

# International Centre for Prison Studies

**Annual Report 2003**

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# Statement of Purpose

The International Centre for Prison Studies assists governments and other relevant agencies to develop appropriate policies on prisons and the use of imprisonment. It carries out its work on a project or consultancy basis for international agencies, governmental and non-governmental organisations.

It aims to make the results of its academic research and projects widely available to groups and individuals, some of whom might not normally use such work. These include policy makers, practitioners and administrators, the media and the general public. Such dissemination will help to increase an understanding of the purpose of prison and what can be expected of it.

## Aims

- To develop a body of knowledge, based on international covenants and instruments, about the principles on which the use of imprisonment should be based, which can be used as a sound basis for policies on prison issues.
- To build up a resource network for the spread of best practice in prison management worldwide to which prison administrators can turn for practical advice on how to manage prison systems which are just, decent, humane and cost effective.

## Objectives

**To carry out, organise and publish** research into the purposes of imprisonment and to make this available to policy makers, practitioners, administrators, the media and the general public.

**To disseminate** information about the international covenants and instruments relating to detention and imprisonment in a manner which is accessible to prison personnel.

**To share** experience about how the international instruments relating to detention and imprisonment should be applied in practice.

**To undertake** practical prison projects, which take account of the cultural, social and financial realities in the countries involved, at the request of international agencies, national governments and non-governmental organisations.

**To develop and evaluate** models of best practice.

**To build up** a database of good models of prison management and effective projects and to make this available on a worldwide basis.

**To make use of** an international network of individuals and agencies with a record of achievement in this field of work.

**To organise** seminars and conferences and to publish reports which will further these objectives.

# The Year's Work

During 2003, the Centre continued to develop its work under two main themes:

- **Creating a knowledge base**

This recognises the need to provide a set of internationally accessible reference points for practical prison reform. All too frequently until now those who wish to implement such reform have had to begin with a blank sheet of paper, feeling their way by a process of trial and error. As a means of helping them, ICPS has set out to develop what is sometimes called the knowledge base for the whole subject of imprisonment, good prison practice and alternatives to prison. Starting from the international covenants and standards which have been agreed by governments, a body of reference texts and examples of good practice is being put together and published in a form which can be easily used.

- **Applying the knowledge base**

Once the knowledge base has been created it needs to be capable of application in real life situations. The Centre assists this process by undertaking a series of practical prison reform projects in a variety of countries and regions. These projects are all carried out within the context of the international standards relating to imprisonment. ICPS becomes involved in them in a variety of ways. Sometimes there is a direct approach from official sources within the country or region concerned. Sometimes, as in the case of the project to promote better prison and public health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, they are centred on themes which have been identified as requiring particular attention. Other projects, such as that with the pre-trial detention prisons in Moscow, have a more specific focus.

## Creating a Knowledge Base

### Handbook: A Human Rights Approach to Prison Management

In 2002 the Centre published a handbook for prison staff entitled “A Human Rights Approach to Prison Management”. This is a practical handbook which describes the internationally agreed standards on the use of imprisonment and conditions of detention and which details guidance for prison staff as to their implementation. It provides a model for good prison management which can be applied in every prison system in the world. The principles of good prison management which are described are based on the international human rights standards agreed by the member states of the United Nations. The handbook makes the link between these standards and practical prison management. It demonstrates that in addition to providing an appropriate framework for the management of prisons, this approach can be very effective in operational terms. This handbook is aimed at a wide readership, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental. Above all, it is intended for those who actually work in prisons and who deal with prisoners on a day to day basis.

Almost 60,000 copies of the handbook have been distributed around the world to intergovernmental agencies, national prison administrations and non governmental organisations. In several countries copies have been issued widely to prison staff. These include Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Korea, Nigeria and Brazil, where the Ministry of Justice has printed and disseminated 35,000 copies in Portuguese.

