

Study Guide of the

Human Rights Council

on

**Establishing and Enforcing the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of
Prisoners in national prisons globally.**



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WORD OF WELCOME

Honorable delegates,

We are thrilled to welcome you to this year's Human Rights Council at AUCMUN 2022!

Within the United Nations, the Human Rights Council offers a forum for the world's most pressing human rights issues. We believe – and we hope you agree – that we have found a very interesting issue for you to research, discuss, and debate.

As you are already aware, during the conference we will be addressing the treatment of prisoners in national prisons. The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners will serve as a guide to measure the extent to which action needs to be taken to ensure prisoner's security and human rights.

Although this is a complex and multifaceted issue, we trust that you will be able to deliver some interesting insights on the topic. The objective is for you to mobilize the knowledge you have in different disciplines in order to think critically about the issues and solutions.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to approach us.

Most importantly, remember that Model United Nations are the perfect place to improve your social skills and debating skills, as well as have fun :)

We are excited to meet you all and see your debates and resolutions!

Your chairs,

Frederic Bomke

Helena Pannetier

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

The lawful punishment of criminals, in order to protect a society from potential further harm, is undoubtedly an integral part of any criminal justice system. Such punishment can be imposed in multiple ways, such as disfranchisement, fines, or diversion. However, one of the most widespread punishments is incarceration, where the convict is sentenced to time in prison and certain personal rights and liberties are limited. Although imprisonment inherently denies the convict some rights as per the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, such as the Right to Freedom of Movement or Right to Vote, some very basic rights are still granted. These rights are defined by not legally binding documents and protected by multiple international treaties to ensure the humane treatment of inmates.¹ Inter alia, these treaties intend to secure the prisoners' access to sanitation, appropriate nutrition, and clothing of no degrading or humiliating nature, but also the possibility to get justice.

Worldwide, there are at least an estimated 11.5 million people held captive –an increase of 24% since 2000–, all of which should be protected by the mentioned treaties. 410,000 of these prisoners and detainees are children. The United States of America (2.069m), the People's Republic of China (1.690m), and the Federal Republic of Brazil (0.812m) have the highest prison populations worldwide. The USA also leads in prison population rate, at 629 prisoners per 100,000 population followed by the Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Turkmenistan at 580 and 576 respectively.²

Still, despite persistent efforts by the U.N., the rights of prisoners are continuously violated, as prisoners find themselves to be particularly vulnerable to abuse and ill-treatment. As a result, the physical and mental health of prisoners is severely impaired. For instance, a 1999 study of New Zealand's national prisons has revealed that 60% of all prisoners have at least one major personality disorder, especially for schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression,

¹ see III. Relevant Treaties and Events

² See United Nations surveys on crime trends and the operations of criminal justice systems (UN-CTS), complemented by data from the World Prison Brief, and the UN Global study on children deprived of liberty (A/74/136).

OCD and PTSD. Moreover, 90% of those with major mental disorders also showed a substance abuse disorder.³

Moreover, due to the nature and realities of justice systems around the world, this issue becomes very complex. Not only do the U.N. member states have very diverse forms of government, and therefore, justice systems, but the systems and infrastructure to report ill-treatment of prisoners is often poorly developed. Many prisoner rights violations are never investigated, let alone punished, both when prison staff or governments and when fellow inmates are guilty of violation. For instance, in 2018 several women's rights activists were detained in Saudi Arabia. The official reason for their arrest is based on a broad counterterrorism law. According to a human rights organisation^l, the activists were "repeatedly tortured by electrocution and flogging", yet denied their right to a lawyer or trial.⁴

a) Definitions of Key Terms

- ★ **Prison:** Any place or institution holding people awaiting trial, or those who have been convicted of a crime.
- ★ **Prisoner:** An individual incarcerated as a punishment for crime.
- ★ **Detainee:** A person incarcerated or otherwise held in custody, awaiting trial or conviction.
- ★ **Torture:** Any action intentionally inflicting severe pain or suffering, either physical or psychological, taken, instigated, or consented to by a person acting in an official capacity.

