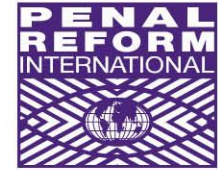


# Implementing gender-sensitive probation & community service



**PENAL REFORM INTERNATIONAL**

World Probation Congress, Japan, September 2017



# A new approach

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- Pilot project in Kenya to understand how to implement Bangkok Rules on 'gender-sensitive' alternatives to imprisonment
- Designed so lessons learned and model can be replicated in other countries
- Why Kenya?

# Context-specific research


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- In-depth study (independent): context and evidence-based recommendations
- Voices of women serving alternatives, probation officers and magistrates
- Recommendation to highlight gender aspects before sentencing in **pre-sentence reports** – to avoid prison and enable better supervision → Project adapted and tested respective tools used by probation officers

# Impact of the project

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- Improve gender equality in access to non-custodial alternatives
- Change in relationships between women offenders and probation officers
- Improved quality of reports for the courts: changes to court outcomes
- Gender-sensitive supervision of community sanctions



*Before, I thought an offender is an offender, and it doesn't matter if they are male or female. My thinking was there is no excuse for committing a crime. But after I have gotten a change of perception. Now I take a little more time to dig deeper and find out more and what really caused them to offend.*

Probation officer

# Lessons learned for replication

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- Advantage of an evidence-based approach (study)
- Advantage of adapting local tools (rather than developing new tools ‘imposed from outside’)
- Advantage of a localised induction / sensitisation
- Advantage of communicating through video documentary
- Gender-sensitive approach can also benefit men
- Inclusion of other stakeholders (magistrates ...)

# 10 steps to reform (1 – 5)

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1 Research

2 Evidence-based recommendations to identify next steps

3 Identify and adapt existing tools and guidelines to incorporate research findings

4 Create supplementary accessible resources for dissemination

5 Provide probation officers and magistrates with study findings and amended tools. Conduct 'induction clinics' to introduce the new approach



## 10 steps to reform (6 – 10)

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**6** Regional meetings for probation officers on implementing the new approach

**7** Sensitisation meetings with all stakeholders for multi-agency approach

**8** Commission external evaluation to assess

impact and to finalise adapted tools

**9** Identify ‘champions’ and empower them to sensitise others

**10** Identify a senior probation staff to support, monitor and evaluate level of adherence to new approach

# Resources on PRI's website

*Including:*

- Model for reform
- Video documentary
- Full research report
- Summaries
- Adapted tools and training module
- Blogs and commentary

**Short  
video**

**Guidelines for  
social enquiries**

**Blog**

MODEL FOR REFORM



Gender-sensitive  
Community Service  
and Probation Orders

**Training workshop**

women  
study and  
entirely  
on, with little  
placement  
ve

shows that children of incarcerated parents have access to no or poor primary education, and are more likely than their peers to commit offences themselves.

“Going to prison would have been a big problem as I have lots of people who depend on me.”

“Women are the CEOs of households. Locking them up means everything else will end in ruin.”

Magistrate, Kenya.

<https://bit.ly/PRIresources>



## Short video documentary: 'Equal justice'



Find full video at:

<https://www.penalreform.org/resource/equal-justice-making-community-sanctions-work-women-kenya/>

# Thank you for your attention !!!

