

Services working together to support women before, during and after custody

Anette Storgaard,
Associate Professor, Lic. jur.

as@law.au.dk

Department of Law, University of Aarhus, Denmark

International guidelines

- United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (1955)
- The European Prison Rules (2006)
- United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (The Bangkok Rules) (2010)

Bangkok Rules

- *Before or on the admission:* Women with care-taking responsibility shall be permitted to make arrangements. Reasonable suspension of detention. Best interest of the children.
- *During prison time:* Allocation. Personal hygiene. Gender-specific health care etc.
- *Before and after release:* maximum utilization of options such as home leave, open prisons, half-way houses community based programmes before release *and* additional support after release.

European Prison Rules

basically: release is a process – not an event!



2010



Køreplan for god løsladelse

En samarbejdsmetode for Kriminalforsorgen og kommunerne

What is good release ?

Begins with a good arrival to the prison
Problems and resources of the prisoner are cleared up
Duties are identified and allocated to the correct authority
Competent and responsible case workers identified and involved
Supportive action is planned and agreed on and laid down in a plan of action
No authority let go until another is onto him

Køreplan for god løsladelse

En samarbejdsmetode for Kriminalforsorgen og kommunerne

The aims are:
To lower recidivism and to secure the rights for the ex-prisoners

Contracts between the Prison Service and the municipalities about a.o. **"one entrance"**
Prisons are obliged to establish contact, invite, inform etc.
Municipalities are encouraged to meet the invitation.
The prisoner must accept exchange of information.
"coordinated plan of action"

A well-intentioned programme....

but no roses without thorns



Not included are:

Below 18

4 months or less

Released from court

Expelled

Not paroled

About 70 %

Where is the individual ?

Summing up

- In most cases women might serve their sentences under less strict regimes than they actually do. ✓
- Occupation during prison time should be adequate and relevant bearing in mind the situation on the labour market. ✓
- The prison conditions should relate to the special needs women have such as health, personal history etc. Staff must be educated to understand and act adequately ✓
- Care-taking of children. Babies and new-born/Older children. ✓

Possibly interesting inspiration

- A prison for women in Berlin has defined the working duty for mothers in prison is to take home every morning and send the children to school or day-care, do the laundry, cook for dinner etc. And then return to prison. The same is the case for women in open regime in Croatia.
- Danish prisons are based on self-catering and self-management
- In Greece one well working day in prison counts for two days served of the sentence for all sentences to 6 months or more.