The handbook is now available in Arabic, Chinese, English, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Serbo-Croat, Spanish and Turkish. It is currently also being translated into other languages, including Aramaic, Japanese and Persian. It is available for free download in a number of languages from the ICPS website. Publication of the handbook was funded by the Human Rights Policy Department of the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

## Humanity in Prison

One of the challenges which faces prison staff in all countries is how to treat prisoners with humanity while meeting all the requirements of security and good order. The need to do so is widely accepted but prison staff need help to clarify what this means in practice. Building on the work of the human rights handbook, ICPS embarked on the *Humanity in Prison* project. The project focussed primarily on the work of staff in the Prison Service of England and Wales.

Much of the activity of prisons in England and Wales is now subject to measurement. For example, figures are collected conscientiously and assiduously on how many random drug tests are carried out, how many hours prisoners spend in constructive activities, how many cells are searched each month, how long prisoners spend in education classes, how many assaults take place. Collecting such information enhances the accountability which the Prison Service has to Parliament and the public. It is worth collecting such information and making it widely available. However, this does not tell the whole story about what prisons are like and the public service they are delivering. There is also a need to measure qualitative issues, such as whether prisons are being managed according to the ethical standards that the Prison Service would expect and according to international law and the international human rights obligations of the United Kingdom.

Her Majesty's Prison Service serves the public by keeping in custody those committed by the courts. Our duty is to look after them with humanity and help them lead law-abiding and useful lives in custody and after release.

Prison Service of England and Wales  
*Statement of Purpose*

In its Statement of Purpose the Prison Service itself recognises its obligation to treat prisoners with humanity. As part of the *Humanity in Prison* project ICPS set out to provide prison staff and others with a means of measuring how well the duty to treat prisoners with humanity was being observed. A series of meetings was held with senior prison staff in England to discuss how they thought this could be done. The international human rights instruments relating to prison were analysed to discover the key features of humane treatment of prisoners. An audit tool was drafted and was

circulated to a wide range of practitioners, academics and human right experts for comment. The final result was a book entitled *Humanity in Prison: Questions of definition and audit*, which was published in 2003 with funding provided by the Pilgrim Trust. The book had two objectives. In the first place, it set out to provide a working definition of 'humanity' as regards the treatment of people who have been deprived of their liberty. Secondly, it offered a proposal for the measurement of 'treatment with humanity' in the prison setting.

Copies of the book were distributed widely throughout the Prison Service and were sent to the Independent Monitoring Boards of each prison. The reaction has been positive and a number of prisons have used the audit tool to survey the feelings of prisoners and staff about humanity in the prison environment.

## Website

The Centre's website ([www.prisonstudies.org](http://www.prisonstudies.org)) has established itself as an important tool for improving knowledge and information about prisons and prison reform. Many of the Centre's publications, including the Handbook in several languages, can be downloaded. The site is regularly updated to include examples of projects currently underway and other reference documents, such as major presentations given by senior staff of the Centre, many of which are available for free download.

By means of the website staff of the Centre respond to frequent requests for information and advice from policy makers, researchers, the media and practitioners around the world. The website has sections in English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

## World Prison Brief *Online*

World Prison Brief *Online* is part of the Centre's website. It provides a guide to the use of imprisonment in all but six countries in the world. Information is provided on prison populations and prison population rates per 100,000 of the national population, on the use of imprisonment for women and juveniles, on the extent of pre-trial imprisonment and on prison overcrowding, as well as a record of the national ministries responsible for prisons and contact details for prison administrations. Information is updated on a monthly basis using data from reputable sources.

No other website offers such a comprehensive database of information on the prison systems of the world. The visual map interface and the world maps, which are colour-coded according to each country's prison population rate, ensure that the data can be understood easily.

In the course of 2003 the information was again updated monthly. In October 2003 the list of the 100 highest prison population rates was expanded to provide a complete list from the highest rates to the lowest. Similar lists were introduced in respect of prison population totals, occupancy rates, pre-trial/remand prisoners, female prisoners and foreign prisoners; the last three lists show the number of such prisoners as a

percentage of the prison population total. These 'highest to lowest' lists are available both for the entire world and for individual continents.

We aim to make the World Prison Brief progressively more comprehensive and useful and we always welcome new or updated information from reliable sources.

