Promoting the social reintegration of women after release

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Why are rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes needed?

- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**: ‘The penitentiary system shall comprise treatment of prisoners the essential aim of which shall be their reformation and social rehabilitation.’ *(Art. 10/3)*

- **UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela)**: “(...) prison administration and other competent authorities should offer education, vocational training and work as well as other forms of assistance (...) in line with the individual treatment needs of prisoners”. *(Rule 4)*

- **United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders or Bangkok Rules (2010) “**: “Women prisoners shall have access to a balanced and comprehensive programme of activities which take account of gender-appropriate needs”. *(Rule 42)*
How to foster the social reintegration?

Reintegration Interventions can be fostered at various stages of the Criminal Justice System:

- diversion from the criminal justice system
- alternative sanctions

instead of imprisonment

- prison-based policies and initiatives
- post-release / after-care programmes

during and following imprisonment
UNODC tools providing guidance on how to foster social reintegration of offenders and prisoners
Why specific programmes for women?

Global data of female imprisonment

• Women represent a small percentage of the global prison population
  = about 7%

• But their number is increasing at a higher rate than men

A different profile

• Most women convicted for non-violent offences
• Lower level of education / higher illiteracy
• History of gender-based violence
• Caring responsibilities
Good practices worldwide and UNODC’s support
• Bolivia's construction sector is growing, with a high demand for qualified female workers;

• the average salary of construction workers is 25 per cent superior to the national minimum salary.

• For women, the opportunity to enter this sector following a formal training is a formidable method of empowerment, and a road to financial security and a normal life.

• In addition, after their release from prison, these women will be supported in joining the National Association of Women Constructors in Bolivia which helps its members promote their services, find work opportunities, and eventually develop their own business.
Thank you!

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