

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE
PLATFORM EUROPE**

SUMMER COURSE 2026

She Matters

Gender Specific
Approaches to
Women in Criminal
Justice Settings

PROGRAMME

7 - 10 July 2026

CEJFE, Barcelona

prisons • probation • restorative justice



Schedule

Tuesday

7 July

13:00 - 14:00

Registration

14:00 - 15:30
Welcome & Plenary (2 talks)

15:30 - 16:00
Break

16:00 - 18:00
Parallel workshops
Cycle 1 / Session 1

18:00 - 19:00
Reception

Wednesday

8 July

9:00 - 11:00

Parallel workshops
Cycle 1 / Session 2

11:00 - 11:30
Break

11:30 - 13:30

Parallel workshops
Cycle 2 / Session 1

13:30 - 15:00
Free time for lunch

15:00 - 16:00
Parallel workshops
Cycle 2 / Session 2

16:00 - 16:30
Break

16:30 - 17:30
Parallel workshops
Cycle 2 / Session 3

20:00
Joint course dinner

Thursday

9 July

8:00 - 12:30
Study visits

12:30 - 15:00
Free time for lunch

15:00 - 16:00
Plenary (Summing up the study visits & 1 talk)

16:00 - 16:30
Break

16:30 - 18:00
Parallel workshops
Cycle 3 / Session 1

Friday

10 July

9:00 - 11:30
Parallel workshops
Cycle 3 / Session 2

11:30 - 12:00
Break

12:00 - 12:30
Plenary closing of the Summer Course

Group Itineraries

	Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
	Tuesday 16:00 – 18:00 & Wednesday 9:00 – 11:00	Wednesday 11:30 – 13:30 & 15:00 – 16:00 & 16:30 – 17:30	Thursday 16:30 – 18:00 & Friday 9:00 – 11:30
Group "P"	C) Restorative Justice	B) Treating Women in Detention	A) Towards more gender-responsive approaches in probation services
Group "S"	A) Towards more gender-responsive approaches in probation services	C) Restorative Justice	B) Treating Women in Detention
Group "T"	B) Treating Women in Detention	A) Towards more gender-responsive approaches in probation services	C) Restorative Justice

She Matters

Gender-Specific Approaches to Women and Girls in Criminal Justice Settings

The **Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE)** – EuroPris, CEP, and the European Forum for Restorative Justice – are pleased to welcome you in Barcelona for the **8th edition of its Summer Course**. In 2026, we address a critical gap in our systems with the theme: **“She Matters: Gender-specific approaches to Women and Girls in Criminal Justice Settings”**.

The criminal justice landscape designed by and for men often lacks appropriate attention to women and girls. From institutional infrastructure to risk-assessment tools, the system often defaults to a “male standard,” resulting in a profound lack of agency for female clients. Too often, women’s needs and choices are disregarded, their voices are sidelined, and their specific life contexts – such as caregiving and survival-linked offending – are ignored in favour of rigid compliance. Many women and girls enter the system with histories of specific types of trauma (domestic abuse, sexual violence, or economic coercion). Separation from children is a primary source of distress in detention, while probation requirements often conflict with caregiving duties. Women are often “protected” from participating in their own reintegration or in a restorative justice process in ways that actually deny them agency over their own responsibility-taking and justice needs.

This Summer Course seeks to challenge existing structures and empower professionals to recognise women and girls as active participants in their own journeys of change. The course will explore how “risk” is often relational – connected to partners or family stress – and why supervision must shift from “monitoring behaviour” to “supporting safety and stability.” It will examine how to build trauma-informed and gender-responsive regimes that support family bonds rather than penalising women for their domestic responsibilities. Attendees will explore restorative reentry models that prioritise accountability and repair, moving beyond simple risk management to foster genuine social reintegration.