## Intergovernmental and other links

The Centre values its contacts with intergovernmental and similar agencies, which have an important contribution to make in spreading knowledge of the principles of prison reform and good prison practice. During 2003 these contacts included the following:

### *Council of Europe and OSCE*

The Director accepted an invitation from the Council of Europe to provide expert assistance in re-drafting the European Prison Rules. This work will be completed in 2004.

The Centre's Projects Director continued to chair the Council of Europe's steering group for the reform of the prison system in Armenia.

Two Associates of the Centre continued their work with the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on prison reform in the Balkans and the Caucasus. This has included involvement in the Steering Group for Prison Reform in Serbia, where a unit has been set up with an initial focus on legal reform, training and prison refurbishment. Work in Montenegro has concentrated on developing rehabilitative work for prisoners. One of the Associates also took part in OSCE work in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

### *Council of Baltic Sea States*

Staff of the Centre took a leading part in the activities of the Working Group on Pre-Trial Detention set up by the Commissioner of the Council of Baltic Sea States on Democratic Development following a conference held in St Petersburg. The working group subsequently met in Copenhagen and Riga. The meeting in Latvia included a training course for senior managers in the prison systems of CBSS countries.

### *World Health Organisation (Europe) Health in Prisons Project*

WHO is the main intergovernmental organisation for action on all health matters. It is particularly influential among the governments of the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where it works through its regional headquarters in Copenhagen. Since 1996 it has had a Health in Prisons Project, which has sought to be a driving force towards innovation in prison health, linking prison health more closely with public health frameworks. The Centre's work in 2003 with WHO is described in more detail in the later Health in Prisons section.

### *European Parliament*

In view of the expansion of the European Union from 15 to 25 members in 2004, the European parliament invited ICPS to undertake a review of prison conditions in the 25 countries and to provide a report for the parliament. This work will be completed in early 2004.

### *Punishment & Society: The International Journal of Penology*

ICPS places a high priority on contributing to the academic debate about the place of punishment in a modern society. In this context it continues to manage the leading journal on law and penology, *Punishment & Society*, which is published by Sage Academic Publishers. The journal provides an interdisciplinary forum for theoretical and empirical contributions dealing with punishment and penal institutions. Subjects covered in 2003 issues have included the use of maximum security in the US, the penalisation of poverty, legal perspectives on religion and criminal law, migration punishment and social control.

## **Applying the Knowledge Base**

### Health in Prisons

There is now wide understanding that there can be little possibility of real reform of prison conditions, especially in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, unless there is an improvement in the health provision for prisoners. The appalling prison conditions which still exist in many countries lead to widespread general ill health among prisoners. The conditions within many prisons leave prisoners, and sometimes staff, particularly vulnerable to infectious diseases. Given the fact that almost all prisoners will one day return to the community and also the regular movements into and out of prisons, this means that such illnesses will inevitably be communicated to the wider community. For these and other reasons it is essential that the arrangements for providing health care to prisoners should be closely linked to general health provision for the public.

For several years ICPS has been involved in prison health issues, particularly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In late 2001 it obtained funding from the Open Society Institute for a project which had two simple but radical objectives. These were:

- To increase the involvement of public health services in prisons and prison health services in public health.
- To strengthen the competence of health care services in prison and their position in the prison hierarchy.

In pursuit of these objectives the Centre carried out a series of activities in 2003. A meeting of the project steering group, chaired by Ambassador Harald Siem of the Council of Baltic Sea States Task Force on Communicable Diseases was held in the offices of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Europe, Copenhagen, in April 2003. Following this meeting WHO Europe gave a commitment to reinforce the position of



its Health in Prison Project (HiPP) within its Unit for promoting Lifestyle, Environment and Development. It also undertook to link the general work of WHO, particularly in its units for communicable diseases and epidemics, directly to that of the HiPP.

The Centre then worked with WHO on preparing the first annual meeting of the Health in Prisons Project to be held in Eastern Europe in conjunction with an international conference on the link between public and prison health. These took place in Moscow in October and a Declaration on Prison Health as Part of Public health was adopted. This declaration has subsequently been published by WHO. It is addressed to all member governments of WHO Europe and calls on them to bring their prison and public health services closer together. It makes it clear that harm reduction should become the guiding principle in dealing with the prevention of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis. It also notes the effect bad prison conditions can have on health and calls on member governments to improve the living conditions in their prisons.

