

# ROUNDTABLE ON CIVIL SOCIETY & CORPORATE PARTICIPATION IN PRISONS

ORGANIZED BY COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (CHRI) & RAJASTHAN STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (RSHRC)



17<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

Patel Bhavan, Officers Training School, HCM Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur



The Prison Reforms Programme of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) jointly with Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission (RSHRC) organised a one day roundtable on 'Civil Society and Corporate Participation in Prisons' on 17th February 2014. The panel of speakers consisted of Dr. M.K. Devarajan, Member of the RSHRC, Ms. Maja Daruwala, Director of CHRI, Mr. R.K. Saxena, Retd. IG Prison, Rajasthan and Mr. Nigel Akkara, Entrepreneur, Kolkata Facilities Management. This was held over the issues regarding prison reforms in Rajasthan where CHRI has been working for the last four years. Over thirty civil society groups and six corporates, from the districts of Jaipur, Ajmer and Jodhpur from Rajasthan and from Delhi, took part during the interactive sessions to discuss civil and corporate interventions in prisons.

Dr. Devarajan shared the manifold impacts of collaborations spearheaded by the Tamil Nadu D.G. Prisons, Mr J.K. Tripathy, with NGOs and corporates on cultivating skills. The Tamil Nadu prisoner re-integration plan combined the psychological, emotional and the economic rebuilding of the prisoner. The 'Adopt a Prisoner Programme' with civil society groups, a 'Reformation Partner Program' with the Confederation of Indian Industries for intensive reformation and centres of excellence in prisons, 'Modular Employable Schemes' for immediate employability of prisoners and MoU driven multi-skill training programmes were some of the attractive features of the Tamil Nadu Prison Department's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiative.

The initiative of the southern state sparked enthusiasm as well as concerns from the participants on prison wages and problems regarding the strictly defined CSR mandates that make it practically difficult for corporates to invest in vocational training in prisons or their reintegration. Ms. Deepshika Malhotra from Divyajyoti Jagriti Sansthan pointed out, corporates find it difficult to support short stay homes for released women prisoners. This is in spite of women prisoners having a certain skill base. Mr Mahitosh from Gravis made



it clear that the women prisoners whose skill development they engage with, as they do in Jaipur, are far better than ordinary tailors.

As the Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce was well represented in the consultation with participation from the Hon. Secretary General of the Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce, Mr K.L. Jain, and several of its members, they helped to address the CSR policy bottleneck. The Hon. Secretary General said that the list of areas where CSR investment may be done does not yet have prisoners' livelihoods as a priority area and that he intended to take up the issue of budget, raw materials and equal wages with the 74 corporates with whom it has signed MoUs and publicise the matter in their magazine. In order to take the idea forward Ms Maja Daruwala and Mr R.K. Saxena impressed upon him the need to institutionalise his concern and ideas through a nodal cell and rotating fund in Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce, taking into account the needs of prisoners as well the restrictions inside jail. Mr. Gyan Prakash from FICCI, Rajasthan was categorical that the Government should provide clarity for corporates whether schemes for prisoners reintegration may be included under community development projects. Ms Meena Mathur from the Society for Public Affairs said that there were numerous Industrial Training Institutes associated with the Confederation of Indian Industries who could be tapped for prisoners within a PPP model. The only reason prison has not been considered as an area of exploration is because no one has raised it as a potential place. She took the initiative of raising this issue in one of the directorate meetings at CII. Mr. Naveen Sharma from the Rajasthan Skills and Livelihoods Mission made a critical mention of the inclusion of support for jail inmates in their new schemes.

Responding to the civil society concern on exploitative prison wages being counter-productive to re-integration, a concern parallel to that for rehabilitation, the SHRC pointed to the recent Rajasthan High Court order on equal minimum wages which would rightfully govern the matter.

A heartfelt testimony was heard from speaker Mr. Nigel Akkara on his personal transformation and difficulties in reintegration into society upon release from one of West



Bengal's correctional homes. Reformation is no use without rehabilitation, he said, and that is something only the government can undertake as it involves scale. All prisons, he added, should benefit from becoming "correctional homes" rather than creating an environment of recidivism for prisoners.