As in the previous editions, participants will engage in three interactive, rotating workshops, alongside plenary sessions and study visits to Catalonia’s innovative criminal justice institutions. This format allows practitioners from different sectors to exchange knowledge and develop a cross-agency, gender-competent approach in criminal justice contexts.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Centre for Legal Studies in Barcelona for an enriching and unique experience in Europe that puts the specific needs and agency of women and girls at the forefront of justice reform.

Workshops

Workshop A)

Gender matters: Towards more gender-responsive approaches in probation services

The working context of criminal justice professionals exposes them to violence and conflicts. The way we look at these, and the way we respond to them, the way we formulate a question, even the way we think about a solution can change the outcome of our work, the dynamic of a relationship, and the development of a situation.

Starting from the basic standards and principles of restorative justice this workshop will focus on the potential and practical benefits of the use of a restorative approach in dealing with conflicts and harms.

Through small group activities, role-play and individual or common reflections, the participants will have the opportunity to learn or refresh specific tools, key communication skills and practices that will empower them to de-escalate tense situations in efficient and safe way, foster active listening, addressing underlying motives, and redress and guiding individuals toward needs-based dialogues.

The workshop offers the tools of the restorative approaches to unlock the power of restorative conversations and learn how to use it in daily work and life.

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This workshop will consist of two parts:

Part I: Gender sensitive risk assessment.

What are the most important gender differences in offending and in risk and protective factors for (re)offending? What knowledge is available that professionals should be aware of? Which tools are suitable for female clients? In this part, I will first discuss gender differences in offending, along with the current state of knowledge regarding risk assessment in women. Next, we will practice with a case study of a female probation client with gender-sensitive risk assessment.

Part II: Gender responsive working and risk management.

In the second part, we will explore how gender responsive principles can be applied in probation work, what gender informed risk management looks like in everyday practice, and how professionals can adapt their approaches to more effectively meet the needs of women under supervision. Next to a presentation about gender-responsive guidelines, we will practice with the translation of risk assessment in gender-responsive risk management strategies of the same client as assessed in Part I.

Trainer

Vivienne de Vogel

Vivienne de Vogel is a psychologist and works as professor of Forensic Mental Health Care at the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience (endowed chair), Maastricht University and at the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, with the research group Working with Mandated Clients. Furthermore, she works as researcher at the Van der Hoeven Kliniek De Forensische Zorgspecialisten, a forensic psychiatric center in Utrecht, the Netherlands and as Scientific Advisor Adviescollege Verloftoetsing TBS. Her research focuses on gender-responsive working, violence risk assessment, trauma-informed care, and mental resilience of forensic mental health professionals. She developed several risk assessment tools together with colleagues, like the FAM for women and the SAPROF for protective factors.



Workshop B)

Treating Women in Detention

Gender-Sensitive Approaches for Correctional Staff

The UN Bangkok Rules – adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2010 – provide the international framework for addressing the distinct needs of women, yet their implementation in daily correctional practice remains uneven. This workshop aims to bring the Bangkok Rules to life for correctional staff: unpacking what they require, why they matter, and how they can be applied in practice.

Understanding the Bangkok Rules begins with understanding the reality they were designed to address. A 2025 report by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/59/31) captures this reality plainly, noting that women experience violence "before, during and after detention" – a cycle that correctional systems are too rarely equipped to recognise or interrupt. The same report documents that gender-based violence in detention is widespread, compounded by overcrowding, inadequate protection measures, and the absence of effective complaint mechanisms. Violence – and the trauma it leaves behind – will therefore sit at the centre of this training. Participants will explore a range of Bangkok Rules provisions with this reality in mind: from safeguards against abuse and rules on body searches and disciplinary measures, to complaint mechanisms and the obligations of staff to respond when harm occurs or has previously been experienced.

Intersectionality serves as a crosscutting theme throughout both sessions. Women in detention are not a homogeneous group, and their exposure to harm is shaped by overlapping disadvantages. The workshop pays particular attention to women living in poverty, women who are survivors of gender-based violence, and women whose gender identity or sexual orientation places them at heightened risk of abuse and neglect.