Member governments are recommended to develop close working links between the Ministry of Health and the ministry responsible for the penitentiary system so as to ensure high standards of treatment for detainees, protection for personnel, joint training of professionals in modern standards of disease control, high levels of professionalism amongst penitentiary medical personnel, continuity of treatment between the penitentiary and outside society, and unification of statistics.

*WHO Declaration on Prison Health as Part of Public Health*  
Adopted in Moscow, 24 October 2003

ICPS also worked with WHO on arrangements to set up a WHO Task Force on Prison Health to carry on the work begun by the ICPS project steering group. ICPS accepted an invitation to join the Task Force.

The Centre continued to produce the newsletter *Prison Healthcare News* in English and Russian. Four issues were published in the course of the year and 1,000 copies of each were distributed throughout the region.

As part of the project ICPS carried on its support for the work of Penal Reform International with public health officials and prison health directorates in Eastern Europe and Central Asia through the programmes which began in 2002.

## UK Moscow Prison Partnership Project

The broad development of a partnership programme between the Moscow pre-trial prisons (SIZOs) and the United Kingdom prison services started to take shape in the summer of 1999. The first formal discussions between the Department for International Development (DfID) and the International Centre for Prison Studies (ICPS) took place in the autumn of that year and agreement was reached in principle for a three year project which would involve professional partnerships between the Moscow SIZOs and staff training institute an equivalent number of prison service establishments in the United Kingdom. The primary goal for the project, which

became known as the Prison Partnership Project (PPP), was the “better observance of prisoners’ human rights in Russian SIZOs”. It was hoped that the terrible physical conditions which existed in the Moscow SIZOs would be made decent and that relationships between staff and prisoners would be improved. To the extent that this happened, it was planned that the lessons learned in Moscow would be disseminated throughout Russia.

The staff training institute and the SIZOs in Moscow City were pre-determined as the Russian partners. The Prison Services of England and Wales and of Northern Ireland agreed to select partners on the basis of the nearest match to the individual Russian institutions. HM Prisons Durham, Liverpool, Manchester and Styal and the Training College in Wakefield volunteered as the English partners, while HM Prison Magilligan and HM Young Offenders Institution Hydebank, were the partners from Northern Ireland.

In the early part of the project action plans were drawn up between each set of partners. Partners carried out reciprocal visits on an annual basis over a three year period. In autumn each year a seminar for all partners took place in Moscow to examine progress on the action plans and to consider the place of human rights in prisons.

While much remains to be done, it was possible to identify specific improvements which had taken place by the time the project ended in December 2003. These included:

- Major renovation of the physical structure
- Removal of shutters from windows, thus allowing prisoners access to light and fresh air
- Abolition of the internal body searches which were previously carried out on all newly admitted women prisoners
- Implementation of new staffing arrangements which have allowed personnel to work more closely with smaller groups of prisoners
- New training course for staff incorporating human rights principles
- New training course for staff trainers
- Improved personal relationships between prisoners and staff
- Increase in the level of daily activities for prisoners

Both the Russian and the British prison staff gained an increasing understanding of the importance of working within a human rights context and the way in which this could improve the prison environment.

As the Moscow project came to an end the Russian government indicated that it would like the lessons which had been learned to be disseminated throughout the seven federal districts of the country. The UK Foreign Office and the Ford Foundation agreed to fund this new project and over a period of 18 months the Russian and UK partners will be carrying out this work.

## Turkey

### Training in Human Rights for Public Prosecutors in charge of Prisons

This was the final part of a series of projects aimed at helping the Turkish Ministry of Justice to introduce a human rights framework into its prisons. In Turkey public prosecutors have a responsibility to ensure that prisons are managed within the framework of the law. The early stages of this project had focussed on planning a pilot training programme and on developing the skills of a core team of trainers who were themselves prosecutors in charge of prisons. As part of their preparation they had participated in a study visit to England in the autumn of 2002.

