

# HIV prevention and harm reduction in prison: the Human Rights and Public Health approach

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**HARMREDUCTION•EU**

- Epidemiology: prisons, IDU, HIV
- HIV prevention and harm reduction in IDUs in community and in prison
- International Human Rights Law and standards for healthcare in prison
- Lessons learned and steps to be pursued

# HIV

- 36.9 million people infected
- Injection driven epidemic: fastest growing (outside sub-Saharan Africa: 1 in 3 new cases)
- >3 million PLWHA are IDUs

WHO, Lancet

# IDU

- 15 million people IDUs
- 3 million IDUs HIV infected
- 1-3 million IDUs imprisoned
- 0.3-1 million HIV infected IDUs in prison

WHO, UNODC, IHRA

# Prisoner population

- 10 million people incarcerated / 30 million pass prisons each year
- 25% for use, possession or trafficking drugs
- Prevalence of IDU in prisons m: 10-48% f: 30-60%  
i.e. 70-100 times those of community
- High risk for HIV transmission  
IDU, needle sharing, tattooing, high-risk sex
- HIV prevalences: 2-50 times those of communities

	<b>Regional HIV/AIDS adult prevalence (15-49yrs) %</b>	<b>HIV prevalence in prisoner populations %</b>	
Western/Central Europe	0.2	France	2
Eastern Europe	0.7	Russia	6
		Estonia	9-24
		Romania	13
North America	0.5	USA	1.4
Latin America	0.4	Brazil	3-20
		Argentina	4-10
South-East Asia	0.1 -0.3	India	1.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	4.7	Cameroon	12
		Nigeria	9
		South Africa	41
Total	0.8		