This workshop consists of two parts:

Part I: Women in Conflict with the Law and Their Experience of Violence

The first part introduces who women in detention are, what brings them into conflict with the law, and how systemic discrimination shapes their treatment across the criminal justice process. Against this backdrop, we examine the chain of violence women experience prior to, during, and following detention, and explore the safeguards the Bangkok Rules require to prevent and respond to it. Participants will be guided through the relevant provisions and invited to apply them to situations from their own professional practice.

Part II: Safety, Security, and Institutional Responses to Women in Detention

The second part examines how institutional practices – including body searches, segregation, restraint, and disciplinary measures – can replicate or intensify harm for women, particularly those with histories of violence and trauma. We will explore what gender-appropriate safety and security practices look like under the Bangkok Rules, and how correctional staff can create conditions that are safer and more dignified. Attention will also be given to accountability mechanisms, including complaint procedures, and how women can meaningfully access them. The intersecting vulnerabilities introduced in Part I will continue to inform the discussion throughout.

Trainers

Idil Aydinoglu



Idil Aydinoglu is a human rights lawyer, researcher, and project manager with over 13 years of experience in European criminal justice systems and human rights advocacy. She currently serves as Regional Programme Manager at Penal Reform International (PRI), where she leads initiatives to improve the safety and rights of people in criminal justice systems, with a particular focus on marginalised groups including women in detention. She holds an advanced LL.M. from Leiden University and her work spans policy advocacy, programme delivery, and applied research

Barclay Wohlstetter



Barclay Wohlstetter is Project Coordinator in the Europe Programme at Penal Reform International. She holds a Master of Science in Comparative Criminal Justice from Leiden University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Bucknell University. Prior to joining PRI, she worked as a Junior Programme Officer at the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, supporting rights-based justice systems and reform across Europe. Her background spans the rights of incarcerated persons, comparative criminal justice systems, and the intersection of law and psychology.

Workshop C)
Title TBC
**Gender-Sensitive Approaches in Restorative
Justice**

Dr Borbála Fellegi



Dr Borbala Fellegi is a researcher, mediator, RJ facilitator, trainer, and lecturer. From 2008, as founder and director of the 5th European Restorative Justice Award recipient Foresee Research Group, she has conducted several Hungarian and EU programmes about the potential of RJ in community and criminal justice settings. Since 2015, she's been an assistant professor at the US-based International Institute for Restorative Practices' Graduate School. She had been the consultant for the CoE, the UNODC, and the Office of Justice in Hungary, a lecturer at several universities, and the co-founder of the nationally accredited Dr. Fellegi & Winkler Mediator Training Institute.

She is the author of the book 'Towards restoration and peace' (Napvilág, 2009), one of the first comprehensive studies on the implementation of restorative justice in Hungary.

Plenaries

Community Opportunity Benefits of Progression for Women in Custody **Mel Walker**

Askham Grange is a highperforming establishment with a longstanding reputation for exceptional resettlement outcomes and a strong relational, personcentred culture. Its core purpose, “Making Hope a Reality,” is delivered through highquality rehabilitative services designed to reduce reoffending while protecting the public.

The environment at Askham Grange Prison is safe, inclusive, and decent, supporting women to build confidence, develop skills, and prepare for successful reintegration into their communities. The regime emphasises health and wellbeing, education, employment, and the maintenance of family relationships, foundations that underpin longterm desistance and stronger, safer communities.

Community engagement and constructive relationships are central to the establishment’s approach. The openconditions model provides structured opportunities for work, learning, and resettlement, enabling women to make meaningful progress towards independence and sustainable change.