Mr. Akkara's testimony created discussions around the right to have medical assistance inside jails, an area where the Indian Medical Association, was direly needed; the need to combine forces for a Correctional Prisons Act in Rajasthan and in this context the pending Rajasthan Prisons Bill, 2001 was discussed by the groups present. Dr. Manjul Mehta, Indian Medical Association, while acknowledging the critical role of his association towards meeting the legal right of a prisoner to have free medical treatment, added that adequate representatives of the government must be present where discussions over prison policy, such as passing the Rajasthan Prison Bill, are being conducted. Ms. Kritika from Divyajyoti Jagriti Sansthan showed their keen interest to initiate reintegration work in Rajasthan jails.

That merely a few corporates and civil society groups are to be found working in prisons was felt reflective of society's overall lack of social responsibility towards prisoners. In that regard, Mr. Saxena rightly said, "Society creates as many criminals as it deserves." He pointed to the dwindling prison industry in Rajasthan. Where, once upon a time, textiles, particularly floor coverings (*dari* and *carpets*), had been an important jail produce, it has now virtually disappeared from the scene. Considering that 17000 prisoners enter the prison system on a daily basis in Rajasthan, he rightly asked if the Prison Department could assign a DIG to the task of upgrading vocational skills, training and marketing, and, importantly, whose ACR could be evaluated by the efforts made for civil society participation in this area. Nigel Akkara suggested that corporate involvement in prison industry should be certified under a Work Opportunity Trade Credit (WOTC) system for building incentive for intervention in prisons.

Sister Mariola from Prison Ministry expressed concern how to hold accountable borstal schools and other detention homes which let trade tools rot when they could easily be



used to impart vocational skills to inmates. She raised the important question why the government was not appointing them as Non-Official Visitors for prisons. Mr. Saxena emphasized that the Prison Visiting System needs to open up to such inclusion with identity cards for NOVs and scope for surprise visits to jails. The lack of substantive criteria of their appointment was raised as a problem by Ms Maja Daruwala as currently the only specifications were 'an interest in prisons' and 'an ability to write own report'.

The abysmal infrastructural conditions inside jails and court lockups was vociferously pointed out as an area of improvement by Mrs Ladkumari Jain, currently the President of the Rajasthan University Women's Association (RUWA) and earlier ex-Chairperson of the State Women's Commission.

Ms Maja Daruwala, gave a rights framework to the work with prisoners and stated this to be wider than a welfare and humanitarian approach. It is mandatory, she said, for those working with prisoners, be it through vocational activities, counselling, spirituality work, creative-cultural work or family connect, to have some knowledge of the law, the jail administrative procedures and the constraints of jail officers. At the same time, she said, there must be no pretensions about the lines of co-operation actually available between civil society, corporates and prisons. Obviously, a lot of work needs to be done here.

In the interactive session that followed on the openness of prisons and rights of prisoners and civil society, various other concerns than those of re-integration were addressed, significant amongst them being access to jails, the 'mulaqat' system, counselling and therapy for prisoners, medical services, the Prison Visiting System comprising a Board of Visitors and a set of Non Official Visitors for each jail, the Periodic Review Committee set up in the state for monthly review of undertrial cases in every prison, the use of the Right to Information Act, 2005, and the enactment of the Rajasthan Prison Bill.

Ms. Kavita Srivastava from the Peoples Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) stressed on an 'integrative' framework where openness of prison administration needs to precede corporate engagement, and where the latter cannot happen without the former. The priority, she said, must be to see the prisoner as 'human being', and strongly insisted on



improving the 'mulaqat' system for poorer prisoners and said that political will needs to be generated through the right kind of advocacy to improve socio-legal assistance to them. Mr. Hitesh Mishra from Help Aim India Sansthan suggested mobilising the State Bar Council to facilitate entry of young lawyers into jails on a regular basis. Cautioning indiscriminate entry of private lawyers into jails that could hinder free and fair access of prisoners to the legal system, CHRI Prison Reform Program representative, Sana Das informed the civil society gathering about the existence of the Jail Visiting Lawyers scheme of State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) under which lawyers have been appointed in every district to visit jails weekly to identify needy cases for representation. It was shared that as CHRI runs a legal aid clinic inside Jodhpur Central Jail it is able to monitor the functioning of the scheme and several other similar ones involving jail paralegals appointed by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