The final phase of the project consisted of two pilot training courses which were held in Turkey in early 2003. Each course was attended by 25 prosecutors in charge of prisons and the courses were delivered by the Turkish training team, assisted by ICPS staff. As part of the further implementation of the project, the pilot course participants were asked to assess the human rights shortcomings in the prisons which they supervised and to identify a way of dealing with them. After this the prosecutors met with senior members of the prison service general directorate to evaluate progress.

In September 2003 a roundtable took place in Ankara, hosted by the British Ambassador, on the occasion of the publication of the Turkish edition of the ICPS Human Rights Handbook. This was attended by Turkish parliamentarians and representatives from the Ankara Bar Association, the Ankara Prison Monitoring Council, a number of human rights agencies and several other embassies.

## Nigeria

In the summer of 2003 two ICPS experts worked to support Penal Reform International in a project with the Nigerian Prison Service. The work was part of the inception phase of a wider Access to Justice project being developed in Nigeria by the UK Government Department for International Development.

In the course of an initial visit the experts worked with their Nigerian partners to assess what needed to be done and to plan a workshop for senior prison staff. The workshop took place during a second visit and involved all members of the senior directorate of the Nigerian Prison Service at federal and state levels. The main purpose of the workshop was to begin the process of developing a strategic plan to deal with the main problems which had been identified. This focussed particularly on severe levels of overcrowding in some prisons, which was exacerbated by the presence of a high proportion of pre-trial prisoners.

## Chile

Between 2001 and March 2003 ICPS worked in partnership with the Chilean Ministry of Justice, the Gendarmería de Chile, the British Embassy and the British Council on a prison reform project which formed part of a wider programme of criminal justice reform initiated by the Government of Chile. Throughout the course of the project the ICPS Projects Director and an Associate worked as consultants to a project team

within the planning department of the national prison service. The work focussed on developing and piloting a model of strategic planning for the implementation of human rights in prisons based on international standards. This plan was developed by the project team and approved by the Ministry of Justice and national prisons director.

The Ministry chose Valparaiso, one of the biggest regions in the prison system, for the first pilot project. A core group of staff was trained in the regional office and in each of the prisons involved; they went on to involve staff in each prison in the principles of a human rights approach to prison management. Feedback and observation demonstrated that relationships between staff and prisoners improved and that staff attitudes and behaviour had become more professional. Examples of the effects of the project included:

- staff training on humane treatment of prisoners
- introduction of information leaflets for newly admitted prisoners
- improved hygiene
- greater equality of treatment for female prisoners
- a new approach to health management in one prison
- considerable change to the punishment cells
- an increase in the number of prisoners involved in work
- community links for the provision of education and library services,
- improved links with community organisations to help the resettlement of offenders.

The second phase of the project was formally launched in July 2003 with the signing of a partnership agreement by the Minister of Justice, the British Ambassador, the Director General of the prison Service and the Director of the British Council. The three main objectives of this phase are:

- To extend to all regions the strategic plan for the implementation of human rights in prisons based on international standards
- To examine the implications for the national headquarters and its current business processes of adopting this strategic planning approach
- To integrate other major initiatives, such as the construction of new prisons, within the strategic planning framework.

This work continued during the second half of 2003.

As part of its criminal justice policy, the Chilean government is introducing new alternatives to custody. An ICPS Associate, who is a former Chief Probation Officer in England, was invited to the Ministry of Justice in November 2003 to discuss proposals for these changes.