Mel Walker was recruited as a woman to work with female offenders, beginning her prison service career at HMP New Hall, a closed women’s prison in Yorkshire. After completing a BA (Hons) in Home and Community Studies, she developed a strong interest in women’s experiences, relational practice, and the influence of socioeconomic factors on their lives. This passion shaped her commitment to building a career focused on improving outcomes for women in custody. She joined the service in 2004 as a Prison Officer and progressed through a range of operational and leadership roles across the estate. Without a fixed plan, only a determination to do the right thing and support people to create meaningful change, she successfully completed successive promotion processes and achieved the grade of Governor in 2017. Her career has spanned every sector of the prison system, including High Secure, Adult Male, Juvenile, Female, and Open establishments. In 2022, she was honoured with a Butler Trust Commendation recognising her contribution to the service.

Mel now serves as Deputy Governor at HMP & YO1 Askham Grange, a women’s open prison in North Yorkshire.



Title TBC

Danijela Mrhar Prelic, Director General of Slovenian Probation Administration, CEP Vice-President.

Abstract and bio are coming soon.

Rescaled - Takeaways from the projects “Women” and “Resize” on small scale detention houses, and women in detention . exact title TBC.

Noa Shoshan, Knowledge Manager at RESCALED

This plenary session explores how small-scale, differentiated and community-integrated detention houses can better respond to the specific realities of women involved with the justice system. It draws on insights from RESCALED’s recent WOMEN project and knowledge workspace, bringing together research, practice, and lived experience perspectives. The session will highlight concrete practices from Europe, where smaller-scale settings aim to support (re)integration, social connection, and individualised care, with particular attention to the implementation of restorative, gender-responsive and trauma-informed approaches. At the same time, the presentation offers a nuanced perspective on both the opportunities and limitations: While these approaches are essential in principle, their application can risk reinforcing control, extending interventions, or shifting responsibility onto individual women rather than addressing structural inequalities. This raises broader reflections about how to sustainably implement small-scale detention within its ecosystem and align with other justice reforms.



Noa Shoshan is the Knowledge Manager at the European Office of RESCALED - the European Movement for Detention Houses. At RESCALED, Noa leads the collection, development, and strategic dissemination of knowledge to support awareness-raising, policy advocacy, and the implementation of detention houses across Europe. Her work focuses on connecting research, inspirational practices, and (lived) experience, ensuring that the know-how is translated into accessible insights for national and local actors who are at the forefront of driving change in justice systems.

Noa holds a Master’s degree in Criminology from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and is a voluntary member of the Crime & Society research group.

She has contributed to international justice work through guest lectures at universities and public speaking engagements across Europe and beyond, and has collaborated with institutions such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the European Commission, and the Council of the European Union. Throughout her academic and professional journey, Noa’s commitment to meaningful justice reform has grown intensively.

**Summer Course moderated by
John Stafford**



John Stafford enjoyed a forty year career in Probation in England , latterly for thirteen years as Chief Probation Officer for Merseyside , until his retirement in 2012. Merseyside under his leadership won more national and international awards for its practice than any other Probation area, including the prestigious British Quality Foundation's U.K. Excellence Award , the first public sector organisation ever to achieve this highest business honour. e was Interim Secretary General of CEP in 2012/2013 and jointly helped organise the first World Congress of Probation.

John remains an ambassador for CEP and has been involved in the Criminal Justice Summer Course since its inception. John was awarded the OBE in 2012 for his pioneering work in the rehabilitation of offenders.

Study visits

As every year, participants of the Summer Course are be offered the opportunity to choose to visit different institutions and organisations working in the various fields of the Catalan Criminal Justice system.

1) Institution for young girls in conflict with the law Centre Educatiu Els Til·lers

CE Els Til·lers is a juvenile justice educational centre accommodating boys and girls aged 14 to 18 who have come into conflict with the law.

The centre comprises residential educational units for girls, with a capacity of 25 places, as well as a Therapeutic Unit (TU) providing 20 places for boys and girls who require specialised therapeutic placement due to diagnosed mental health conditions and addictions.

