

## **E-course: Women in Detention Putting the Bangkok Rules into practice 5 February 2014**

The adoption of the 2010 UN Bangkok Rules represents an important step forward in recognising the gender specific needs of women in the criminal justice system and providing the standards that should be applied in the treatment of such women. Until then, only a handful of provisions in existing standards specifically addressed the needs and characteristics of women and girls in the criminal justice system. The Bangkok Rules are also the first international instrument, which specifically addresses issues faced by children of incarcerated parents.

Now the challenge is to put these standards into practice. This entails the incorporation of the Bangkok Rules into domestic legislation, criminal procedural laws and prison rules, and their implementation in practice. Some rules may require additional resources, but the main investment needed is a change in awareness, attitude and practices. Therefore, training of criminal justice actors on the Rules is a key to their sensitisation in relation to the typical background of women offenders and in the implementation of the Bangkok Rules in practice.

Penal Reform International have developed a comprehensive free e-course, Women in Detention: putting the Bangkok Rules into practice, as part of a programme funded by the UK Government. It is self-directed and can be completed over days or even months depending on the learner's availability. It combines readings, case-studies, self-assessments, extra resources and brainstorming. Case studies enable the learner to apply the Bangkok Rules to 'real life' situations, and promising practice examples give inspiration. Upon completion of all 10 modules by successfully passing end-of-module quizzes, participants are issued with a certificate.

The course was developed with Human Rights Education Associates and is currently available in English, with Arabic and Russian versions coming in 2014. Enrol and watch a short video on the course at:  
<http://www.penalreform.org/resource/women-detention-putting-bangkok-rules-practice/>