Women prisoners worldwide

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FEMALE IMPRISONMENT WORLDWIDE, 9 NOVEMBER 2017

Women’s prison #5, Georgia © Antonio di Vico 2016
Adopted in 2010 unanimously by 193 member states

> Supplement UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners – now known as Nelson Mandela Rules

“comprehensive, result-oriented research on the offences committed by women, the reasons that trigger women’s confrontation with the criminal justice system, the impact of secondary criminalisation and imprisonment on women, the characteristics of women offenders … (Rule 67)

“research on the number of children affected by their mothers’ confrontation with the criminal justice system, and imprisonment in particular, and the impact of this on the children…” (Rule 68)
Bangkok Rules research by PRI

> **Who are women prisoners?**
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Armenia, Jordan, Tunisia and Uganda

> **Women who kill in response to domestic violence:** How do criminal justice systems respond?

> **Community service and probation for women:** a study in Kenya
Personal background: poverty

Survey results from Uganda

76% of women prisoners surveyed were poor or very poor
Personal background: motherhood

15 in 20 women prisoners surveyed in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are mothers.

689 children, of which 45% are under 18 years old.

8 in 10 women prisoners in Armenia and Georgia are mothers.

7 in 10 women prisoners surveyed in Jordan are mothers.
Personal background: stigma and more

41% are stigmatised by their family and community
39% experienced family breakdown
71% have depression
44% have harmed themselves or attempted suicide

201 women in detention in Tunisia who participated in PRI’s survey
49% have suffered from domestic violence
Personal background: violence

Experience of domestic violence for women in Administrative detention – Jordanian women

over 3 in 5 women have experienced domestic violence

92% of those, frequently
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Personal background: violence / violent offences

Of the 39 women convicted of murder or manslaughter of a male family member in Uganda

- 97% had children
- 74% were very poor or poor
- 74% reported they had experienced domestic abuse
- 49% had never been to school
- 33% only to primary school
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Offences

- **Type of offences committed by women prisoners surveyed in Kazakhstan**: 9% other, 23% violent, 41% theft and property offences.
- **Type of offences committed by women prisoners surveyed in Kyrgyzstan**: 12% other, 33% violent, 19% theft and property offences, 32% drug-related.

Penal Reform International: Promoting fair and effective criminal justice
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Offences

Community service and probation for women
A study in Kenya

36% of the women interviewed were convicted of ALCOHOL-RELATED OFFENCES (MAINLY ILLEGAL BREWING)

67% of the women interviewed said they had offended TO EARN MONEY AND SUPPORT THEIR FAMILY
Thank you

See all research reports and more on www.penalreform.org