³ Simpson, A. I. F, P. M. J. Brinded, T. M. Laidlaw, N. Fairley, and F. Malcom. 1999. *The National Study of Psychiatric Morbidity in New Zealand Prisons: An Investigation of the Prevalence of Psychiatric Disorders among New Zealand Inmates*. New Zealand: Dept. of Corrections.

⁴ Amnesty International. 2018. 'Saudi Arabia: Reports of Torture and Sexual Harassment of Detained Activists', 20 November 2018. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/11/saudi-arabia-reports-of-torture-and-sexual-harassment-of->

Tanis, Fatma. 2021. 'Saudi Activist Who Led Campaign To Legalize Driving For Women Is Released From Jail'. *NPR*, 10 February 2021, sec. Middle East. <https://www.npr.org/2021/02/10/966258281/loujain-al-hathloul-saudi-activist-jailed-for-driving-has-been-released>.

- ★ **Enhanced Interrogation Techniques:** A synonym for torture coined by the United States of America, usually used in the context of U.S. organisations, such as the CIA.
- ★ **Consequence Management:** The coordination of measures taken, reacting to and reducing the impact of the effects of a security related incident.

b) Causes of Poor Prisoner Treatment

Next to the perhaps obvious causes of poor prisoner treatment, such as wartime prisons, there is a list of more complex issues, causing the such. Unfortunately, these causes are also far more widespread, as they are rooted in the fundamental architecture of many justice systems. This means that oftentimes, the factors elaborated on below are caused by a lack of resources and training in the criminal justice system.

This lack of resources becomes clear, studying the overcrowding of prisons around the world. Of all 206 countries recorded in the World Prison Brief, 119 countries run their prisons at more than 100% of their rated capacities, lead by the Republic of Congo at 616.9% occupancy rate.⁵ One particularly striking case is the La Sabaneta Prison located in Venezuela, housing 3700 detainees in a facility designed for 700. As a result, inmates are forced to sleep in hammocks on the hallways. Imaginably, this promotes the spread of disease and helplessly overloads the capacities of the staff. Therefore, staff will not be able to provide the basic needs any prisoner is entitled to.

Furthermore, such overcrowding epically promotes violence, as the density of prisoners makes it virtually impossible for staff to oversee the prison correctly, let alone step in if necessary. In fact, often times staff consciously decides not to step to not put their own wellbeing in danger. However, staff indifference is an issue beyond overcrowded prisons. Many factors promote staff indifference, even in well equipped prisons. These may include a low salary, little opportunity for promotion, a lack of adequate training, and the fact that prison staff often goes unpunished for their actions. Especially the latter, namely lack of consequence management promotes violence amongst inmates, and by staff. The result is that prison staff ignores cases of violence and abuse or even become abusive themselves.

⁵ Fair, Helen, and Roy Walmsley. 2021. 'World Prison Population List'. World Prison Brief, Insitute for Crime & Justice Policy Research. https://www.prisonstudies.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/world_prison_population_list_13th_edition.pdf.

Additionally, even prisons which are not overcrowded are often underfunded leading to a shortage in critical supplies, such as food, medical supplies, or facilities such as proper ventilation and sanitation. Especially the lack of medical supplies is partial cause of the skyrocketing numbers in HIV cases in prisons, compared to the populations at large.⁶

c) Case study: Venezuela



Through the case study of Venezuela, we hope to illustrate the gravity and urgency in both establishing and reinforcing the Standard Minimum rules for the treatment of Prisoners.

Venezuela is known for its unstable and political context. That being said, the establishment and conditions of Venezuelan prisons lie on similar grounds. From the

Sabaneta prison massacre of 1996 to the recent shooting of 47 prisoners in the Los Llanos prison (2020), Venezuela is home to some of the most violent prisoner rights violations in the world. Through this short case study, we will point out some of the most violations to the SMR.

Overcrowding



First and foremost, overcrowding has become a significant issue. According to the NGO 'A window to Liberty' the overcrowding in Venezuelan jails ranged from 800 to 1,200 percent. In prisons such as Los Llanos, according to a Reuters article "prisoners slept in shacks 'like dogs' as there was no space in cells".⁷ In other prisons such as La Sabaneta (closed in 2011), inmates routinely slept two or three to a bed or even on floors as well as passageways.

