

Recommendations in connection with the relocation of female detainees from the Prisons of Harku and Murru to Tallinn Prison

In connection with the relocation of female detainees from the Prisons of Harku and Murru to Tallinn Prison, the advisors of the Chancellor of Justice and the officials of Tallinn Prison and the Ministry of Justice met in Tallinn Prison on 21 March 2016.

Taking into account the information received at the meeting and having examined current situation in Tallinn Prison, the Chancellor of Justice made the following recommendations:

- the Tallinn Prison should renovate the residential building planned for women based on the needs of female detainees and consider the construction of daytime quarters in the residential building;
- minor detainees should not be placed in Tallinn Prison. In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, alternative solutions for detaining minors (e.g. use of the newly finished premises of the open prison of Tartu Prison) should be considered;
- Tallinn Prison should follow the principle of separation of women and men in creating the conditions for detaining female detainees. In connection therewith the joint education, work and participation in programs of men and women should be thought through thoroughly;
- Tallinn Prison should always and without exception avoid any contacts between minor female detainees and adult male detainees. This applies to education, work as well as participation in programs;
- Tallinn Prison should take into account the Mandela, Peking and Bangkok rules as the principles of the CPT standards upon forming the team attending to female detainees. It is important that the officials attending to female detainees (incl. minors) are aware of the greater vulnerability of women and minors, take into account their special needs and help to create a secure and trustful atmosphere in relationships between detainees and between detainees and the prison;
- in the bathroom, Tallinn Prison should create conditions that respect women's privacy and allow them to take care of themselves. To that end, the wardrobe should be equipped with a door and mirrors and hairdryers should be made available. To create opportunities for drying laundry in the residential wards, as well. Also, to create the opportunity to dry laundry outdoors in a place other than the one designated for smoking in the courtyard;
- Tallinn Prison should allow and organise as often as possible short meet-ups between female detainees and their family members, especially with minor children, without separation. Thereby the prison must take into account the needs of the children who have come for a meetup, e.g. ensure the availability of toys or equipment required for joint activities;
- to terminate the searching of the detainees, which involves undressing, in the cabins and rooms of the corridor of the building planned for female detainee work where there is not at least normal room temperature.