



Quaker United Nations Office

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Women in Prison

Questionnaire for Prison Governors, Ministers of Justice / Prisons, ministry staff

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) based in Geneva, Switzerland, is an international non-governmental organisation. We work on issues related to peace and human rights, and have a particular interest in prison conditions and prisoners' welfare. We are conducting research into issues surrounding women's imprisonment, in order to highlight problem areas which may generally have been forgotten and to promote good practices from around the world. In order to do so, we are looking for information from as many countries as possible regarding their prison system.

As you will see below, we are interested in finding out whether the number of women in prison in your country is increasing or decreasing, and what percentage of the population women prisoners represent. We also want to find out what facilities women prisoners are kept in – whether they live in prisons exclusively for women, or whether they live in sections of men's prisons. In addition, we are very interested in how the government deals with the children of women who are sent to prison. Are they kept in prison with their mother or do they live in the community outside? Finally, if there are any new programmes or policies for dealing with women prisoners in your country which you think may be of interest, please feel free to provide more information on these.

If you are unable to answer all questions, please fill in as many as possible and return the questionnaire to us. Even if the information is incomplete it is still valuable. Where appropriate, you may give statistics for one prison as representative of the country as a whole if no consolidated information is available (i.e. on percentages of women suffering from mental illness, etc). If this is the case, please note this in your answer and specify which prison you are referring to.

Thank you for your help with this research.



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General Information:

- 1. Location & Country:
- 2. What is the contact information for your relevant ministry in charge of prisons (including website addresses, etc, if available):
.....
.....
- 3. Total population of country:
- 4. Total adult **male** prison population (most recent statistics available – please state year):
- 5. Total adult **female** prison population (most recent statistics available – please state year):
- 6. Total adult (aged **18 years and over**) **female** population:
- 7. Number of juvenile (**under 18 years**) **females** in prison (most recent statistics available):
- 8. If available, please give total female prison population figures for each of the last 10 years:

2003	
2002	
2001	
2000	
1998	
1999	
1997	
1996	
1995	
1994	



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9. If available, please give total male prison population figures for each of the last 10 years:

2003	
2002	
2001	
2000	
1999	
1998	
1997	
1996	
1995	
1994	

10. What is the average length of prison sentence currently being served by women prisoners?
11. What percentage of women prisoners are prisoners on remand, i.e. awaiting trial?
Of those prisoners on remand, what percentage receive a custodial sentence after trial?
12. What percentage of female prisoners are foreign nationals, i.e. not citizens of your country?
13. Of those foreign nationals, what percentage are being held for drug-related offences?
14. If available, please provide percentages for the type of crimes committed by women prisoners:

Theft and handling stolen goods	
Robbery	
Burglary	
Drug offences	
Fraud and forgery	
Physical Violence	
Sexual offences concerning prostitution	
Other sexual offences	
Homicide	
Motoring	
Debt	
Other	



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15. Are any male staff employed in ‘contact positions’ in women’s prisons (or women’s units of men’s prisons)? * Yes * No

(By ‘contact position’ we mean a job where they have regular physical proximity to prisoners.)

16. If yes, what is the ratio of male : female staff?

Facilities:

17. How many single-sex women’s prisons are there in the country as a whole? How many prisoners do they currently hold?

18. How many men’s prisons have female wings? How many women do they currently hold?

19. How many joint male-female prisons are there? How many women do they currently hold?

20. Are there any other detention facilities holding women, not described above? Please give information on these.

Female prisoners with young children:

21. What percentage of female prisoners have children under the age of 5?

22. What percentage of female prisoners have children under the age of 10?

23. What percentage of female prisoners have children under the age of 16?

24. Can young children and babies stay with their mother in prison? If so, up to what age limit?



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25. Are there special ‘mother and child’ units within prison, separate from the ‘normal’ wings? What do they look like? What special facilities do they contain?

26. How many ‘mother and child’ units exist in total in the country?

27. How many places for mother / child are available in these units?

28. If children cannot stay with their mother in prison, who cares for them?

Other parent	
Grandparents	
Other relatives	
Friends	
Social Services	
Other	

29. How often are children allowed to visit their mother in prison?

30. Are there any special arrangements for children’s visits? (e.g. extended hours, special visiting rooms)

31. Are women allowed physical contact with their children during visits (e.g. to sit child on mothers lap, to hug child)?

Health

32. Is healthcare provided for women prisoners within the prison or in public facilities? Please describe:

33. Are women able to see a doctor or other healthcare worker in privacy, i.e. without a guard or other member of prison staff present? Please describe:



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34. Are there women suffering from mental illness? What type?

Schizophrenia	
Psychosis	
Anti-social personality disorder	
Other personality disorder	
Depression	
Other	

35. Please give details of women prisoners with learning difficulties:

36. Are there any programmes available to treat prisoners with drug or alcohol addictions?

37. How many women are enrolled on these programmes?

Education and Employment opportunities:

38. Are there any educational programmes in the prison for women prisoners?

39. Are these academic programmes or vocational programmes? Can you describe them?

40. What percentage of women prisoners are enrolled on some form of educational programme?

41. For women who are not enrolled on any educational programmes is this because of

courses unavailable	
lack of space on the course(s) (over-subscribed)	
women do not want to participate on the course(s)	
women have children with them in prison and no childcare available to allow them to participate in the course(s)	
other (please specify)	



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42. In proportion to the number of inmates, do women prisoners receive an equal, greater, or lesser share of overall prison budget for educational and work programmes (compared to male prisoners)? Please describe.

43. What employment opportunities are available for women in prison?

none	
compulsory work arranged by the prison	
optional work schemes (unpaid)	
optional work schemes (where prisoners may earn money)	

Other:

44. Please comment on any new initiatives your government may be introducing regarding women offenders (e.g. new sentencing policy, new prison facilities, new rehabilitation programmes, new childcare arrangements).

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

This questionnaire was designed to gather information on particular areas of interest regarding women's imprisonment. However, we would be interested to hear from you regarding any other issues relating to women prisoners which you have noticed and consider important. Please feel free to write, email or call us at the address below if you wish to make any further comments. We are grateful for any information.

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