Mr Nigel Akkara brought up the use and usefulness of RTI in prisons. He shared how he filed periodic RTIs in the jails of West Bengal in order to identify prisoners on the verge of release from jail so that they could be inducted into the rehabilitation initiative spearheaded by him. Ms. Mrinal Sharma, from CHRI's Prison Reform Program, also mentioned the need for proactive disclosure on the part of prisons for the purpose of aiding groups inside and outside jail. RTI was definitely seen as a resource for civil society groups interested in being more useful to prison population.

On the challenges of reintegration of prisoners Ms. Kavita Srivastava mentioned the need for a study to assess the different skills available inside the jails. Ms. Nishat Hussein from the National Muslim Women's Welfare Society emphasized that special needs and vulnerabilities of women need to be taken into consideration in any prison initiative. Dr. Rachna from Serve Samman, working on mental health and counselling and even police reform, asked if CSR resources could be used for counselling centres inside jail. The Indian Medical Association's President, Mr S.S. Agarwal, had mentioned at the outset itself that the IMA having a strength of 3.5 lakh allopathic doctors around the country could be of assistance to the prison system in making prisoners psychologically and socially



productive. Antarkranti representatives already working actively on reintegration pointed to levels of counselling needs depending on the type of offender. Dr. Rachna also indicated towards the training needs of prison staff for them to be more effective in this area.

CHRI representatives emphasized that CSOs must familiarise themselves with the legal mandates of the different monitoring and jail oversight bodies such as the *Avadhik Samiksha Samiti* (PRC) and the Prison Visiting System (PVS) and distinguish their respective ambits and powers from informal visits made to meet individual prisoners. For instance, checking infrastructural conditions would be directly covered under the duties of Non-Official Visitors comprising the civilian prison visiting system, while the *Avadhik Samiksha Samiti* (PRC) would address long detentions of undertrial prisoners. It was pointed out the *Avadhik Samiksha Samiti* (PRC), if held regularly, would help to mitigate overcrowding of prisons and, therefore, prison functionaries should be thoroughly facilitating the monthly reviews of undertrial cases rather than playing a passive role.

The State Human Rights Commission Member, Mr Devarajan, stated that with the help of a report from this consultation he could support the civil society efforts in advocating with political representatives like the Minister of Jails/the Home Minister of the State for furthering the cause of prisoners' rights not only with regard to issues like their production in court through adequate jail escorts and making oversight systems effective, which they have been monitoring, but the range of issues raised on re-integration raised in the consultation.

By the end of the interactive sessions, the civil society participants came to agree that joint meetings should be held in future with the same body of people, for more discussions on strategies to create a stronger impact and support to prison reforms work in Rajasthan.



## Way to Go: Commitments Made for Civil Society & Corporate Participation in Prison

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### Policies

- Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce to dialogue with its corporate members for the channelizing of CSR funds for a sustainable prison industry and prisoners' reintegration through a nodal agency and rotating fund
- Government and Prison Department to be motivated to make use of various Public-Private Partnership options for industrial training in jails
- Civil society participants to advocate with the Home Department and State Assembly for a Correctional Act in the state by reviving discussions around the pending Rajasthan Prison Bill
- Government and Prison Department to Strengthen the Prison Visiting System with inclusion of civil society members
- Civil society groups to advocate with the State Government for new prison rules for a more substantive appointment criteria for Non Official Visitors (NOVs)
- Civil society groups to advocate with the State Government to form the Board of Visitors (BOVs) for all jails
- Civil society groups to advocate with the State Government and Prison Department for regularization of the *Avadhik Samiksha Samiti* (PRC) review meetings for undertrials

### Services

- Civil society groups to assist Prison Department in improving the '*mulaqat*' system
- Civil society groups to assist Prison Department in providing free medical assistance and counselling services inside jail



