

Glossary for Criminal Justice Papers

Definitions

This glossary is provided to assist in reading and understanding papers produced by the Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) on criminal justice issues. This is an ongoing project and we will add to this glossary as the need arises. Readers are encouraged to contact QCEA to request inclusion of additional terms, to suggest definitions and to suggest changes to definitions.

Closed prison

Some prisons in Europe are referred to as closed prisons. If a prisoner is given a sentence in a closed prison, he or she will be confined to that prison. All activities will take place within the prison walls. It represents a higher security regime than an open prison (see below).

Foreign national prisoners

Any prisoner who is in prison in a country other than the country where they are a citizen or permanent resident is a foreign national prisoner. For example, a Belgian prisoner held in Italy is a foreign national prisoner.

Juvenile

A juvenile is the term used when referring to a particular prisoner or group of prisoners. When a prisoner is a juvenile, he or she is in the youngest age range of prisoners. The age of juveniles varies between European countries but is always below the age of eighteen, and sometimes below the age of sixteen.

Learning disability

The following definition is from Wikipedia:

This term refers to a group of disorders that affect a broad range of academic and functional skills including the ability to speak, listen, read, write, spell, reason and organise information.

A learning disability is not indicative of low intelligence. People with learning disabilities sometimes have difficulty achieving at his or her intellectual level because of a deficit in one or more of the ways the brain processes information.¹

¹ *Wikipedia* [on-line], accessed 24 August 2007, available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Learning_disability

Open prison

Some prisons in Europe are referred to as open prisons. If a prisoner is given a sentence in an open prison, he or she will have the open prison as his or her place of residence. However, educational activities will often take place in the local community. He or she will remain subject to prison regulations.

Pre-trial

Pre-trial means before a trial has taken place. This often refers to a legal proceeding held before a trial; usually to clarify points of law or facts.

Pre-trial detention

The term 'being in pre-trial detention' (sometimes, especially in a UK context referred to as 'being on remand') is used to describe people who are in custody but have not yet been convicted.

Prisoners awaiting trial

A prisoner is awaiting trial if he or she has been put in prison before being found guilty (or innocent) of a crime.

Prisoners on remand

If a prisoner is remanded in custody (or 'on remand') they are imprisoned before having a trial. *See also 'Prisoners awaiting trial'.*

Semi-open prison

Some prisons in Europe are referred to as semi-open prisons. If a prisoner is given a sentence in a semi-open prison, he or she must reside there. However, they may undertake educational, technical and leisure activities outside the prison. *See also 'closed prison', and 'open prison'.*

Sentence

A sentence is a court judgement given to someone found guilty of a crime.

Strip search

A strip search is the stripping (removal of clothing, searching of person, removal of personal accessories) of a person to look for drugs, concealed weapons or other smuggled/illegal items.

Trial

In law, a trial is an event intended to settle a dispute between two or more parties (individuals, organisations, etc.). Each party presents information (in the form of evidence) in a formal setting, usually a court, in front of a judge, jury, or other designated finder of fact, in order to achieve a resolution to the dispute. In the context of criminal law, the two parties are the person accused of the crime on the one hand and the State on the other. Victims of crimes can, in some cases take out private prosecutions where the State does not or cannot act; however, the sentences possible in private prosecutions are civil sentences (fines, damages, etc) and not custodial sentences.

Acronyms

CEDAW

UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

CPT

European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

EMCDDA

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

EPR

European Prison Rules

FWCC

Friends World Committee for Consultation

MBUs

Mother and baby units

NGO

Non-governmental Organisation

PSEA

Penal Sanctions Enforcement Act

QCEA

Quaker Council for European Affairs

QPSW

Quaker Peace and Social Witness

QUNO-Geneva

Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva

UN

United Nations

WORP

The Women's Offending Reduction Programme