

The Resettlement Needs of Foreign National Prisoners

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The Reality of Prison Overseas

- **Isolation**
- **Language Barriers**
- **Prison Conditions**

“Thank you very much. You have made my prison time more bearable here as I am the only English speaker and have been for three years.”

“His first words to me were: “Welcome to hell.” I asked what he meant, but he simply said, “You’ll see in the morning.” The next morning, the boss sent for me. He was on the roof. He pointed at a prison wing he was at war with, pulled out a handgun and started shooting. The prisoners wandered wherever they wanted. There were no guards or locked doors.”

International Office – Dutch Probation Service

International Office is part of the Dutch Probation Service (15 employees)

Funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (50%) and the Ministry of Security & Justice

Started in 1975 as an experiment with a temporary coordination unit

International Office Dutch Probation Service

Numbers Dutch nationals detained abroad:

1977 → 305

1994 → 1237

1997 → 1584

2000 → 1985

From 2005 – around 2500

Appr 800 in/out – high turnover

Top 10 detention countries

- Germany
- Spain
- France
- United Kingdom
- Peru
- Brazil
- Italy
- Suriname
- Belgium
- Morocco

80% drug-related crimes

Goals International Office

The International Office has the aim to contribute to the increase of **self-insight**, **self-reliance** and **reintegration** of the Dutch prisoners detained abroad by:

- Providing **information and advice**
- Deployment of **probation volunteers**
- Target group – Dutch prisoners who return to The Netherlands

International Office – Dutch Probation Service



Limit damages detention



Promote reflection on criminal behaviour



Prepare return to The Netherlands

Volunteers

The probation volunteers are being coached and guided by the International Office

- 325 volunteers/visitors in 46 countries
- 1700 prisoners have been visited
- Around 6000 visits a year
- Trained in Motivational Interviewing

International Office – contact details

International Office Dutch Probation Service

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Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas

- Established in 1985
- Supports 1,100 citizens detained outside of Ireland
- 95% of clients detained in the UK

ICPO Services

- Information and support for prisoners and families
- Client contact through letter writing, newsletters and cards
- Hardship Fund
- Prison Visits
- Policy Work
- Pen Friend Scheme
- **Post Release Support**

Resettlement Needs/Issues

- Access to benefits
- Suitable accommodation
- Employment/training
- Changes in family relationships
- Extreme isolation

Preparing for Release

- Provide advice and support
- Step-by-step guide
- Help gathering relevant documentation and identification
- Referrals to agencies providing post-release accommodation and employment
- Liaise with the Irish Probation Service

Post Release

- Arrival at airport
- Post-release grant
- Accommodation
- Referral to other organisations
- Review progress

Quote from prisoner

“I am now on the outside on parole! My family have asked me to send greetings to you. Understandably I’m still in transition mode, many changes and adjustments to be made. One day at a time! I really haven’t the appropriate words to convey my appreciation for the prayers and support from all at ICPO. Thank you from my heart. Now I realise that the time has come for me to say ‘goodbye’ to the team.”

Quote from prisoner

“Thank you ICPO for all your hard work...you helped me when I was released from prison and even now will always give me some advice on the phone. When I phone ICPO I feel less alone and encouraged in everything.”

Prisoners Abroad

- Created in 1978
- 23 staff
- Income £1.2 million per year

Client numbers

- 1,700 prisoners each year
- 90 countries
- $\frac{1}{3}$ North America
- $\frac{1}{3}$ Europe
- $\frac{1}{3}$ Rest of the world
- Also 1,500 family members in UK and elsewhere

Quote from prisoner

“Thank you for your help while I was in prison in [Council of Europe country] awaiting trial. The books, cards and most importantly the survival grant. The food provided in the prison amounts to little more than 3 bowls of watery porridge a day and some stale bread. Without the grant I would not have been able to buy food and may not have survived.”

Prisoners Abroad – Services to Prisoners

- Advice and information to 1125 prisoners
- Four newsletters a year to all active clients
- Survival grants to 251 prisoners and 65 medical care grants
- Vitamin grants to 258 prisoners
- Freepost envelopes
- 1382 books, 6510 magazines and 2091 newspapers
- 147 pen pals
- 1853 Christmas and 990 birthday cards

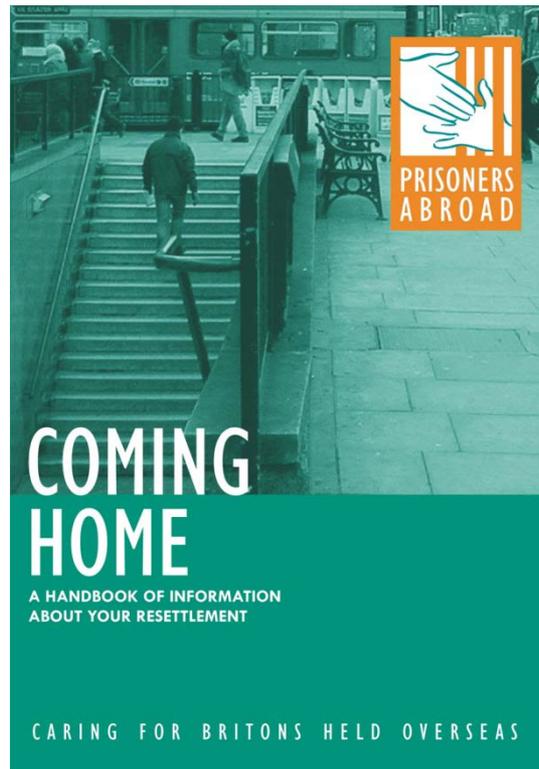
Prisoners Abroad – Services to Families

- Freephone line - 2362 calls received
- Information and advice to 1348 family members
- 27 travel grants
- Family support groups

Resettlement clients

- 200 resettled each year
- 10%-20% dangerous offenders

Preparation for Release



Quote from prisoner

“When you think about what is going to happen and all those problems outside like finding a job, money, shelter and you are all alone, you feel like your mind is going to blow up. I believe we couldn't make it through without all your help and support.....”

Prisoners Abroad – Resettlement Services

- Preparation is the key
- Understanding what people face
- Somewhere to sleep
- Providing the essentials
- Help with medical treatment
- Helping themselves

What happens next if you do nothing

- A fast return to crime generating more victims
- Family estrangements and future generational impact
- No second chance, no career options other than prison

Quote from prisoner

“I feel good about coming home. My contact with you has given me hope of having a place to start and having people to turn to. Where was there was despair, now is eagerness to begin a new life!”