



The Quaker Council for European Affairs

Women in Prison

Questionnaire – Prison staff, Prison Visitors, NGOs, and Others

The Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) based in Brussels, Belgium, 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 in the questions below, we are interested in issues such as drug and alcohol addiction, mental health problems, prison conditions and facilities, and prisoners' families.

We would be grateful if you could take some time to answer the questions below. If there are any questions which you do not want to answer, or which you do not know how to answer, you can leave them blank - even if the information is incomplete it is still valuable.

If we use the information you give us we will not give your name or exact location. If you want to remain anonymous, you do not need to give any information about who you are. On the other hand, if you want to continue to help with this research, please tell us how to contact you (i.e. name and an address we can write to). Alternatively, you are always free to send any information to the address above, and you can do so anonymously.

We also have questionnaires for prisoners themselves and for prison governors. If you would be able to distribute and collect these within the prison, please let us know and we will provide you with the relevant questionnaires and the address to send them to when finished.

Thank you for helping us with this research.

General questions and prison facilities

1. Please state your position/role (e.g. prison guard, NGO worker, prison chaplain, relative of a prisoner, etc):

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2. Name of country:

3. Name of prison:

4. Is the prison exclusively for female prisoners, or is it part of a men's prison?

.....

5. How many women are housed at the prison? (If you are not sure of the exact number, an approximate number will do – e.g. 100, 250, 500, 1000 or more).

.....

6. How many female juvenile offenders are held at this facility (i.e. women under the age of 18 years)?

.....

7. What percentage of prisoners are foreign nationals, i.e. not citizens of your country? Where do the majority of foreign female prisoners come from ?

.....

.....

8. Has the population of the prison increased in recent years? *Yes *No
If so, has this been: *(please circle or underline the appropriate answer)*

* a small increase * a moderate increase * a large increase

9. What is the average length of prison sentence currently being served by women prisoners?

.....

10. What percentage of women prisoners are prisoners on remand, i.e. awaiting trial?

.....

11. Of those prisoners on remand, what percentage receive a custodial sentence after trial?

.....

12. 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	

13. 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 access to prisoners, as opposed to just having male staff employed in an administrative or maintenance capacity who have no direct contact with prisoners).

If ‘Yes’, what is the ratio of male : female staff?

14. Please comment on the general condition and facilities of the prison (or the women’s section of the prison if it is a mixed-sex facility):

.....

.....

.....

15. What year was the prison opened ?

16. Have there been any more recent additions or extensions? *Yes * No
Roughly how old are they?

17. Does the prison appear to be overcrowded? *Yes * No

How do you rate the cleanliness of the prison?

* Excellent * Good * Average * Poor * Bad

18. Do the prison staff ever work with male prisoners as well as female ? *Yes * No

What different behaviour, problems and needs do you think women prisoners have,
compared to male prisoners?

.....
.....
.....

What different treatment do they need?

.....
.....

19. If you could do so, what would you change and what would you improve about:

a) the prison where you work

.....
.....
.....

b) the women's prison system generally (in your country)

.....
.....

c) your particular job

.....
.....
.....

20. What positive elements can you highlight about:

a) the prison where you work

.....
.....
.....

b) the women's prison system generally (in your country)

.....
.....
.....

c) your particular job

.....
.....
.....
.....

21. Can all prisoners receive visits? *Yes * No

For what reasons might they be denied visits?

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.....

22. Who is allowed to visit?

.....

How often?

What kind of visits are possible (e.g. extended visits, overnight visits, family visits)?

.....
.....

Who normally visits the prisoners?

23. What is the state of health of the prisoners?

.....
.....

24. If a prisoner is ill, are there sufficient resources to treat her inside the prison?

* Yes * No

If not, are they treated in hospitals outside the prison?

* Yes * No

In what particular cases would a prisoner be treated outside the prison?

.....
.....

25. What types of illness are most common among the prisoners?

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.....

26. Do prisoners receive regular health checks? *Yes * No

What kind of health checks do they receive?

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.....

27. What percentage of prisoners are HIV positive or living with AIDS?

What treatment do they receive?

.....
.....

Facilities

28. Are there any recreational facilities? *Yes * No

Please list them (e.g. library, sports court, common rooms, etc)

.....
.....

29. What are the visitors' facilities like?

.....
.....

Are there any special visitors' facilities for children? *Yes * No

Please describe them :

.....

Women with children

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

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

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

What percentage of female prisoners have children under the age of 18?

31. Can young children and babies stay with their mother in prison? * Yes * No

If 'Yes', up to what age limit? (If this is variable, please explain)

32. Does the prison have separate facilities for women with babies/young children?
 * Yes * No

If 'Yes', please comment on these facilities.
 (For example, what condition are they in? Is there adequate health care? Do the children have access to schooling? Do they seem happy? Etc).

.....

.....

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33. If children cannot stay with their mother in prison, who cares for them?
 (Please give percentages representative of all prisons).

Other parent:	
Grandparents:	
Other relatives:	
Friends:	
Social Services:	
Other:	

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

35. Are there any special arrangements for children's visits? * Yes * No
 (e.g. extended hours, special visiting rooms, etc)

36. Are women allowed physical contact with their children during visits (e.g. to hold on their lap, hug, etc)? * Yes * No

37. How do you think the women feel about being separated from their children?
 (Please give a few examples of individual cases).

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Health Care

38. Is health care provided for women prisoners within the prison or in public facilities?
 *Yes * No

39. Are women able to see a doctor or other health care worker in privacy, i.e. without a guard or other member of prison staff present? * Yes * No

40. Are you aware of any prisoners with mental health difficulties? * Yes * No

41. Please provide percentages of women in prison suffering from mental illness:

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

42. What help is available for prisoners with mental health difficulties:

- Is there counselling? * Yes * No
- Are there any rehabilitation programmes? * Yes * No
- Medication? * Yes * No
- Specialist nursing staff? * Yes * No

43. Please give percentages of women prisoners with learning difficulties:

44. Are there any programmes available to treat prisoners with drug or alcohol addictions? * Yes * No

How many women are enrolled on these programmes?

Education and Employment opportunities:

45. Are there any educational programmes in the prison for women prisoners? *Yes * No

If 'Yes', are these * academic programmes * vocational programmes ?

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

.....

47. 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)

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

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

None	
Compulsory work arranged by the prison (unpaid)	
Compulsory work arranged by the prison (paid)	
Optional work schemes (unpaid)	
Optional work schemes (where prisoners may earn money)	

50. What are the hours of work?

51. Is it possible to study and work in the prison, or do prisoners have to choose one or the other?

Drug Abuse

52. Have you noticed evidence of drug problems within the prison? * Yes * No

If 'Yes', please explain a little about this.

Roughly how many women in the prison do you think have drug-related problems?

* Very few * Some * Many * The majority

How many women are in prison for drug-related offences?

Assault

53. Have you noticed evidence of violence or bullying in the prison? *Yes * No

Is this inflicted by prisoners or staff?

If it is inflicted by prison staff, are they male or female staff?

54. Have you noticed evidence of sexual assault in the prison? * Yes * No

Is this committed by prisoners or staff?

If it is committed by prison staff, are they male or female staff?.....

Other

Please comment on any other issues which you think are important or of concern to the women in this prison. You may wish to comment on areas relating to health, mental health, drug abuse, violence, family relations, prison facilities, or any other area you think is important. Please feel free to attach extra pages if necessary.

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 considered 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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