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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 4: March 2014

In this month's edition:

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

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## INTRODUCING THE EAST AFRICA CRIMINAL JUSTICE CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the fourth 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)*.

We hope that the newsletter is used to share information and resources among our growing network of civil society organisations and we would like to encourage colleagues to send us materials, feedback, news items and information about events to include in the bulletins. We are also interested in your feedback. **Please send your contributions by 10 April to Diva at FHRI: [mukisadiva@gmail.com](mailto:mukisadiva@gmail.com).** We would also like to feature an NGO each month.

We have developed a quick survey to help us evaluate how useful East Africa Civil Society Criminal Justice Network newsletter has been to your work. Click [here](#) to fill out the survey

# JUVENILE JUSTICE

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### **Featured: Tanzania Child Rights Forum (TCRF)**

Tanzania Child Rights Forum (TCRF) promotes children's rights in Tanzania. Formed in 2009, TCRF has a membership of approximately 85 Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) working on child rights across the country. TCRF also represents local CSOs that have an interest in Juvenile Justice in Tanzania. TCRF's current priority is to work with the Department for Social Welfare and the Chief Justice Department on implementation of the National Child Justice Strategy 2013-17 and the Violence Against Children Multi-sector Plan of Action 2013-2016. TCRF is meeting with these government departments to represent its members and to discuss how CSOs can provide input and support implementation.

For more information click [here](#) to contact TCRF or visit their [website](#)

### **East Africa: Supporting Access to Justice for Children and Youth**

The Strengthening Access to Justice in East Africa (SAJEA) programme has organized a two week study visit to Canada for representatives of Justice, Law and Order Sector institutions in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. The tour will expose participants to best practices in the area of juvenile justice and promote sharing of experience and information. The project is funded by the Canadian Bar Association.

### **Uganda: Roundtable meeting on alternatives to detention of Juveniles**

On 27 February Children Justice Initiative (CJI) and the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) hosted a roundtable discussion on "Promoting and Implementing alternative measures to Detention of Juveniles in Uganda". The meeting was held as a follow up to the Expert Roundtable on Juvenile Justice in Uganda held on 22 May 2013. Participants discussed the potential for alternative methods of addressing criminal behaviour in Uganda's children. Past work and strategies were reviewed and consensus and ideas were sought. For further information on the event including the report and presentations contact Diva at FHRI at: [mukisadiva@gmail.com](mailto:mukisadiva@gmail.com)

### **Uganda: Mbale Diocese Diversion Project by Children Justice Initiative and the Church of Uganda**

Children Justice Initiative (CJI) and the Church of Uganda (COU) are launching a pilot project to establish community leaders and upstanding citizens as Juvenile Justice Advocates to mediate petty offenses in partnership with the Mbale police force. Children accused of committing petty offenses will see their cases diverted through a variety of restorative mechanisms. Stakeholders will engage in community sensitization to promote child rights and the restoration of criminal offenders into their communities. CJI and COU hope to increase the number of juveniles diverted from the formal justice process, which will reduce the number of petty offenders on remand at Mbale Remand Home, reduce the burden on local law enforcement and the courts, and realize substantial cost savings for

the Government. For more information contact Aaron at CJJ:  
[aaronmurphy@childrenjustice.org](mailto:aaronmurphy@childrenjustice.org)

### **Kenya: Juvenile justice system in urgent need of reforms.**

An article by Apollo Mboye, Secretary/CEO of the [Law Society of Kenya](#). Click [here](#) to read the article.

### **Uganda: JLOS Considering an Ombudsperson for Children**

The Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) is considering the establishment of an Ombudsperson for Children. The Ombudsperson will serve as a focal person and an independent entity that promotes the interests of children, ensures that the government complies with international and national provisions on children's rights, advocates for children's rights and creates awareness on children's rights. "[JLOS Considering an Ombudsperson for Children](#)" is republished with the permission of the Justice, Law and Order Sector

### **Uganda: Legislators and NGO's call for the amendment of the Children**

#### **Act**

The Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Children (UPFC) has asked for a quick review of the Children's Act. The chairperson of UPFC, Florence Mutyabule said: "*The amendment of the Children's Act has been pending since 2005. A revised Act would bring important legal changes to protect children. While one law cannot change all that needs to be changed, it does provide the legal foundation for child protection,*" Lack of a clear law on children exposes them to a justice system designed for adults, incarceration in adult prisons and remand homes with few opportunity to use family community courts. Uganda has only four remand homes: Naguru, Gulu, Mbale and Fort Portal, which cannot serve all the juveniles countrywide.

## **BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES**

[Extracts from the Committee on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\) Concluding Observations, 65th session 2014: This Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice \(IPJJ\) document](#) includes the CRC's recommendations relevant to justice for children, including: torture respect for the views of the child; corporal punishment; protection of privacy; best interests of the child; data collection; administration of juvenile justice; and child victims and witnesses of crimes.

[Good Practices and Promising Initiatives in Juvenile Justice in the Central and Eastern Europe Region 2010 - United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#): The report contains contributions from a group of countries which have actively documented and shared their experience and lessons learned, drawing upon expertise as well as networks.

[Police Training on Child Rights & Child Protection: Lessons Learned and Manual: 2005 - Consortium for Street Children \(CSC\), Marie Wernham](#). This publication provides information to enable trainers to design, implement, and monitor and evaluate effective and practical police training courses in relation to child rights and child protection.