Unsanitary conditions and food shortages



⁶ 'HIV in Prisons'. n.d. Accessed 8 March 2022. <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/communicable-diseases/hiv-aids/policy/policy-guidance-for-key-populations-most-at-risk2/hiv-in-prisons>.

The overcrowding of prisons leads to other inhumane consequences. Infact, a significant amount of deaths are caused by general unsanitary and unsafe conditions, including inadequate nutrition and lack of potable water. On top of that, the amount of prisoners in Venezuelan facilities encourages the spread of diseases: including respiratory diseases and the Covid-19 pandemic. That being said, the Covid-19 pandemic has worsened these cases. In prisons such as the Los Llanos prison, prisoners depend upon their family to supply them with food, water, medicine and any necessary products for hygiene and survival. That is primarily because of the lack of medical care, drugs and equipment available for inmates. Which in itself, is already a violation to the SMR. However, the pandemic suspended family visits to prisons and detention centers on April 2 due to the pandemic. As you can imagine, this only worsened the conditions of prisoners and resulted in prisoners having to eat stray animals.⁸ Actually, in the Los Llanos prison, this led to the protest of inmates on May 1st, which resulted in the massacre of 47 prisoners and the injury of 75.

Use of systemic violence



The countless violent incidents in Venezuelan prisons emerge from a host of other chronic problems, as we have discussed above. However, we must keep in mind that corruption also plays a crucial role in this. That being said, already in 1997 a weekly average of 4 deaths amongst prisoners was reported, as well as over 20 injuries. Today, although it is particularly difficult to obtain official data, prisons remain a harsh environment for inmates. On the one hand, the inmates abuse each other on the basis of “only the strong survive”.⁹ On a regular bases the weakest prisoners are mistreated, beaten and raped. On the other hand, violence is also orchestrated by guards who physically abuse prisoners. During the massacre in Los Llanos, prisoners were “shot down” by the guards and soldiers present during the incident.

Mixing of women, men and minors together



Although separate facilities exist in the country for both men and women as well as minor prisoners, law enforcement often mixes all types of inmates together. That is once again, because of overcrowding and lack of necessary facilities. These situation encourage abuse and rape of minors and women.

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To conclude, we can confidently say that in Venezuela, countless numbers of rules from the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners are being violated on a daily basis. However, we must not forget that Venezuela is not an isolated case. All in all, the inhumane conditions of Venezuelan prison find their roots in the weak and corrupt political system of the country.

d) Case study: United States of America

In the United States of America, prisoners' protection from physical harm and sexual assault is a constitutional right. Therefore, the obligation to ensure prisoner safety is actually legally binding.

Solitary Confinement

Solitary confinement is the locking of a prisoner in a cell for 23 hours of the day, deprived of all environmental stimulation. Prisoners are only allowed to leave for shower runs, food, and minimal exercise. In some cases, such as at Wisconsin's Supermax Correctional Institution (Boscobel, Wisconsin), some of these leaves are denied too. In other words, prisoners are socially isolated and forced to idle. The cells, usually only one to two square meters in size, are illuminated for 24 hours a day, visits are denied, personal possessions are heavily restricted, and no heating or air conditioning leads to extreme temperature fluctuations.¹⁰

The use of solitary confinement in the USA is nothing new. In fact, modern correctional facilities in the USA virtually always had solitary confinement cells to punish prisoners for violating prison rules. These facilities go by many names, such as supermax, secured housing units (SHU), special management units (SMU), or administrative segregation. Colloquially, they are often just referred to as "the hole". What has changed in recent years, however, is the excessive use of solitary confinement, especially as a long-term consequence management strategy, as opposed to the short-term it was designed for.

A stunning example of this is the Tamms Correctional Center in Illinois, where an investigation has revealed 54 prisoners being in solitary confinement for more than 10 years consecutively – some even longer.¹¹

¹⁰ Kurki, Leena, and Norval Morris. "The Purposes, Practices, and Problems of Supermax Prisons." *Crime and Justice* 28 (2001): 385–424. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1147678>.