WHO, UNAIDS 2012

# Kyrgyzstan

IDU: registered: 6000, estimated: 29000

11% of PLWHA in prison

Prisoner population rate:  $166.10^{-5}$

HIV prevalence in prison: 8.4%

HCV prevalence in prison 43%

# Tajikistan

IDU registered: >7000, estimated 12000

Prisoner population rate:  $121 \cdot 10^{-5}$

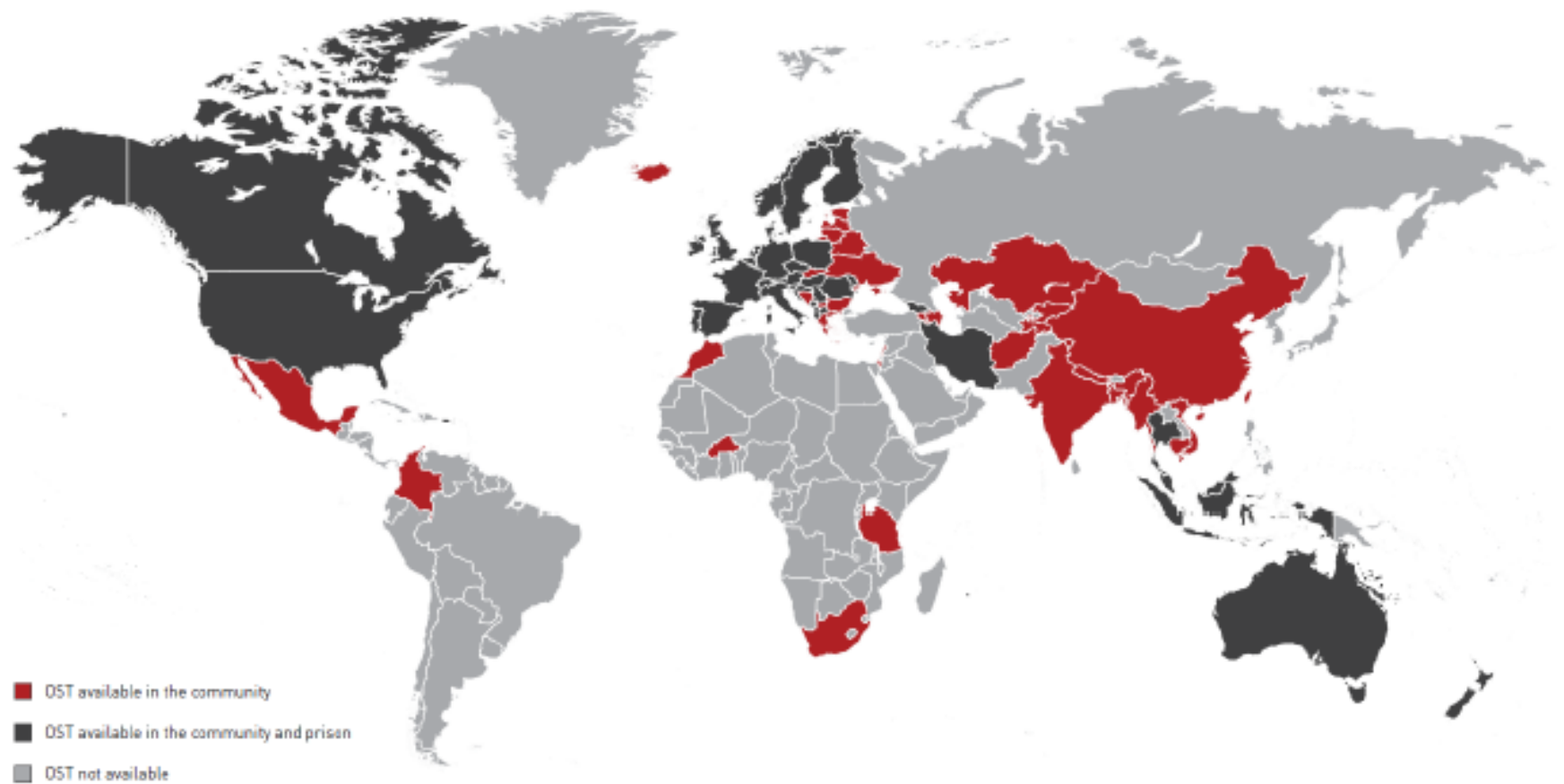
HIV prevalence in prison (2007): >8%

# HIV prevention and harm reduction

- Accessible and accurate information
- Health education
- Voluntary testing and counseling
- Condoms and safer sex
- Opioid substitution treatment (OST)
- Needle and syringes exchange programs
- Safer tattooing



**Figure 5.** Availability of OST in prisons and communities, 2014<sup>84</sup>



UNAIDS 2015: to be up-dated for Kyrgyzstan!

