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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 3: January 2014

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INTRODUCING THE EAST AFRICA CRIMINAL JUSTICE CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the third 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 14 February to Diva at FHRI: mukisadiva@gmail.com.** We would also like to feature an NGO each month. So, if your organisation would like to be featured, please contact Diva.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

NEWS AND EVENTS

Featured NGO: The Uganda Children Center (UCC)

The Uganda Children's Center is an indigenous child support organisation targeting disadvantaged children in Uganda. UCC addresses socio-economic problems faced by children on the streets and in the slums of Uganda. Through its monthly programmes at Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre (KNRC), Uganda's only remand home, UCC identifies juveniles for its rehabilitation and vocational skills training programmes. For more information contact UCC: uccentre@hotmail.com or visit their [website](#).

World Congress on Juvenile Justice: Towards Restorative Juvenile Justice

At the end of the 24th session of the Human Rights Council, September 2013, a resolution on Human Rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice was adopted. In this light, the initiative to convene a World Congress on Juvenile Justice in Geneva from 26 to 30 January 2015 was agreed. The congress will be organized by the government of Switzerland in partnership with the Foundation Terre des Hommes. This congress will create a forum that will foster dialogue between different countries regarding their respective juvenile justice systems. It will also focus on rights of child victims and witnesses of crime. This is the first World Congress on Juvenile Justice which will be primarily addressed to States. Representatives of international organisations, civil society and other stakeholders will be invited to participate. For further information click [here](#) or contact: JJ2015@tdh.ch

Hidden victims: The children of parents on death row

"My name is Tania. I was born in prison. I have never experienced family life and as a young woman I do not know what having a mother means..." Tania told her story at the Human Rights Council discussion on the human rights of children of parents sentenced to death or who have been executed, September 2013. It is clear that children who have lost parents because of lengthy prison sentences or executions suffer deep and lasting grief and trauma. The loss can be catastrophic because these children are often left without support of any kind: without a home, carers, or an education. These children frequently face humiliation and discrimination within their communities. Click [here](#) to read more. PRI spoke about the rights of children of parents sentenced to death at a panel of the 24th session of the Human Rights Council on 16 September. [Read the blog here](#).

Uganda: KCCA remands 40 street children to Kampiringisa

In November 2013, in its continuous efforts to have a clean city that matches the standards of other cities in the world, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) sent over 40 street children from the streets of Kampala to Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Centre. Click [here](#) to read the press coverage of this exercise.

Universal Children's Day 2013 – Defence for Children International (DCI)

20 November 2013 marked Universal Children's Day and the theme was violence. It is one of DCI's priorities to address the issue of violence against children within the justice

system. DCI is mostly concerned by the excessive use of deprivation of liberty of children as a primary solution, rather than a measure of last resort. DCI is an active member of the International NGO Council on Violence against Children (InCO) which is working to ensure that the recommendations contained in the UN World Report on Violence against Children (2006) are implemented by States worldwide. Further information [here](#)

African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)

On 8 November 2013, at the ACERWC 22nd Session, the [ACERWC](#) adopted its first ever General Comment on Children of Incarcerated Mothers/Caregivers and details the practical implementations of Art. 30 of the African Children Charter.

[Children of people sentenced to death attract the UN's attention.](#)

BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

[The UNODC has published its Model Law on Juvenile Justice](#), a comprehensive document designed to provide legal guidance to States in the process of juvenile justice reform and to assist them in drafting juvenile justice legislation in line with international standards. It covers issues of criminal responsibility, diversion measures, trial proceedings, proportionate sentencing, children under custodial sentence and reintegration and aftercare. [Available here](#).

[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. Download a [copy here](#) or contact info@penalreform.org to order a copy.

[Creating a non-violent juvenile justice system](#). This report by the International NGO Council on Violence against Children not only highlights the ways in which flawed juvenile justice systems perpetuate violence against children, but also shows how these systems can be reformed to ensure that each and every child who comes in conflict with the law is fully protected from all forms of violence.

ALTERNATIVES TO IMPRISONMENT

NEWS AND EVENTS

Featured NGO: Legal Resources Foundation Trust (LRF), Kenya

[LRF](#) is a Kenyan civil society organisation that promotes access to justice through human rights education, research and policy advocacy. LRF's main aim is enhancing administration of justice to the poor, vulnerable and the marginalised in society through advocacy and participatory interventions. LRF implements a Prison Paralegal Project and

a Judicial Participation Project, with Paralegal Officers stationed in penal institutions and court stations. The Prison Paralegal Project provides legal aid to convicted and remanded prisoners while at the same time facilitating expedient delivery of justice, with the aim of creating a culture of respect of Human Rights in the administration of justice. Input from all stakeholders in the justice system is required and so Court User's Committees were set up, which are now a legal entity under the Judicial Service Act. For further information contact Paul at LRF: info@lrf-kenya.org