Jones v. Berge, 00-C-0421-C (W.D. Wis. Mar. 8, 2002)

¹¹ United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on the Judiciary. Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights. 2012. *Reassessing Solitary Confinement: The Human Rights, Fiscal, and Public Safety Consequences: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil*

Psychologists are in overwhelming agreement over the harmful effects of long-term solitary confinement, both for those with and without history of mental illness. The list of negative effects is long but the Supreme Court of the United States commented on solitary confinement as follows:

“A considerable number of the prisoners fell, after even a short confinement, into a semi-fatuous condition, from which it was next to impossible to arouse them, and others became violently insane; others still, committed suicide; while those who stood the ordeal better were generally not reformed, and in most cases did not recover sufficient mental activity to be of any subsequent service to the community.”¹²

Additionally, physical abuse towards those placed in solitary confinement, such as restraint, violence, chemical agents, and use of tasers, is often raised, seeing as the isolated solitary confinement units are more difficult to monitor. Also, the correctional officers’ conviction that solitary confinement is reserved for the most dangerous criminals fosters apathy and leads to said officers often “turning a blind eye”.¹³

Effects of Privatization in the Correctional Sector

In the United States, there is a rapid growth in private correctional facilities. In fact, the number of people housed in private facilities grows more than 5 times faster than the total prison population.¹⁴ Especially immigrants are commonly detained privately, with 73% of immigrant detention centers being privately owned.¹⁵

Rights and Human Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, One Hundred Twelfth Congress, Second Session, June 19, 2012. J-112-80. U.S. Government Printing Office. P. 533.

¹² In Re Medley. 1890. U.S. Supreme Court.

¹³ Kurki, Leena, and Norval Morris. “The Purposes, Practices, and Problems of Supermax Prisons.” *Crime and Justice* 28 (2001): 385–424. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1147678>.

‘Buried Alive: Solitary Confinement in Arizona’s Prisons and Jails’. 2010. American Friends Service Committee. 29 March 2010. <https://www.afsc.org/document/buried-alive-solitary-confinement-arizona%E2%80%99s-prisons-and-jails>.

¹⁴ Ann Carson, E. 2018. ‘Prisoners in 2016’. NCJ 251149. U.S. Department of Justice. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/p16.pdf>.

¹⁵ ‘New Information from ICE ERO’s July Facility List’. 2017. Detention Watch Network, Center for Constitutional Rights.

Privatizing incarceration facilities has stark implications on the treatment of prisoners, largely related to the fact that prisoners tend to be regarded commodities rather than individuals. Also, rationalization impairs the recruitment, retention, and training of qualified staff. The Standard Minimum Rules (see IV. a)) state in rule 74, 3.:

“To secure the foregoing ends, personnel shall be appointed on a fulltime basis as professional prison staff and have civil service status with security of tenure subject only to good conduct, efficiency and physical fitness. Salaries shall be adequate to attract and retain suitable men and women; employment benefits and conditions of service shall be favourable in view of the exacting nature of the work.”¹⁶

However, private prisons readily do not meet these requirements. Since officers and other personnel in private correctional facilities do not enjoy the protection and stability of civil service, private facilities have 3 to 12 times higher employee turnovers and attrition.¹⁷ Wages show a similar pattern, being consistently lower in private prisons, when compared to public facilities, both when analyzing base pay and fringe benefits. Lastly, poor working conditions and very low staff-to-inmate ratios create low incentives for prison personnel to remain in their positions and execute their jobs with the required integrity.¹⁸

Next, prison staff are often trained inadequately, receiving 35% less training hours prior to service, reducing the correctional facilities' expenses.¹⁹ Private facilities also tend to employ inexperienced staff with no prior experience in correction.

Having unsafe and generally poor working conditions, next to training below standards, means that staff often does not approach prisoners with the necessary dignity. In cases of violence,

¹⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. 2016. 'Resolution 70/175: The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)'. A/RES/70/175. United Nations.

¹⁷ Coyle, Andrew, Allison Campbell, and Rodney Neufeld. 2003. *Capitalist Punishment: Prison Privatization & Human Rights*. Atlanta (Ga.): Clarity press.