These projects have been funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

## Brazil

Prisons in Brazil are among the most violent and dangerous in the world. So in December 2002, following the election of new government, ICPS was happy to accept an invitation to become involved in a project to improve the performance of prison managers in the state of Sao Paulo in implementing the international standards on human rights for prisoners and staff. The project is sponsored by the Ministry of Justice and is being undertaken in the State of Sao Paulo, which has some of the most problematic prisons in the country. By coincidence at the start of the project the infamous Carandiru Prison was demolished as a sign from the government about its determination to begin a process of change. Other partners working with ICPS have been the Centre for the Study of Public Security and Citizenship based in Rio de Janeiro and the Centre for Comparative Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Wales. The project has been funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The project began with a series of workshops in Sao Paulo which were attended by representatives from prisons, the state headquarters and the staff training school in Sao Paulo, representatives from non governmental organisations, and a representative from the National Penitentiary Department in Brasilia. The prison authorities chose four prisons as pilots for the project. In the course of a second workshop the participants developed a tool for evaluating prison conditions based on international standards and went on to apply this in each of the four pilot prisons. The outcomes of the evaluations were incorporated into strategic plans developed by managers of the four prisons and other participants from the training in the course of a third workshop. A further two workshops concentrated on specific topics which had been identified by the group. In the course of the year the Director of Prisons for Sao Paulo, Dr Nagashi Furukawa, visited the UK for discussions about the future of the project.

Significant progress has been made in identifying deficits in several areas. These include:

- delivery of services to prisoners
- training for key personnel in developing and delivering policies and procedures
- processes for monitoring prison performance in co-operation with civil society.

Since work in the pilot prisons began there has been a record of a number of improvements. These include:

- changes to the procedures for admitting prisoners and giving them information
- improved procedures for prisoners' visitors and the provision of a shelter while they are waiting for entry
- improved conditions for staff
- improved security procedures
- new resettlement plans for prisoners.

In September 2003 the National Penitentiary Department hosted a seminar in Brasilia for all the directors of the state prison administrations to present to them the details of the project in Sao Paulo State. Following from this, there are now discussions about the possibility of rolling out the programme to a number of other states.

## Dominican Republic

In 2003 the Attorney General of the Dominican Republic invited ICPS to visit the country's prisons and to make recommendations for reform. There are over 16,000 prisoners in the Republic, giving an imprisonment rate of 193 per 100,000. The ICPS experts discovered that over recent years there has been a series of trenchant reports on the prison system in the Dominican Republic, coming from inside and outside the country. The reports show a remarkable consistency in their analysis of the problems and in their recommendations for solutions. They all identify gross overcrowding as a major problem. This is most obvious in large prisons such as one which was built for around 800 prisoners and now holds over 4,500; but it is equally damaging in some small prisons with places for around 10 or 12 prisoners and which now hold four or five times that number. Overall overcrowding is around 80%. This level of overcrowding affects not only living space. It also puts intolerable pressure on health care, on cooking, on sanitary and washing arrangements, on visiting facilities and on all activities for prisoners. The reports also refer consistently to a shortage of general resources and lack of any proper budgetary arrangements.

Every prison system in the world faces problems of one sort or another. One of the most important distinctions to be made is between those national authorities which acknowledge the existence of their prison problems and those which deny them. It is to the credit of the Dominican Republic that there is universal public acknowledgement at all levels of society of the problems in prisons, which were described by some people as a national scandal. This acknowledgement came as much from those working within government and in the prison system as from observers in civil society. Recognition such as this can be the first step towards real reform.

As in many countries, some of the most fundamental problems facing the prison system are caused by factors which relate to the wider legal and judicial process. The first of these is the excessively high proportion of prisoners who have not been tried or whose trial has not been completed. Many of these have been in prison for longer periods than they would have been sentenced to had they been convicted. The success of a number of pilot projects and programmes aimed at reducing pre-trial delays shows that this problem can be dealt with if there is sufficient determination. The first conclusion of the ICPS report to the Attorney General was that if there was to be any hope of real reform of prisons in the Dominican Republic what was needed first and foremost was political will. It was quite clear that if the failings in the judicial process, particularly in respect of pre-trial prisoners, were dealt with, many of the problems in the prison system would immediately disappear.

The report to the Attorney General went on to make a number of far-reaching recommendations including the need to implement the existing law which required the establishment of a separate prison administration. The government has since announced plans to begin a programme of creating a civilian prison administration and has begun the process of recruiting and training new prison staff. ICPS has continued to advise in this process.