# Availability of Needle-Syringe Exchange Programs in prisons and the community 2014

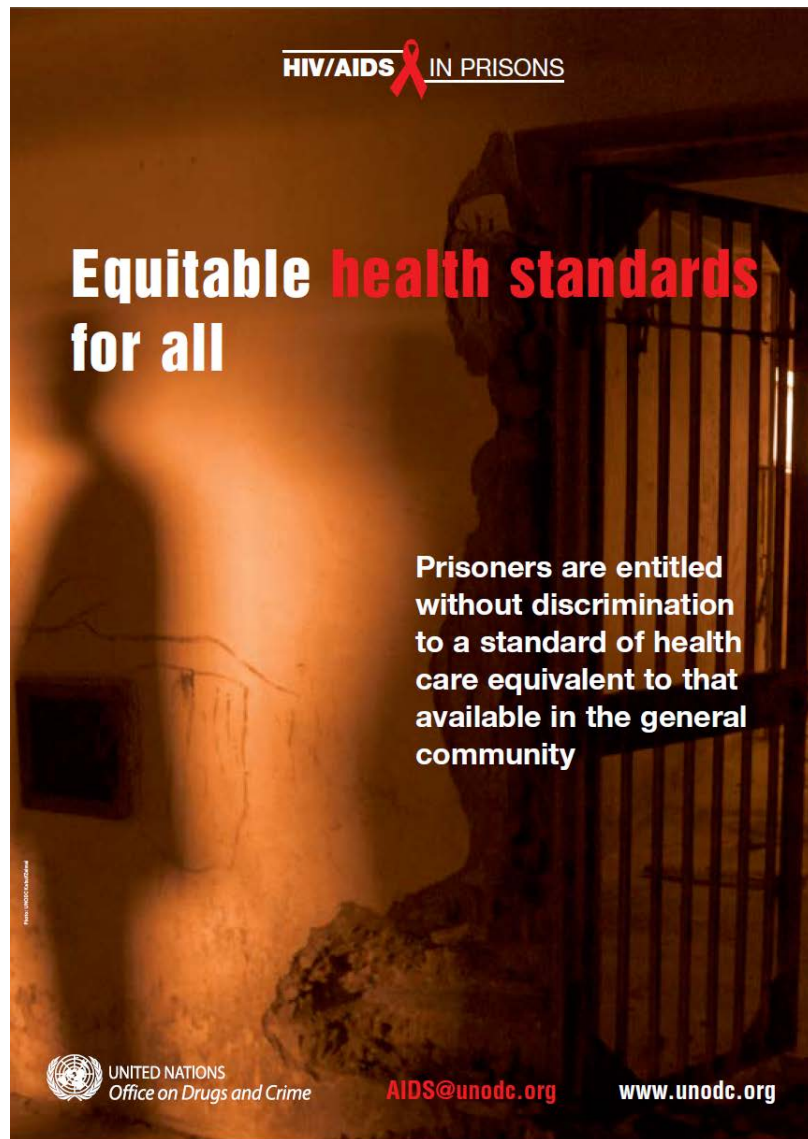



# Prison Health is Public Health

WHO Moscow Declaration 2003

The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.


WHO Constitution 1946



**HIV/AIDS**  **IN PRISONS**

**Equitable health standards  
for all**

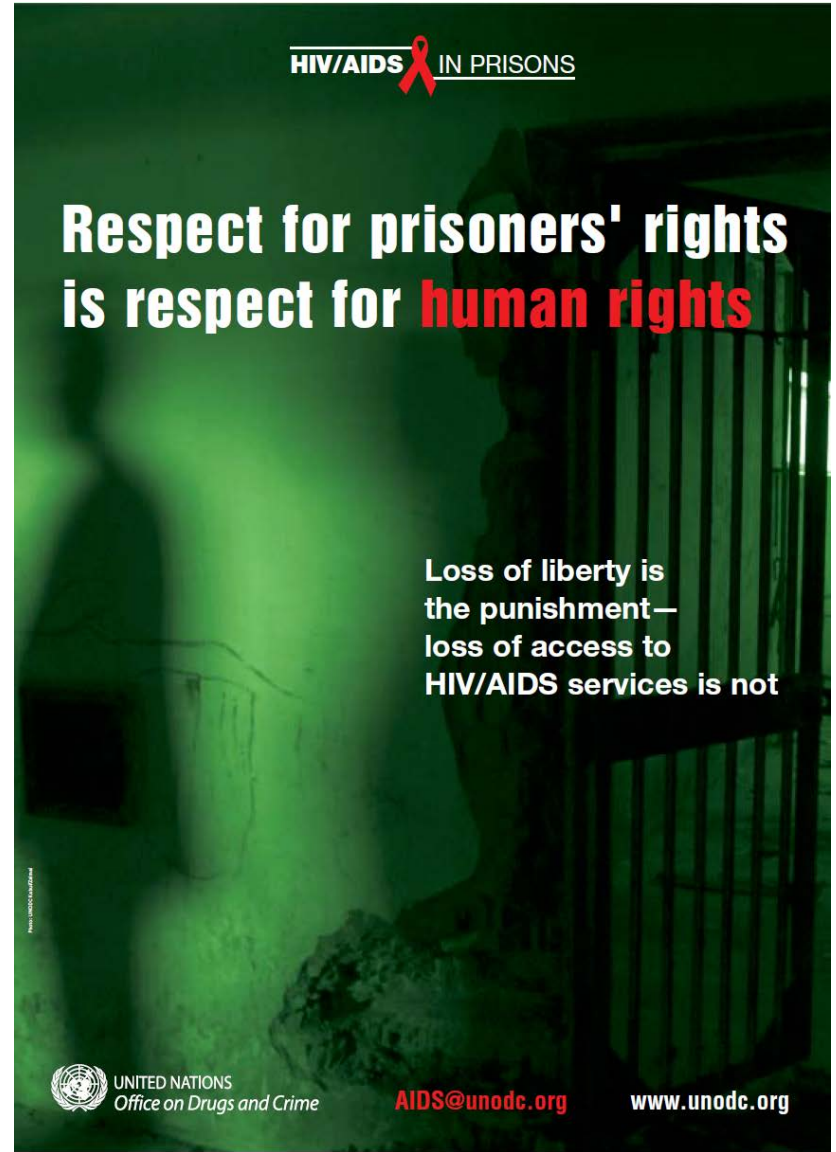
Prisoners are entitled without discrimination to a standard of health care equivalent to that available in the general community