Camp, C. G., and G. M. Camp. 2000. *Corrections Yearbook 2000: Private Prisons*. NCJ 189196. U.S. Department of Justice.

¹⁸ Austin, J., and G. Coventry. 2001. 'Emerging Issues on Privatized Prisons'. U.S. Department of Justice. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bja/181249.pdf>.

¹⁹ Camp, C. G., and G. M. Camp. 2000. *Corrections Yearbook 2000: Private Prisons*. NCJ 189196. U.S. Department of Justice.

staff has a greater incentive to turn a blind eye, in order to reduce their workload and protect themselves.

II. MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS

A. Human Rights Watch

Established in 1978, Human Rights Watch (HRW) is a non-governmental organization researching and writing reports on global or local human rights issues. Moreover, they campaign and lobby, sometimes in collaboration with other organizations and NGOs, to promote and establish policies protecting human rights. Most relevant to the issue at hand is the “Human Rights Watch Prison Project” of 1987, aiming to lobby governments into enforcing the rights of prisoners according to international treaties, conventions, and laws.

B. Amnesty International

Similar to the HRW, Amnesty International is an NGO, aiming to uncover human rights violations and motivate action to suppress such violations. Additionally, they support violated individuals on their journey to receive justice. Particular to this topic is the 1984 “12-point Programme for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by Agents of the State”.²⁰ The latest, twice revised version is from 2005.

C. United States of America

Set apart by one of the highest prison populations, both in absolute and in per-capita terms, the U.S. is one of the most relevant countries to this issue. Decisions made by U.S. institutions are almost certainly setting precedent in the field of criminal justice and correction and will influence decisions made by other countries. Still, the U.S. correctional facilities have been critiqued on many occasions, not only by the HRW and Amnesty International, but also, for instance, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Next to concerns over violence, mediocre medical care, abuse of the mentally ill, as well as those issues already discussed, the U.S.A. is frequently confronted with the extreme human rights violations in the Guantanamo Bay prison.

D. World Health Organization

²⁰ ‘Amnesty International’s 12-Point Programme for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by Agents of the State’. 2005. Amnesty International. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/act400012005en.pdf>.

As a subsidiary institution to the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO) specializes in the promotion of improvements in public health. In terms of prisons, the WHO aims to improve the accessibility and quality of medical help. A special focus lies on the suppression of sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV, but also diseases like hepatitis B. The WHO is also engaged in making the prevalent use of drugs in prisons more safe.

III. RELEVANT TREATIES AND RESOLUTIONS

a) The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMR).

The discussion regarding the standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners took place for the first time at the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, in 1955. However, the 122 rules were officially approved in 1957 and 1977. These rules set out what is generally accepted as being good principles and practices in the treatment of prisoners and the management of institutions. In other words, they are the minimum conditions which are accepted as suitable by the United Nations.

The rule guide is divided in two distinct parts:

Part I: addressing the general management of institutions.

Here are some examples of the rules included in this part.

Rule 6. (1) "The following rules shall be applied impartially. There shall be no discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

Rule 6. (2) "On the other hand, it is necessary to respect the religious beliefs and moral precepts of the group to which a prisoner belongs."

Rule 8. "The different categories of prisoners shall be kept in separate institutions or parts of institutions taking account of their sex, age, criminal record, the legal reason for their detention and the necessities of their treatment."

Rule 20. (1) "Every prisoner shall be provided by the administration at the usual hours with food of nutritional value adequate for health and strength, of wholesome quality and well prepared and served."

Rule 20. (2) "Drinking water shall be available to every prisoner whenever he needs it."

Rule 27. "Discipline and order shall be maintained with firmness, but with no more restriction than is necessary for safe custody and well-ordered community life."

Rule 30. (1) "No prisoner shall be punished except in accordance with the terms of such law or regulation, and never twice for the same offence."

Rule 30. (2) "No prisoner shall be punished unless he has been informed of the offence alleged against him and given a proper opportunity of presenting his defence."

Rule 31. "Corporal punishment, punishment by placing in a dark cell, and all cruel, inhuman or degrading punishments shall be completely prohibited as punishments for disciplinary offences."

