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# PRISONERS ABROAD



Pauline Crowe  
Chief Executive

CEP . the European Organisation for Probation Conference  
Nieuwersluis, 16 October 2008



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# Prisoners Abroad



How many of your citizens are held in prisons overseas?

What problems are caused for your country in having these citizens held in prisons overseas?

# Prisoners Abroad



Prisoner clients . two categories:

a) held overseas whilst travelling

b) ex-pats who have committed crime in their adopted country but who did not change their nationality

# Prisoners Abroad



Additional problems faced by  
foreign nationals:

- More isolated than domestic prisoners
- Difficulty communicating in a new language
- Loss of contact with families and friends
- Problems understanding rules and culture
- Less likely to get work to earn money
- May not know their rights
- Less likely to access healthcare and education



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# Prisoners Abroad

1,600 prisoners per year

80 countries

850 families

300 resettlement service users



# Prisoners Abroad



## Services to breakdown isolation:

- Information and advice service
- Free-phone helpline
- Help with arranging visits
- Freepost envelopes and post forwarding
- Books, magazines, newspapers, dictionaries
- Birthday cards
- Translations
- Survival and medical grants
- Family days
- Website



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# Abroad



I am not isolated anymore. Many people around the world seem worse off than me. You are also in touch with my mum and dad and they need a lifeline too. Thank you. +



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# Abroad



Absolutely incredible. I can't imagine how long and how difficult it would have been to get back into the system without their help. It's beyond words. To be able to talk to someone who isn't judgemental . its pretty remarkable to have that support.+





## Resettlement Service:

- Accommodation and then longer term housing
  - Money . food and water
  - Clothing
  - Travel card
  - Obtaining identity documents
  - Access to medical support
  - Access to benefits
  - Referral to agencies for employment etc.
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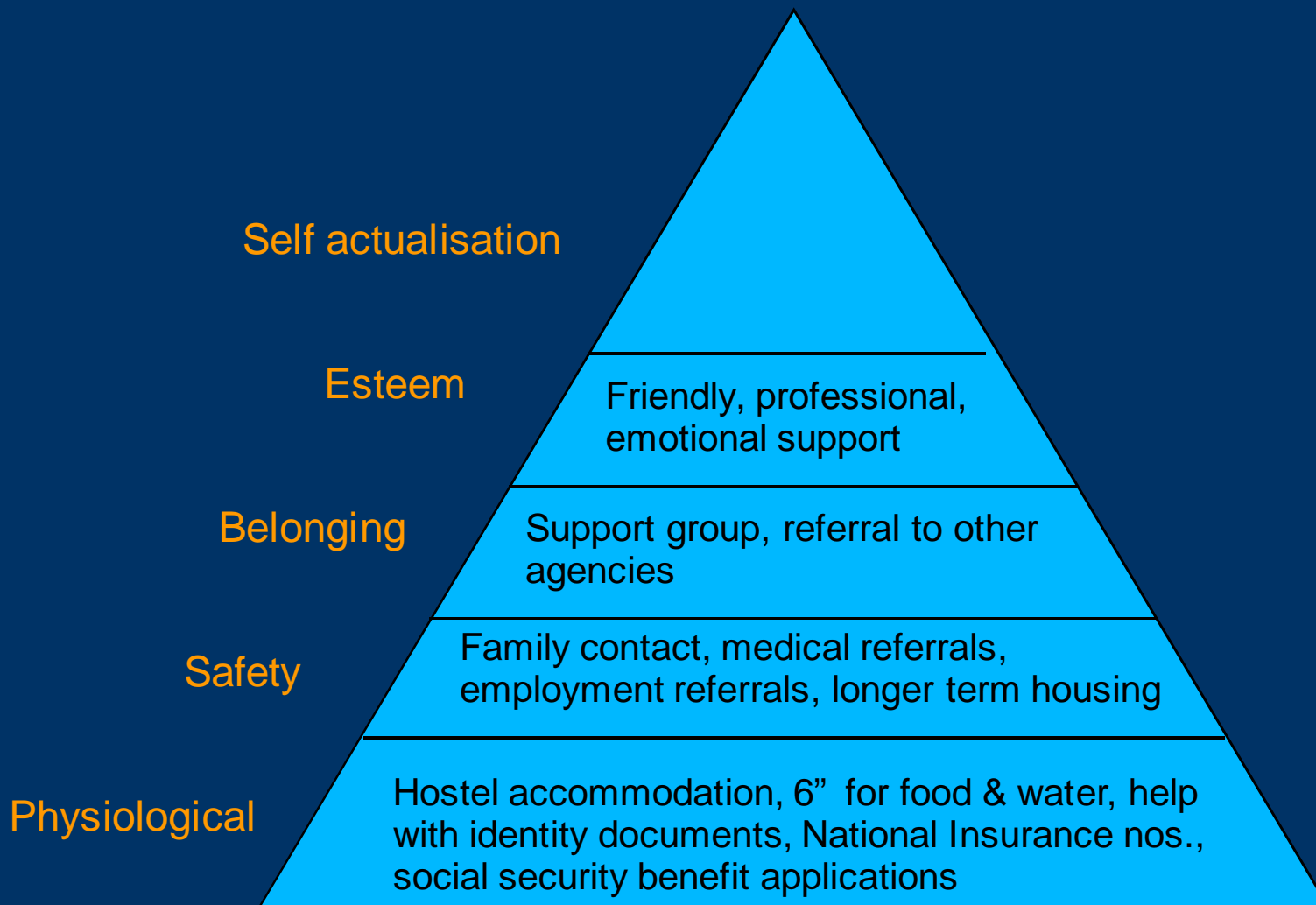
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# Abroad



Without them I don't know where I'd be.  
Because of them I've gained employment .  
because of their leads. They provide all the  
tools, its just up to the individual whether they  
can put them to use. +

# Abroad



# Abroad



Do we make a difference?

Yes, definitely . if I hadn't had contact with them I would have been desperate, completely stuck and stuffed. A huge difference . things would have been pretty rough otherwise. It's been 4 months now and I've got my own flat, got my benefits sorted out, seen a doctor and a dentist . a lot of things happening. I've landed on my feet pretty well.+

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# Abroad



I don't think they've done as much as they can and are able to. A bit of tough love going on too. I was quite institutionalised and used to being spoon-fed, everything controlled, it was hard for me to start with . realising I had to do this. But my resettlement worker helped me through that process. Helped me wake up and think I'm a big boy . now get on with it! That was good. At the time I did feel sad and bewildered but it did spur me forwards. +



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# Abroad



Prisoners Abroad has made me feel that even after 10 years of incarceration, I can still make it in life.+  

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## Members of the Prisoners Abroad staff team 2008