 UNITED NATIONS  
Office on Drugs and Crime

[AIDS@unodc.org](mailto:AIDS@unodc.org) [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)

Persons deprived of their liberty retain all rights that are not lawfully taken away by the decision sentencing them or remanding them in custody.


European Prison Rules, CoE Rec (2006) 2



**HIV/AIDS**  **IN PRISONS**

**Respect for prisoners' rights  
is respect for **human rights****

Loss of liberty is  
the punishment—  
loss of access to  
HIV/AIDS services is not

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# International Human Rights Law on Health

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Art. 12
- Convention on the Rights of the Child: Art. 24
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women: Art. 12
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Artt. 6, 7, 9, 10
- European Convention on Human Rights: Artt. 2, 3



# UN standards on healthcare in prison

**Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners, 1955**

**Revised Standard Minimum Rules: Mandela Rules 2015**

**Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, 1979**

**Principles of Medical Ethics** relevant to the Role of Health Personnel, particularly Physicians for the Protection of Detained Persons and Prisoners Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, **1982**

**Body of Principles** for the Protection of Persons Under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, **1988**

**Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, 1990**

**Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, 1990**

**Bangkok Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners, 2010**

Right to medical care

of the same quality and professional standard as available in the country;  
timely access whenever necessary

Right to preventive healthcare

Environmental health, living space, nutrition, sanitation, hygiene;  
Protection from transmissible diseases

Right to medical care in line with accepted principles of medical ethics

Patients' consent,  
medical confidentiality,  
medical professional independence and competence



# IDU and HIV in prison: Lesson learned

- Higher prevalences of IDUs and HIV
- Higher risk of transmission of HIV in IDU
- Easy accessible to harm reduction and care
- Equal rights to prevention and care in international Human Rights Law
- Less harm reduction, prevention and care



## POLICY BRIEF

HIV prevention, treatment  
and care in prisons  
and other closed settings:  
a comprehensive package  
of interventions





# 15 key interventions

1. Information, education and communication
2. HIV testing and counselling
3. Treatment, care and support
4. Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis
5. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
6. Condom programmes
7. Prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections
8. Prevention of sexual violence
9. Drug dependence treatment including Opioid Substitution Therapy
10. Needle and syringe programmes
11. Vaccination, diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis
12. Post-exposure prophylaxis
13. Prevention of transmission through medical or dental services
14. Prevention of transmission through tattooing, piercing and other forms of skin penetration
15. Protecting staff from occupational hazards

Drug control  Human Rights

Prison health  Public Health

**Support Drug Policy  
Based On Science,  
Not Ideology.**

# THE VIENNA DECLARATION

**Sign on at  
[www.viennadeclaration.com](http://www.viennadeclaration.com)**



**UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



**World Health  
Organization**  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR  
**Europe**

## **Good governance for prison health in the 21st century**

*A policy brief on the organization of prison health*



## Group work Human Rights and harm reduction for drug dependents prisoners

- 1) What are the main obstacles to implementing or complementing human rights for drug dependent prisoners
- 2) Which of the 15 key interventions for prevention of HIV/HC as recommended by WHO/UNAIDS are in place in your prisons and which ones need to be given additional consideration?
- 3) How to best explain the importance of prison health for public health to lay persons?