Rule 39. "Prisoners shall be kept informed regularly of the more important items of news by the reading of newspapers, periodicals or special institutional publications, by hearing wireless transmissions, by lectures or by any similar means as authorized or controlled by the administration."

Rule 54. (1) "Officers of the institutions shall not, in their relations with the prisoners, use force except in self-defence or in cases of attempted escape, or active or passive physical resistance to an order based on law or regulations."

Part II: the rules applicable only to special categories including prisoners awaiting trial, civil prisoners, insane and mentally abnormal prisoners and others.

Here are some examples of the rules included in this part:

Rule 71. (1) "Prison labour must not be of an afflictive nature."

Rule 75. (1) "The maximum daily and weekly working hours of the prisoners shall be fixed by law or by administrative regulation, taking into account local rules or custom in regard to the employment of free workmen."

Rule 84. (2) "Unconvicted prisoners are presumed to be innocent and shall be treated as such."

If you wish to review in depth these rules, you may take a look at:

https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/UN_Standard_Minimum_Rules_for_the_Treatment_of_Prisoners.pdf

b) The Nelson Mandela Rules: a continuation.

In December 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the revised rules as the “[United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners](#)”. As per the recommendation of the Expert Group, the revised rules are to be known as "the Nelson Mandela Rules" to honor the legacy of the late President of South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who spent 27 years in prison in the course of his struggle for global human rights, equality, democracy and the promotion of a culture of peace.

Full version of the Nelson Mandela rules:

https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/GA-RESOLUTION/E_ebook.pdf

c) The Tokyo Rules: The Standard Minimum rules for non-custodial measures.

The Tokyo rules were adopted later than the Mandela rules. In fact, it was not before 1990 that the general assembly set out these basic principles in order to “promote the use of non-custodial measures, as well as minimum safeguards for persons subject to alternatives to imprisonment.

Full version of the Tokyo Rules:

<https://www.ohchr.org/documents/professionalinterest/tokyorules.pdf>

d) Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners

The BPTP principles were adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations by 1990.

The principles are as follows:

1. All prisoners shall be treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings.
2. There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
3. It is, however, desirable to respect the religious beliefs and cultural precepts of the group to which prisoners belong, whenever local conditions so require.

4. The responsibility of prisons for the custody of prisoners and for the protection of society against crime shall be discharged in keeping with a State's other social objectives and its fundamental responsibilities for promoting the well-being and development of all members of society.
5. Except for those limitations that are demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, all prisoners shall retain the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and, where the State concerned is a party, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as such other rights as are set out in other United Nations covenants.
6. All prisoners shall have the right to take part in cultural activities and education aimed at the full development of the human personality.
7. Efforts addressed to the abolition of solitary confinement as a punishment, or to the restriction of its use, should be undertaken and encouraged.
8. Conditions shall be created enabling prisoners to undertake meaningful remunerated employment which will facilitate their reintegration into the country's labour market and permit them to contribute to their own financial support and to that of their families.
9. Prisoners shall have access to the health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation.
10. With the participation and help of the community and social institutions, and with due regard to the interests of victims, favourable conditions shall be created for the reintegration of the ex-prisoner into society under the best possible conditions.
11. The above Principles shall be applied impartially.

Full version of the Basic Principles:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/basicprinciplestreatmentofprisoners.aspx>

e) Other relevant resolution and treaties:

- UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

- UN Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment

IV. CONCLUSION

Having analyzed how and why prisoners are mistreated, and, curiously, how their proper treatment is defined, there are some additional resources you may want to refer to to deepen your understanding of the topic:

Understand the differences between the Minimum standard rules and the Nelson Mandela rules:
https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Brochure_on_the_UN_SMRs.pdf

International legal standards for the protection of persons deprived of their liberty:
<https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/training9chapter8en.pdf>

Prison and Health by the WHO:
https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/249188/Prisons-and-Health.pdf

Covid-19 and prisons by Amnesty International:
<https://www.amnesty.nl/content/uploads/2021/03/Forgotten-Behind-Bars-REPORT.pdf?x55331>
<https://www.hrw.org/legacy/advocacy/prisons/abuses.htm>

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