Covid-19 Response in Prisons

Description

Confronting the current situation about COVID-19 (the corona virus), in Kosovo specifically in the Kosovo Correctional Service we are taking concrete measures to prevent this virus.

1. Prohibition of visits to prisoners/detainees for a period of 2 or 3 weeks. (decision should then be reviewed, to make a decision to extend or terminate)
2. Allow inmates to call as per need.
3. Installing Skype Virtual Communication, so that Prisoner/detainee can communicate with families (avoiding protests).
4. Disinfection of all residential and yards in prisons.
5. Equipping staff in the entrance/reception with sterile masks and gloves (where prisoners are accepted)
6. Prohibition of weekends for prisoners.
7. Prohibition of transferring prisoners to other prisons inside the country.
8. Reduction of transport to Courts and Prosecutors only in urgent cases.
9. Suspension of sentencing people who are already chronically ill. The decision shall be taken by the Court based on our request.
10. Continual doctors’ control for staff control by Doctors located in Correctional / Detention Centers
11. Continual check-ups of inmates/detainees in case of any virus symptoms
12. Supplying prisons with hygienic material such as Shampoos, soaps and hand sanitizers. [this should be for prisoners’ purpose
13. Supply of hot water supply for 24 hours, inside prisons.
In case we have any infected persons within Correctional / Detention Centers
In this situation, the affected persons should be isolated at specific locations and all precautionary measures are to be taken.

As an additional measure to be taken:
1. Supply of sterile masks and gloves to all KCS staff and prisoners/detainees
2. Request to the Court for the temporary suspension of convictions for prisoners that use the Weekend Prisoners and Non-Recidivists (We Have 13-17% Recidivist in Prisons).
3. Forced leave for staff who are at older age and have any symptoms of any flu or any illness.
4. Extend the working hours for Correctional Officers based on operational needs.
5. Increase security measures inside prisons and at checkpoints.

Point of Contact
Ms. Pamela Wallace
Senior Corrections Advisor
Kosovo Correctional Service
pamela.wallace@icitap-ks.org
(+38345) 299137

Additional Covid-19 resources are available at: http://bit.ly/2U0oKLG
If you would like to send us information about Covid-19, please fill in this form: http://bit.ly/2WngiRH