

71st session of the
WHO Regional Committee for Europe



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

World Health
Organization
Europe

HEALTH IN PRISONS

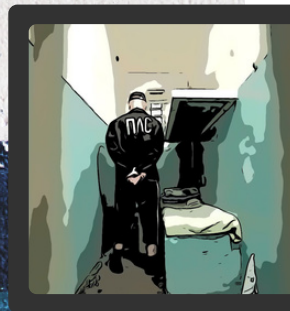
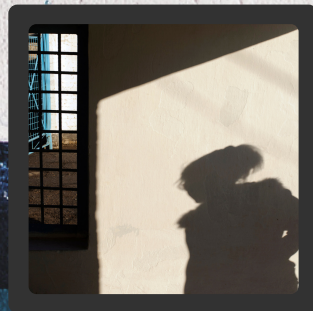
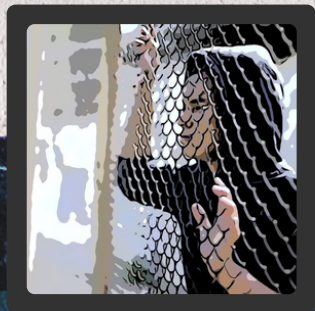
ADDRESSING THE PUBLIC HEALTH GAP TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

side event

Friday, 17 September 2021

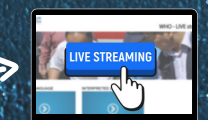
Online session

16:00 - 17:30 (CEST)



English and Russian
with simultaneous interpretation

Click to
watch
live.



People in prison suffer disproportionately from a higher prevalence of co-occurring health problems than people in the community

With a global prison population of almost 11 million at any one time, and an estimated dynamic population of 30 million people worldwide each year, it is vital to ensure that prisons are recognized as an important setting in which health inequalities need to be addressed and health promoted under the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2023 and the European Programme of Work, 2020–2025.

People in prison suffer disproportionately from a higher prevalence of co-occurring health problems than people in the community. Given the health inequalities faced by the prison population, the high levels of disease in prisons, and the continuous interflow of people between community and custodial settings, prisons must be a key focus of public health efforts. Effective prison health services can also lighten the burden on community health care services and contribute to a healthier society.

WHO Member States are mandated by the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) to provide health services in prisons that are of an equivalent standard to those in the community. WHO/Europe works together with Member States and international experts from beyond the WHO European Region to uphold these Rules and to support Member States in ensuring better prison health.

Side Event

This side event is intended to raise Member States' awareness of the relevance of prison health as an integral part of public health and to encourage them to fulfil their obligations under the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules through improved governance. During the event, WHO, jointly with Finland and Switzerland, will:

- launch the **new WHO framework for the assessment of prison health system** performance;
- emphasize that **prison health is an important aspect of countries' efforts to leave no one behind**, as part of their pursuit of universal health coverage and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
- demonstrate how prisons – where **incarceration may often have a negative impact on health** – are a setting in which essential quality health care services should be implemented to tackle inequalities and the associated high prevalence of certain risk factors and health conditions, while stressing the importance of continuity of care;
- reflect on how the learnings from **COVID-19 may be used to foster innovation in prison health**; and
- **advocate for good governance and cross-sectoral work** aimed at improving prison health conditions.

SIDE EVENT ON HEALTH IN PRISONS

ADDRESSING THE PUBLIC HEALTH GAP TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

Friday, 17 September 2021

16:00 - 17.30 (CEST)



Provisional programme

Session Chair and moderator

Carina Ferreira-Borges, Acting Director for Noncommunicable Diseases, Division of Country Health Programmes, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Co-chairs

Federal Office of Public Health of Switzerland & Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland

16:00 - 16:10

Welcome and opening remarks

Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe

16:10 - 16:15

Video Statement from the European Commissioner of Justice

16:15 - 16:23

The Health Dimensions of the United Nations Nelson Mandela Rules and Bangkok Rules

Todd Howland, Chief of Development, Economic and Social Issues Branch, United Nations High Commission for Human Rights

16:23 - 16:31

Health Ministry working collaboratively with National Preventive mechanisms – the example of Switzerland

Regula Mader, President of the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture

16:31 - 16:39

What have we learnt from response measures to COVID-19 pandemic in Azerbaijan?

Rafail Mehdiyev, Head of the Main Medical Department, Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan

16:39 - 16:47

The Finnish experience after the transfer of responsibility for health in prisons to the Ministry of Health from the Ministry of Justice: focus on implementation

Eila Mäkipää, State Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland

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16:00 - 17:30 (CEST)



16:47 - 16:53

How can we measure change in a meaningful way? The new WHO framework for the assessment of prison health system performance

Filipa Alves da Costa, Public Health Specialist, Alcohol, Illicit Drugs and Prison Health Programmes, WHO European Office for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases, Moscow, Russian Federation

16:53 - 16:58

Launch of a film on lived experience of prison, the right to health and equivalence of care

16:58 - 17:23

Moderated discussion with Member States

17:23 - 17:27

Launch of a film on lived experience of prison and continuity of care

17:27 - 17:30

Take-home messages and closure