

# SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE ON PROBATION

July 14 – 16 2015

PENAL REFORM INTERNATIONAL



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- > An independent non-governmental organisation promoting fair, effective and proportionate responses to criminal justice problems.
- > Promotes and implements international human rights standards
- > Advocacy, practical programmes and training
- > Information resources on PRI website:  
[www.penalreform.org](http://www.penalreform.org)



# PRI AIMS AND VALUES

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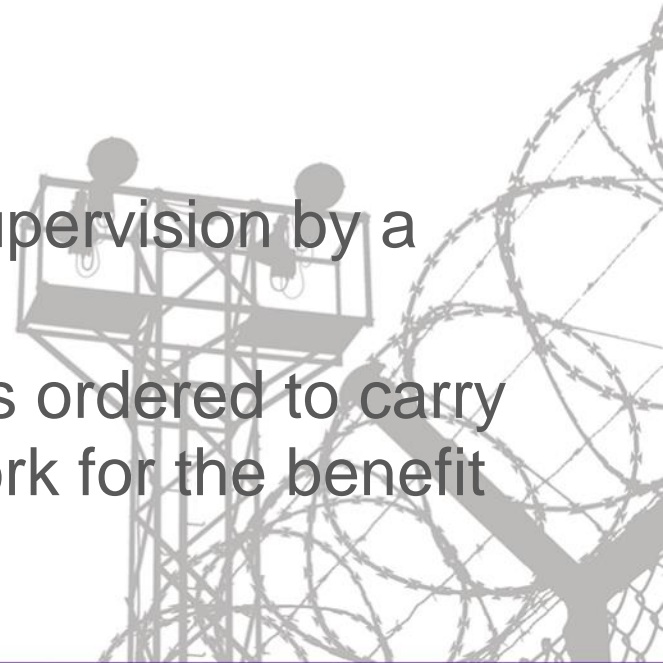
- > Reduce the unnecessary use of imprisonment
- > Support non-custodial sanctions
- > Prevent torture and abuse
- > Implement sensitive approach to women and children



# PRISON OVERCROWDING AND REDUCING CONGESTION

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- > Prison overcrowding is a problem all over the world
- > Causes of overcrowding: high rates of pre-trial detention and over-use of imprisonment as the default setting of the penal system
- > Alternative sanctions:-
  - Probation – a sentence requiring supervision by a probation officer in the community
  - Community service – the offender is ordered to carry out a number of hours of unpaid work for the benefit of the community



# Benefits of alternatives to prison

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- > Prisons as school for crime
- > Without support people will continue to re-offend
- > Prisons are damaging for prisoners' mental and physical health
- > Impact on families with a parent in prison

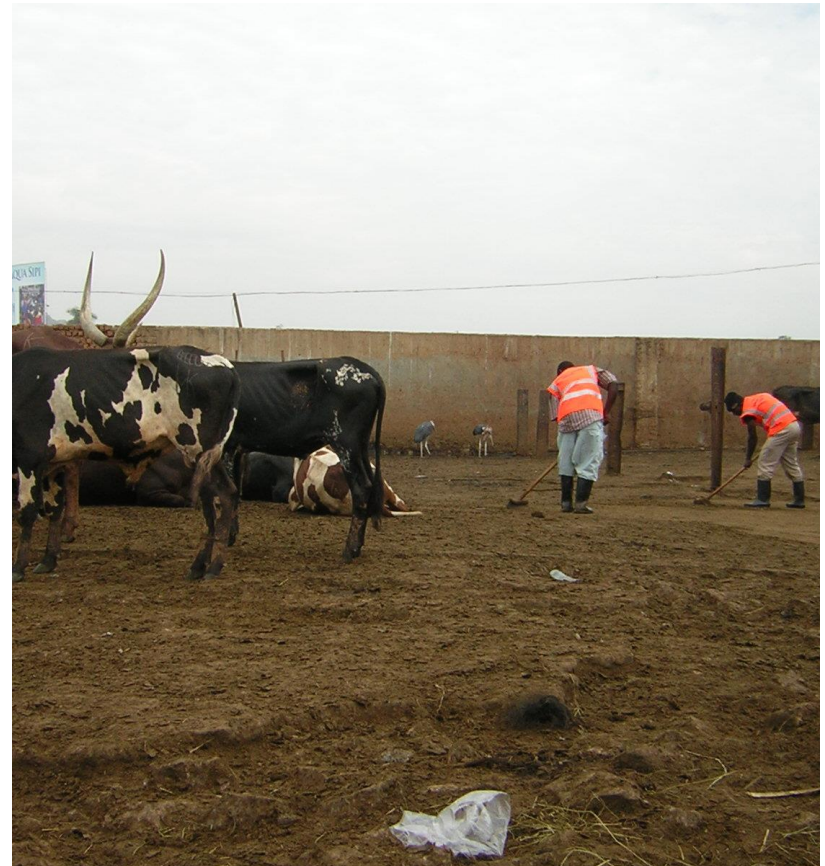




# Alternatives to detention in East Africa – overview of recent developments

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- > Partnering with probation and community services in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
- > Funding by UK Aid
- > Reviewing the use of probation and community service orders
- > Trends and Challenges report 2012
- > Findings and follow-up



# Recommendations for action

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- > Training new magistrates and judges
- > Identifying suitable candidates for alternatives
- > Improving implementation and enforcement of orders
- > Gaining public support



# Probation and Community Service in East Africa

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- > Kenya: Greatest use of alternative sentences and the best developed infrastructure. Between 2005 – 2010, 97% community service orders were completed successfully.
- > Uganda: Probation is only available for children but community service orders are available for adults.
- > Tanzania: Probation and community service orders are available on a similar model to Kenya (but fewer resources).