The visit will focus on the unit for girls and it will offer insight into the centre's daily operation, its educational and intervention model, and the specific features of working with adolescents and young people within the juvenile justice system in Catalonia.

Throughout the visit, participants will be able to observe how spaces and organisational arrangements have been adapted to respond to the specific needs of the young people in care. The centre's approach is grounded in education, respect and social inclusion, incorporating an intersectional and gender-sensitive perspective. This includes attention to coexistence, emotional well-being, safety and personal development, and provides a practical example of how a gender perspective can be meaningfully integrated into educational and residential institutional settings.

These inclusive and non-discriminatory approaches, within a context of deprivation of liberty, form part of a cross-cutting project launched in 2019 to incorporate gender and gender-based violence focal points within juvenile justice teams. This project aims at complying with article 54 of Catalonia's Act 17/2015 on the effective equality of women and men, which refers to custodial services and the need to integrate a gender perspective into treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes and the introduction of designated gender focal professionals.

This visit therefore offers a distinctive opportunity to learn from an applied experience and to reflect on the challenges and lessons associated with socio-educational intervention with girls and young people in the juvenile justice system.

2) Juvenile Justice Probation Teams at the City of Justice Equips de Medi Obert 1 i 5 de Barcelona

This study visit offers participants the opportunity to gain first-hand insight into the work of an open environment juvenile justice team, responsible for implementing community-based educational measures for young people aged 14 to 18.

Participants will learn about the role that these measures play within the Catalan juvenile justice system and how professionals design and implement educational interventions with young people in the community. Particular attention will be given to how a gender perspective is integrated into everyday professional practice when working with boys and girls.

The visit will also explore the role of gender and gender-based violence focal points, an initiative introduced in 2021 to strengthen the integration of gender perspectives across all juvenile justice teams. The session will outline the process through which this role was introduced, the action plan developed to adapt it to the specific characteristics of each probation team, and reflections on the impact it has had on professional practice and on the ways practitioners support and work with young people.

In addition, participants will be introduced to a specialised educational programme on sexuality and equality, designed for young people who have committed offences against sexual freedom (such as sexual assault). The concept of consent within interpersonal relationships—a key element of Organic Law 10/2022 of 6 September on the comprehensive guarantee of sexual freedom—is central to this programme. Under this legislation, young people subject to judicial measures for these offences are required to participate in this educational intervention.

Finally, participants will have the opportunity to visit some of the facilities within the City of Justice where juvenile justice probation teams carry out their work. This will provide a practical overview of the pathway followed by a young person who must complete a community-based educational measure, from assignment to follow-up.



3) Women's prison in Barcelona

Centre Penitenciari de Dones de Barcelona

Participants will have the opportunity to visit a women's prison located in the city of Barcelona. The facility can accommodate up to 175 women on remand as well as those serving sentences in closed and semi-open regimes.

Although the establishment has a long history and had been used for different purposes, it stands out for its commitment to implementing rehabilitation and intervention programmes specifically designed to address the needs of women deprived of their liberty. These programmes contribute to creating an environment oriented towards reintegration and the well-being of the women.

The visit will also provide an opportunity to learn about a unit where mothers reside with their children aged 0 to 3, a distinctive resource that reflects the attention given to family and childcare needs within the prison context.

4) Compensatory Intervention Unit in the Women's Unit at Brians 1 Prison

Mòdul de Dones del Centre Penitenciari Brians 1 - Unitat d'Intervenció Compensatòria

Participants will have the opportunity to visit the women's unit at Brians 1 Prison, an establishment primarily designed for male prisoners which also includes a dedicated unit for women, to gain first-hand insight into its operation and the specific features of prison interventions designed for women serving custodial sentences. The visit will provide an overview of the treatment programmes and intervention strategies implemented in the unit, which are tailored to address the needs of a diverse population with often complex personal and social backgrounds.