## United Kingdom

### The Restorative Prison

This project, which is funded by the Northern Rock Foundation, began in 2000 and continues until mid 2004. It has two main objectives. The first is to generate debate about the purpose of imprisonment and prisons. The second is to encourage practical changes in the way prisons are run. To achieve this, the project has defined change under four headings or 'pillars'. These are:

- Create a new structural relationship between the prison and surrounding community.
- Provide opportunities for prisoners to express altruism.
- Introduce more awareness into prisons of victims and their experiences.
- Develop reconciliatory ways to resolve disputes and conflicts within prisons.

Throughout 2003 the project activities continued to be focussed on the North East Area of the Prison Service of England and Wales, initially on the first three pilot prisons, Holme House, Deerbolt and Kirklevington Grange, and expanding in the course of the year to other prisons. The project organised partnership meetings between Middlesbrough Council and the three pilot prisons in its immediate vicinity and prisoners and prison staff in the North East continued to contribute to the refurbishment of Albert Park in Middlesbrough.

In an important development, staff of Middlesbrough Council began to use the local government network to inform other local authorities about what had been happening at Albert Park. As a direct result Gateshead Council approached the project manager about involving prisons in its area in the refurbishment of Saltwell Park in Gateshead. All the other prisons in the north east, including Frankland Maximum Security prison, responded positively to this approach. This project has the potential to be a much larger partnership between the prisons and the local authority.

Six issues of the project newsletter were produced and circulated to a mailing list of 400 subscribing individuals. This became an important vehicle for disseminating the lessons of the project.

Throughout the project there has been a clear understanding of the need to evaluate its outcomes. In the course of 2003 the School of Social Sciences and Law in the University of Teesside was contracted to provide an independent evaluation of the project activities in Albert Park. This evaluation set out to measure the effects of the project on prisoners, prison staff and members of the public who use the park. The findings were substantially positive. All groups of respondents saw merit in the involvement of prisoners in high-profile work for the community. The prisoners themselves felt the work was worthwhile. It gave them a sense of pride and ownership. They were motivated by the idea that the public, and for some their own families, would benefit from what they were doing.

The main focus of the final year of the project has been on dissemination of its lessons to local government agencies. This began with a major conference in Middlesbrough in July, which was attended by a number of key players in

local government as well as criminal justice agencies. Since then ICPS has been working closely with the Local Government Association.

### HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales

For a number of years the Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales has used a document called *Expectations* as a reference point for the standards which she expects to find when she inspects prisons. In 2003 the Chief Inspector decided to update this document and to include primary references for each expectation to international human rights standards. ICPS was happy to carry out this referencing work for the Inspectorate.

### **Convention of Scottish Local Authorities**

During 2003 the Scottish Executive embarked on a “consultation for a single agency to deliver custodial and non-custodial sentences in Scotland with the aim of reducing reoffending rates”. Non-custodial sentences in Scotland are supervised by social work departments within local authorities. The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), which is the umbrella organisation for local authorities, invited ICPS to carry out research to assess whether the available international evidence supports the hypothesis that a single national correctional agency for Scotland would be likely to reduce re-offending and the use of custodial sentences and the merit of the Scottish Executive’s proposals for a single correctional agency in this context. The subsequent report was submitted to COSLA, which gave it wide circulation.

### Parliamentary Home Affairs Select Committee

The Centre gave written and oral evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee in the course of its inquiry into the rehabilitation of prisoners.



# Staff of the Centre

There was no change in the Centre's full time staff in 2003.

The bulk of the international project work was again carried out by our wide circle of Associates, to whom we are extremely grateful.

Andrew Coyle, Director of the Centre, was appointed Professor of Prison Studies in the University of London.

Dr. Hiroyuki Kuzuno, Professor of Law at Ritsumeikan University in Japan, joined the Centre as Visiting Research Associate for one year.

Director  
Professor Andrew Coyle CMG

Senior Research Fellow  
Baroness Vivien Stern CBE

Projects Director  
Andrew Barclay

Research Associates  
Anton Shelupanov  
Vivien Francis

Administrator  
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Administrative Assistant  
Abigail Martin

# **Donors and Project Funders**

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Northern Ireland Prison Service  
British Council

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