East Africa conference on Alternatives to Imprisonment, November 2013, Tanzania

On 6-8 November 2013, 16 senior officials from Probation and Community Service departments from more than eight African countries gathered for the inaugural meeting of a new 'Africa Network for Probation and Community Services (APC Network)', to promote learning, good practice and common approaches for effective non-custodial sanctions in Africa. Government probation officials were then joined by 10 representatives from 8 civil society organisations from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and the regional UNODC office for the second half of the Conference, which focused on alternatives to imprisonment in the East Africa region. Participants reviewed work to date in the region to promote non-custodial measures and in particular community service orders, shared good practice and experience, and identified ways forward to further promote and implement alternatives to imprisonment in the region. PRI co-hosted the conference in partnership with the [Tanzanian Ministry of Home Affairs Probation and Community Service Division](#), and in collaboration with the Government Probation departments in Kenya and Uganda, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) and other local NGO partners in the region. For further information on the event click [here](#) or contact Diva at FHRI at: mukisadiva@gmail.com

Read press coverage of the conference: [*Tanzania: Out-of-Jail 'Inmates' to Save Sh9 Billion Annually' and Why a horde of inmates if congestion can ease prisons?*](#)

Summaries of the work of the civil society organisations present at the conference, their programmes, successes and challenges on alternatives to imprisonment are available on request. Contact Diva at FHRI: mukisadiva@gmail.com

[Tackling the excessive use of prison in Africa](#) Changing public opinion on alternatives to imprisonment is one of the most urgent priorities for a new network of heads of Probation, Community Service and Community Corrections in Africa. Blog post by Rob Allen, 7 November 2013

Kenya: Chief Justice unveils Community Service Orders Programme

On 4 October 2013 four inmates were released and benefited from the Community Service Orders programme with support from the Prisons Service, Director of Public Prosecutions, Law Society of Kenya and the Probation Department. This happened at the Kamiti Maximum Security Prison where Chief Justice Willy Mutunga launched the Judicial Service Week where judges were to hear and decide whether to uphold or overturn convictions in 1,528 cases. Click [here](#) to watch the you tube video on commuting short

prison terms to community service orders

Uganda: Close quarters and bad waters: the perfect storm for disease spread.

A blog post by Omar Phoenix Khan, Health Programme Manager at the African Prisons Project, highlighting the reality of living in overcrowded prisons for Uganda's 38,477 detainees.

Tanzania: Overcrowding of prisons: What does the new constitution say?

An article by Kiangiosekazi Wa Nyoka, Executive Director Inmate Rehabilitation and Welfare Services TANZANIA (IRaWS-T)

BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

Forced Migration review issue 44, 'Detention, alternatives to detention and deportation' (Oak Foundation): Asylum seekers and refugees are increasingly detained around the world. Sometimes indefinitely and often in appalling conditions, they may suffer not only deprivation of their liberty but other abuses of their human rights too. In the search for a more humane - and cheaper - approach, agencies and government authorities have trialed a variety of alternatives to detention.

A Practical Guide for Civil Society: How to follow up on United Nations human rights recommendations (OHCHR)

A second chance, 'A Report on Alternatives to Imprisonment and the Social Reintegration of Offenders in Kenya' (UNODC): This report reviews the legal framework within which alternatives to incarceration and, in particular, community-based sanctions are being implemented in the country. It also considers existing programmes providing alternatives to prosecution (diversion), alternatives to pre-trial detention, community-based sanctions as alternatives to incarceration, pre-release preparation for offenders serving a sentence of incarceration, and supervised early release programmes.

Survey of detention visiting mechanisms in Africa: This Civil Society Prison Reform Initiative (CSPRI) report by Marilize Ackerman covers a range of visiting mechanisms for places of detention in Africa. The report also seeks to survey what monitoring and oversight have uncovered regarding conditions of detention in Africa.

WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

NEWS AND EVENTS

Sierra Leone: First Music Video in Freetown Female Prison for Human Rights Day

To mark 16 days of activism against violence against women, Sierra Leone's leading female hip hop artist, Star Zee, teamed up with civil society organisation, AdvocAid, to record a song educating women about their legal rights. The song, Nar Yu Right, includes

the gender-specific rights of women in prison and the Bangkok Rules. For more information, visit www.advocaidsl.com

Enrol in a new self-directed, free online course, 'Women in Detention: putting the UN Bangkok Rules into practice'

PRI's free e-course *Women in Detention: putting the UN Bangkok Rules into practice* is open for registrations! It 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, rehabilitation and providing for women with particular needs (each module takes around one hour to complete). Extra resources 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 UN Bangkok Rules.

Watch a short introductory video on the e-course on women in detention. Register here: <http://penalreform-elearning.org/>

If you would like further information on the tools 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.

African women in Brazil prisons

The Instituto Terra Trabalho E Cidadania (ITTC) in Brazil, reported that women from South Africa comprise the largest foreign group in prisons of São Paulo outnumbering Bolivians and Angolans. Among foreign men in prison, Nigerians comprise the majority. Read more here.

BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES

Guidance Document and an Index of Implementation: On 16 October PRI launched their 'Bangkok Rules toolbox' at the UN General Assembly. The toolbox includes a guidance document and index of compliance. Both documents are designed to assist stakeholders with working towards implementation of the Bangkok Rules, other international standards and best practices.

A short guide to the Bangkok Rules (PRI). This short illustrated guide to the Bangkok Rules covers the profile of women prisoners and why international standards were needed, who the Rules protect, what the Rules say and who should be involved in their implementation.

Bangkok Rules: Questions & Answers (PRI)

Report from UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women. In October, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Professor Rashida Manjoo presented a new report, *Pathways to, conditions and consequences of incarceration for women*.

illustrating the strong link between violence against women and women's imprisonment - prior, during and after prison.



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