walls of the Prisons. The era of lock them in and throw the key is phasing out. Read full article [here](#).

Fifth UN International Corrections in Peacekeeping Conference

The Fifth United Nations International Corrections in Peacekeeping Conference took place on 8 -10 July in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. This was the first time the conference was hosted in Africa attracting 153 corrections experts from 32 countries across 5 continents. Key areas of discussion were: partnerships; gender aspects in prison programming; prison incident management; strategic leadership; prison administration; strategies to reduce prison overcrowding and prolonged detention; and prison infrastructure. For more information about the conference please contact Ms. Annika Kovar (Kovar@un.org)

BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

Presumption of Guilt: The Global Overuse of Pre-trial Detention: The publication by [Open Society Justice Initiative](#) examines the full consequences of the global overuse of pretrial detention. Combining statistical analysis, first-person accounts, graphics, and case studies of successful reforms, the report is the first to comprehensively document this widespread but frequently ignored form of human rights abuse.

Pre-trial Detention in Zimbabwe: Analysis of the Criminal Justice system and conditions of pre-trial detention in Zimbabwe

SADC Standard Minimum Guidelines for the Treatment and Management of Detainees: The SADC Lawyers' Association has produced Southern African Development Community (SADC) Minimum Standards on the Treatment and Management of Detainees ("Guidelines"), which were adopted by the SADCLA Annual General Meeting on 23rd August, 2014 - See more [here](#).

WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

NEWS AND EVENTS

Rwanda: Training on Bangkok Rules at the 'All Female United Nations Prison Officers Course' at Rwanda's Peace Academy

PRI's Policy Director, Andrea Huber, joined a group of instructors at a pre-deployment course for UN peacekeepers. This day long course provided participants with training on the gender-specific needs of women prisoners, based on the Bangkok Rules. Read more on the PRI website [here](#).

Tanzania: HIV Interventions needed in prisons

Providing access to HIV prevention and treatment services in closed settings such as prisons is crucial to curbing the transmission of HIV, particularly among women, say public experts. Find full article [here](#).

Launch of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's (ACERWC) first General Comment

In early September, PRI co-organised the launch of ACERWC's first General Comment, which addresses the protection of prisoners' children. The General Comment recognises the financial, psychological and social difficulties facing the children of imprisoned parents and calls for greater use of non-custodial sentences for parents and carers. Read more [here](#).

'Protecting girls from all forms of violence in the criminal justice system' by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children

The UN SRSC-VAC 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](#)

Tanzania: [Why prisons must move from a punitive to corrective approach](#)

Kazakhstan: [PRI advocates for the application of the Bangkok Rules to improve women prisoners' health in Kazakhstan.](#)

Zambia: [Maternity care should be made available to pregnant women in prisons across the country](#)

Zimbabwe: [Gender discrimination in prisons slammed](#)

BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

[General Comment No.1 on Children of Incarcerated and Imprisoned Parents and Primary Caregivers](#): The full text of the General Comment can be found on the

Committee's website and a [short guide](#) created in conjunction with PRI is also available.

[Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Jordan and Tunisia](#). The report is based on a survey carried out by PRI of 28 and 32 per cent of the female prison populations in Jordan and Tunisia respectively, statistics from authorities and interviews with key stakeholders. The research series was inspired by Rule 67 of the [UN Bangkok Rules](#), and country-specific recommendations are provided based on the Rules and other international standards.

This report is the third to be published as part of [PRI's ongoing research project on women prisoners](#). With support from PRI the [Foundation for Human Rights Initiative](#) is conducting similar research in Uganda. The methodology has also been shared with Advocaid for their upcoming report on women prisoners in Sierra Leone.

[Prisons and Health](#): The new publication by WHO includes a chapter devoted to women's health in prisons.

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



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