Protecting children's rights in criminal justice systems: a training manual and reference point for professionals and policymakers (PRI). This new resource 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.

The February Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ) newsletter from the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice is now available to read online. To sign up to the newsletter, click here.

## ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

### NEWS AND EVENTS

#### Uganda: Africa Prison Project Education Programme

Africa Prisons Project (APP) is delivering Life skills and library activities at Kasangati prison is testing out the 'remand Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) model'. The inaugural module is about violence and anger management. During classes inmates share their past experiences and act out a short drama skits linking to the skills learnt. APP is continuing to enable prisoners to build their skills through library activities that include, article writing and debates. On January 24th 2014, APP handed over yet another Library to Uganda Prisons service and at the same time handed out certificates to 22 prisoners and Prison Officers in Gulu who were trained as library assistants.

APP also trained 22 prison staff as prisoner Legal Rights Advocates as part of their 'Promotion of the Access to Justice and Healthcare Rights of Prisoners in Oyam and Apac Districts' project. A key activity is the training of prisons' staff to provide basic legal support to men and women across 8 prisons. The participants included prison staff from all Uganda Government Prisons in Apac and Oyam. For these updates and more from APP click here or follow their Facebook and twitter page.

#### 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. The Deputy Officer in Charge of the Prison Martin Akwanyi said those serving lesser jail terms would benefit from probation programme. Read More here.

#### Tanzania: Law day to speedy convictions; prisons continue to feel the grunt of overcrowding

An article by Kiangiosekazi Wa Nyoka, Executive Director Inmate Rehabilitation and

Welfare Services Tanzania (IRaWS-T) Click [here](#) to read the article.

### **Uganda: Locking up petty offenders will not make our communities safer**

An article by Masake, co-founder, Social Justice Support Centre. Click [here](#) to read the article.

### **Zimbabwe: President Robert Mugabe pardons 2,000 prisoners**

The prisoners, mostly women and juveniles were pardoned in a move that should ease congestion in the country's prisons. The numbers of pardoned prisoners amounts to more than 10% of the prison population, which stood at 18,460 last year against a holding capacity of 17,000. Read more [here](#)

## **BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES**

Uganda: Combating TB, HIV and malaria in detention: This film shows how three prisons in Uganda have successfully reduced the spread of tuberculosis, HIV and malaria amongst detainees. The pilot health care project was run by the Ugandan authorities with the support of the ICRC.

Togo: Prison reform promised in Togo

## **WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

### **NEWS AND EVENTS**

#### **Uganda: Luzira prison gets maternity unit**

The NGO, Family of Africa,, in partnership with the Government, constructed a maternity unit worth sh120m to cater for pregnant inmates. This is in line with the Prisons Act that recommends that pregnant inmates are given special units to allow mothers to bond with their babies. The unit has a labour ward, doctor's room and incubation room, a laboratory, prescription room, bathrooms and a ward that can accommodate over 30 mothers. The Health Ministry also allocated sh500m for the purchase of drugs and sundries. Click [here](#) to read further.

#### **Uganda: Young mothers in the Criminal Justice system**

One of the very sad realities at many of the prisons where Sixty Feet work is the percentage of 14-16 year old girls who are pregnant and living in a prison cell. Part of Sixty Feet's mission is to bring "immediate relief" and "long-term restoration" for these child-mothers by working with the medical team to supplement their diet with nutritional food. At the same time, the justice team works to get the girls out of prison on bail. Once they can legally leave prison, Sixty Feet identify crisis pregnancy centers, where girls can receive counselling and health care services, and have a safe place to live. Sixty Feet continues to aid in the resettlement process by working to restore the girl to her family

and community. Read more [here](#)

**Ghana:** [Prison officers to be trained in handling female inmates](#)

### **Enrol in a new self-directed online course, ‘Women in Detention: putting the Bangkok Rules into practice’**

Registration for PRI’s free online course [Women in Detention: putting the UN Bangkok Rules into practice](#) is now open to anyone interested in learning more about how to address the specific needs of women offenders. The course combines analysis of international standards on the treatment of women offenders and prisoners, interactive assessments and case studies. Each of the 10 modules covers a different theme, including healthcare, security, and rehabilitation and providing for women with particular needs. Extra resources, a glossary and promising practices from around the globe give participants the opportunity to delve further into topics of interest. A certificate is issued on completion. The course is part of [PRI’s Toolbox on the Bangkok Rules](#). Watch the trailer to find out more and register here: <http://penalreform-elearning.org/>

If you would like further information on the course and other news relating to women in the criminal justice system, [click here](#) or sign up to PRI’s quarterly women in detention e-bulletin by emailing [info@penalreform.org](mailto:info@penalreform.org)

## **BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES**

[International good practice: alternatives to imprisonment for women offenders- Prison Reform Trust](#): An information resource to inspire and support efforts to reduce the unnecessary imprisonment of women.

[Neglected needs: Girls in the criminal justice system](#): PRI and the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ) have launched a new briefing paper which examines the specific challenges faced by girls in contact with the criminal justice system and makes recommendations for strengthening the protection of their rights

[PRI series of reports: Who are women prisoners](#): PRI are preparing to launch the second research report in their ‘*Who are women prisoners?*’ series. The reports look at the profile and backgrounds of women offenders in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. This project is inspired by Rule 67 of the Bangkok Rules, promoting result orientated research into women and offending. [Read more about the project here.](#)



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