

**120 NGOs FROM 49 COUNTRIES EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR COSTA RICA'S FORTHCOMING
RESOLUTION ON THE SOCIAL REINTEGRATION OF PERSONS RELEASED
FROM DETENTION OR UNDER NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES**

September 6, 2024

To Permanent Representatives of Member and Observer States of the United Nations (Geneva, Switzerland):

We, the undersigned non-governmental organizations (NGOs) representing every region of the world, write to express our strong support for the circulating resolution led by Costa Rica, alongside the Core Group of The Gambia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, and Romania, to be presented at the 57th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (The Council). This resolution concerns the importance of treating the social reintegration of persons released from detention or under non-custodial measures as a human rights issue. We urge Governments to co-sponsor the important resolution.

All States face the challenges of ensuring successful social reintegration of convicted persons and preventing recidivism; yet, post-release support falls disproportionately on NGOs and families. Today, there are more than 11.5 million people behind bars around the world, or under other forms of criminal justice detention, and nearly all stand to be released and rejoin society. Additionally, there are millions more under non-custodial measures and actively living in the community. Specific groups of people convicted of a crime, such as women, children, racial, ethnic, or religious minorities, indigenous populations, the LGBTQ community, and people with disabilities, mental health challenges, or drug dependency, face special barriers to successful reintegration that must be holistically addressed.

We applaud emerging practices by UN Member States to advance re-entry and post-release support. Effective practices, such as medical care handoffs, housing assistance, connection to employment, family reunification, victim-offender dialogue, and public awareness campaigns, have significant benefits not only for reintegrating persons, but for the sustainable development of communities overall. Conversely, failed reintegration undermines the human rights of persons convicted of a crime, their families, and the broader community.

Rule 90 of the Nelson Mandela Rules emphasizes that “the duty of society does not end with a prisoner’s release,” and the UN System Common Position on Incarceration explains, “[e]ven the best prison-based rehabilitation progra[ms] will be undermined if former prisoners find themselves without any post-release support.” There is clear global consensus on the importance of support outside of prison facilities, yet existing international human rights frameworks do not provide guidance to States on how to implement transitional and community-based social reintegration programs. While the UN Office on Drugs and Crime has undertaken complementary efforts on social reintegration as a crime prevention strategy, further work is needed to advance this issue as a matter of human rights.

We welcome recent efforts by the Council in advancing first-ever dialogue on this human rights issue. In its 53rd session, the Council adopted resolution 53/27 regarding the prevention of

violence against women and girls in criminal justice detention. This resolution called on States to design and implement pre- and post-release programming to support the social reintegration of formerly incarcerated women and girls into the community. Then, in the 54th session, the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica presented the views of 74 countries from every region of the world, affirming social reintegration as a human rights issue and calling for the broader inclusion of all reintegrating persons in the implementation of pre- and post-release programming. The Joint Statement paves the way for the creation of guiding principles on social reintegration, and we strongly support this next step for the protection of human rights globally.

As NGOs, we recognize that social reintegration requires a collective global, national, and local commitment to creating strategies, sharing effective practices, and fostering collaboration. We recognize the important role the Council can play in advancing a global consensus on this issue, while also guiding States on the implementation of guiding principles that uphold the human rights and dignity of convicted persons.

We respectfully request your Government support Costa Rica's resolution.

Thank you for your attention. Please reach out to Costa Rica Minister Counsellor Roberto Céspedes Gomez at +41 79 825 8705 on Whatsapp or rcespedes@rree.go.cr with any questions or to indicate your Government's interest in co-sponsoring the resolution.

Sincerely,

AINGA/AIDES

Antananarivo, Madagascar

AIVL

Sydney, Australia

Alliance of Families for Justice

New York, United States of America

APDES - Piaget Agency for Development

Gaia (Porto), Portugal

African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum

Cape Town, South Africa

Antigone

Rome, Italy

Alliance for Safety and Justice

California, United States of America

Asian Prisoner Support Committee

California, United States of America

Asociación Por Ti Mujer

Valencia, Spain

Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas (ACEID)

San José, Costa Rica

Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)

Geneva, Switzerland

Association of Organisations Working in Penal Affairs

Prague, Czech Republic

Belgrade Centre for Human Rights

Belgrade, Serbia

Bureau of Human Rights and Rule of Law

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Coalition Action for Preventive Mental Health

Nairobi, Kenya

Comite/Club UNESCO Universitaire pour la Lutte Contre La Drogue et Autres Pandemies (CLUCOD)

Abidjan, Abobo, Côte d'Ivoire

Conseil des Organisations de Lutte Contre L'Abus de Drogues de Côte d'Ivoire
Abidjan, Abobo, Côte d'Ivoire

Center on Gender and Extreme Sentencing
New York, United States of America

Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation
Toronto, Canada

Ceza İnfaz Sisteminde Sivil Toplum Derneği (CISST)
Istanbul, Türkiye

Change the Record
Sydney, Australia

Children and Young People's Centre for Justice
Glasgow, Scotland (United Kingdom)

Children of Imprisoned Parents International
Virginia, United States of America (Registered in Exile- Representing Iran)

Children of Incarcerated Caregivers
Minnesota, United States of America

Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (COIPP)
Maryland, United States of America

Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE)
Paris, France

Clean Start Solutions Ltd
Nairobi, Kenya

Connecting 4 Justice International
Texas, United States of America

Corporación Humanas Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género
Bogotá, Colombia