One particularly relevant aspect of the visit is the Compensatory Intervention Unit, recently established within the Women's Unit. It aims to provide targeted support to women prisoners experiencing multiple vulnerabilities, such as intellectual disabilities, borderline intellectual functioning, mental health disorders, severe addictions, or emotional or physical frailty.

The initiative seeks to improve both the quality of interventions and the living conditions of the women, as well as the social and emotional environment within the unit, with a positive impact also on families and the professionals working in the prison.

This visit offers a valuable opportunity to learn about an individualised intervention model focused on addressing vulnerability and enhancing coexistence within the prison context.

Criminal Justice Platform Europe

The Summer Course is organised by the Criminal Justice Platform Europe (CJPE) in collaboration with the Centre for Legal Studies and Specialised Training. The CJPE is a partnership of three network organisations working in the fields of probation (CEP), detention (EuroPris) and restorative justice (EFRJ).



The **European Organisation of Prison and Correctional Services** (EuroPris) started its work in 2012. EuroPris is an organisation of and for prison practitioners. Prison Services from jurisdictions in the Council of Europe region can become a member of EuroPris.

The organisation has been established to promote professional prison practice through the facilitation of collaboration, sharing of good practices and knowledge between European prison practitioners. This is realised through the organisation of expert meetings, workshops and conferences. But also through the construction of databases and benchmarking tools. In the past ten years EuroPris developed into a recognised authority on prison matters in Europe. Currently 40 jurisdictions are a member of EuroPris. | More info at www.europris.org.

Founded in 2000 by a group of academics, practitioners and policy makers, the **European Forum for Restorative Justice** (EFRJ) has the aim to contribute to the further development and establishment of victim-offender mediation and other restorative justice practices.



Every person in Europe should have the right of access to restorative justice services, at any time and in any case. Among other activities, the EFRJ supports its members in developing restorative justice across Europe and beyond by building cooperation, publishing research findings, sharing information and knowledge, and organising seminars, conferences, summer schools and events in occasion of the international Restorative Justice Weeks. The EFRJ is a membership organisation with about 450 members, including 70 organisations, across Europe and beyond. | More info at www.euforumrj.org



The **Confederation of European Probation** (CEP) is an umbrella organisation for Probation institutions in Europe. Founded in 1981, CEP brings together practitioners, managers, academics, stakeholders and others working in the field of probation and criminal justice from all over Europe.

The CEP objectives are to unite, build and maintain the networks in probation and criminal justice, continue professionalisation in probation and raise the profile of probation on a national and European level. It promotes pan-European cooperation and exchange of ideas by delivering high-quality activities, making reports available and promoting probation on its website, social sites and in the newsletter. In addition, CEP participates in European projects which compile and study effective policy and practice in probation. To European bodies such as the European Union and the Council of Europe, CEP is the spokesperson for the sector of probation, providing expertise and comparative data. CEP is a member-based organisation with 86 members representing 39 EU countries and 47 EU jurisdictions. | More info at www.cep-probation.org.

Practicalities & Venue

The **Centre for Legal Studies and Specialised Training** (CEJFE) is an autonomous administrative body that belongs to the Ministry of Justice of the Government of Catalonia. It was created in 1990 and its fundamental mission is to organise initial training and continuous education for the staff working at different departments of the Ministry including prison, probation, juvenile justice, victim support and restorative justice among others, with the aim of strengthening and improving the quality of the services provided. It is also a founding member of EPTA (European Prison Training Academies).

Another pivotal activity of the CEJFE is to conduct research in the fields of criminology, enforcement of sentences, administration of justice and the Catalonia's own body of laws. Moreover, it leads university practicum programmes, is home to a specialised public library, organises exchanges with other training and research centres at national and international level, and regularly takes an active part in international exchange and innovation projects. | More information can be found at <http://cejfe.gencat.cat/ca/inici/>



Generalitat de Catalunya
**Centre d'Estudis Jurídics
i Formació Especialitzada**

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Funded by
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