

DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY, MONITORING AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

Co-operation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty Division

Ms Aino Leppik von Wirén
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Estonia to
the Council of Europe
Email: mission.ce@mfa.ee

Ref ► DGI/TRH/MP/ma

Strasbourg, 29 July 2025

Dear Ambassador,

The Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe, and its Department on Deprivation of Liberty are organising a Multilateral meeting on ***“Women in prisons: Enhancing gender-sensitive prison policies and practices in Council of Europe Member States”***, to be held in Strasbourg, France, on 12-13 November 2025.

I would like to kindly ask you to nominate one participant, preferably from among senior prison officers or other professionals dealing with the topics relevant for the subject of the event, to attend the meeting. I would highly appreciate it if the name and the contact details of the nominated participant could be communicated to us as soon as possible, and **not later than Friday 12 September 2025**, at the following email address: PolicePrisons.Projects@coe.int

The aim of the meeting is to build on the standards developed by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) including on gender sensitive policies and practices in penitentiary systems as a continuation of the minimum framework set at the global level in the [Bangkok Rules](#) ; sharing best practices in different Council of Europe Member states, identifying gaps, and discussing further actions required to meet the specific needs of women in prison. It will focus on key issues aimed at improving both the treatment and rehabilitation of women offenders.

To provide for more ample opportunities to share experiences, insights and good practices, the **participants are encouraged to take active part in discussions or to make a brief presentation** of the current state of play regarding the current gender-sensitive policies and practices in the penitentiary systems of their countries and highlight the challenges they encounter.

The working languages of the Conference will be English and French with simultaneous interpretation provided.

This meeting is being organised within the programme of multilateral co-operation activities of the Council of Europe in the penitentiary field.

The travel and subsistence expenses for **one nominated participant** will be borne by the Council of Europe. If your authorities wish to nominate more than one participant, given the prison administration administrative set-up, we will be happy to welcome a second participant; however, the Council of Europe is not in the position to cover the travel and subsistence expenses of this second participant.

Please note that **the meeting will be held in hybrid format**.

All practical details concerning the meeting will be transmitted to the nominated participant(s) ahead of the event.

The person responsible for the meeting is Ms Marjana Papa, Programme manager in the Co-operation in Police and Deprivation of Liberty Division, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact her or the assistant by tel. +33 3 90 21 40 39 or by e-mail: marjana.papa@coe.int or marina.acha@coe.int

Yours sincerely,



Tanja Rakušić-Hadžić
Head of Division

Encl.: Concept note