Corporación Mujeres Libres Colombia
Bogotá, Colombia

Correlation-European Harm Reduction Network
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Crosscultural Partnerships Engagement Worldwide
Sydney, Australia

Death Penalty Focus
California, United States of America

Drug Policy and Harm Reduction Platform-Malawi
Lilongwe, Malawi

Društvo AREAL
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance and Human Rights University of the Western Cape
Cape Town, South Africa

EQUIS Justicia para las Mujeres
Mexico City, Mexico

Eastern Africa Harm Reduction Network (EAHRN)
Kampala, Uganda

Eldoret Women for Development (ELWOFOD)
Eldoret, Kenya

European Network of People Who Use Drugs
Dublin, Ireland

Families Outside
Edinburgh, Scotland (United Kingdom)

Federazione Italiana Diritti Umani (FIDU)
Rome, Italy

German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (GCADP)
Hamburg, Germany

Global Rights Compliance
The Hague, The Netherlands

HIV Legal Network
Toronto, Canada

Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation

New Delhi, India

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

Lahore, Pakistan

Human Rights House Zagreb

Zagreb, Croatia

Human Rights Reporters Ghana (HRRG)

Accra, Ghana

INHR

Geneva, Switzerland

India Vision Foundation

New Delhi, India

Indonesian Harm Reduction Network

Jakarta, Indonesia

Institute for Criminal Justice Reform

Jakarta, Indonesia

Institute for Development and Social Initiative (IDIS) Viitorul

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Instituto RIA, A.C.

Mexico City, Mexico

International Coalition for Children with Incarcerated Parents (INCCIP)

Edinburgh, Scotland (United Kingdom)

International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)

London, United Kingdom / International

International Support for Human Rights

Geneva, Switzerland

Irish Council for Civil Liberties

Dublin, Ireland

Judicial Reform Foundation

Taipei, Taiwan

KidsWithIncarceratedParents.com

Wisconsin, United States of America

Just Detention International - South Africa

Johannesburg, South Africa

Justice Lugakingira House

Dar es salaam, Tanzania

Justice Project Pakistan

Lahore, Pakistan

LEASUR ONG

Santiago, Chile

Latvian Centre for Human Rights

Riga, Latvia

Law Enforcement Action Partnership

Massachusetts, United States of America

Mandela Center for Transitional Justice

Khartoum, Sudan

Metzineres SCCL

Barcelona, Spain

National Institute for Crime Prevention and Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO)

Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

PREKURSOR Foundation for Social Policy

Warsaw, Poland

Penal Reform International

London, United Kingdom

Perseus Strategies

Washington, D.C., United States of America

Philippine Jesuit Prison Service Foundation, Inc. (PJPS)

Muntinlupa, Philippines

Prayas, A Field-Action Project of Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Mumbai, India

Prison Christian Ministries Inc.

New Brunswick, Canada

Prisoners' Future Foundation (PFF)

Kabwe, Zambia

Prisons Mission Society

Gujranwala, Pakistan

Protector of Sentiments (POS) Foundation

Accra, Ghana

REFORM Alliance

Washington, D.C., United States of America

RESET - Drugs Policies and Human Rights

La Plata, Argentina

RUBIKON Centrum, z.ú.

Prague, Czech Republic

Recovering Nepal

Kathmandu, Nepal

**Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des
Droits de l'Homme**

Dakar, Senegal

Reprieve

London, United Kingdom

SERVE

Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

SHINE for Kids, Australia

North Parramatta, Australia

**Suar Perempuan Lingkar Napza Nusantara
Foundation (SPINN)**

City of Bogor - West Java, Indonesia

Safer Drug Policies

Oslo, Norway

**Salam for Democracy and Human Rights
(SALAM DHR)**

London, United Kingdom

**Society for Human Rights and Prisoners Aid
(SHARP Pakistan)**

Islamabad, Pakistan

**South African Network of People Who Use
Drugs**

Cape Town, South Africa

**Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders
Network**

Johannesburg, South Africa

Společnost Podané ruce o.p.s.

Brno, Czech Republic

Stand Firm for Children SEUM

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Stichting Exodus Nederland

Leiden, The Netherlands

StoptheDrugWar.org

Washington, DC, United States of America

Sukaar Welfare Organization

Umerkot, Pakistan

**The Kenyan Section of the International
Commission of Jurists (ICJ KENYA)**

Nairobi, Kenya

The Bridging Group

California, United States of America

**The Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry
Societies (CAEFS)**

Ontario, Canada

The International Legal Foundation

New York, United States of America

**The International Service for Human Rights
(ISHR)**

United States of America

The Message Trust South Africa

Cape Town, South Africa

The Messages Project

Virginia, United States of America

**The Organization for Friends and Family of
Prisoners (FFP)**

Oslo, Norway

The Place4Grace

California, United States of America

Transitional Justice Working Group (TJWG)
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Uhili Necessity Wellness Trust WO478
Swakopmund, Namibia

Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN)
Kampala, Uganda

Union for Civil Liberty (UCL)
Bangkok, Thailand

United For Human Rights
Geneva, Switzerland

Unlock
Maidstone, United Kingdom

Vacro
Melbourne, Australia

Villages Unis (United Villages)
Geneva, Switzerland

Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
Washington, DC, United States of America

Women Beyond Walls
International

Women's Action for Development (WAD)
Windhoek, Namibia

World Society of Victimology
Mönchengladbach, Germany

Youth RISE
Dublin, Ireland