## BEHIND BARS BUT NOT BEYOND JUSTICE



- Civil society expert groups like Serve Samman and CHRI to assist Prison Department in the orientation of prison staff through counselling and training on laws and standards of custodial treatment
- Civil Society groups will impress upon Government and corporates to invest in short stay homes for released women prisoners
- Civil Society groups will impress upon Government and Prison Department to improve official access to civil society members to enter jails to provide socio-legal assistance to prisoners
- Indian Medical Association to provide free medical assistance in Rajasthan Jails through its doctors
- Divyajyoti will initiate reintegration activities for prisoners in Rajasthan Jails

### **Advocacy, Capacity Building & Facilitation**

- State Human Rights Commission both independently and in partnership with CHRI and other civil society groups will lead policy change initiatives with the Government
- CHRI will conduct regular orientations for civil society actors on prison laws and prison monitoring
- PUCL, with coordination support from National Muslim Women's Welfare Society, will convene monthly meetings on prison reform where CHRI and other civil society groups will have a platform to discuss prison policies and prisoners' rights.

## SUGGESTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

Name of the Participant	Name of the department	Address	Suggestions
 <p><b>Dr. S.S. Aggarwal</b></p>	Indian Medical Association Jaipur	Mobile: 09414071676 Email id: <a href="mailto:swasthyajp1@gmail.com">swasthyajp1@gmail.com</a>	<p><b>A.</b> The large body of doctors who are members of the IMA can once again provide service to prisoners as they earlier used to in Jaipur Central Jail <b>B.</b> The socio-psychic orientation of prisoners should be a priority for corporates and NGO and efforts should be taken to enhance it.</p>
 <p><b>Dr. Manjul Mehta</b></p>	Indian Medical Association (HQs.)	Mobile: 09810599150 Email: <a href="mailto:drmanjulmehta@yahoo.co.in">drmanjulmehta@yahoo.co.in</a>	<p><b>A.</b> Prisoners should be provided medical assistance. There should be free check-ups definitely at the time of entry and later, periodically, for any injuries or detection of any chronic ailments. <b>B.</b> Involve more government officials in such civil society consultations having policy implications</p>

 <p><b>Mr. AK Godika</b></p>	<p>Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce and Industry</p>	<p>Chamber Bhawan, M.I.Road Jaipur- 302 003 (Raj.) INDIA Tel : +91-141-2565163, 2567899, 2574714, 2562189 Fax : +91-141-2561419 Email: info@rajchamber.com</p>	<p>Conducted a Training of Trainers to impart skills to prisoners. They have now become service providers in jails and can be utilised further.</p>
 <p><b>Mr. K.L. Jain</b></p>	<p>Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce and Industry</p>	<p>Chamber Bhawan, M.I.Road Jaipur- 302 003 (Raj.) INDIA Tel : +91-141-2565163, 2567899, 2574714, 2562189 Fax : +91-141-2561419 Email: info@rajchamber.com</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Chamber of Commerce can have discussions with the corporates with which it has signed MOUs to consider prison industry as an area of CSR investment <b>B.</b> Broader policy initiatives can be undertaken by Chamber of Commerce to change the CSR policy which is currently silent on investment in prisons</p>
 <p><b>Mr. Ashish Modi</b></p>	<p>Confederation of Indian Industry</p>	<p>3, Shivaji Nagar, Civil Lines, Jaipur-302 006 Rajasthan, India Mobile- 9783333008 Phone : +91-141-2221441 / 2221442 Fax :+91-141-2221411 Email Id: ashish.modi@cii.in</p>	
<p><b>Naveen Sharma, DGM</b></p>	<p>Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation</p>	<p>J-8-A, EMI Campus, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jhalana Doongri, Jaipur, Rajasthan 3020049829793777 Email ID: naveensharma777@gmail.com</p>	<p>It is possible within their schemes to fund vocational training schemes for prisoners. They have recently initiated an agriculture training for prisoners in Jaipur Central Jail</p>

 <p><b>Mr. Gyan Prakash</b></p>	<p>FICCI Rajasthan State Council</p>	<p>A-27, Shanti Path, Tilak Nagar, Jaipur M: 09829036959 <a href="mailto:gyan1954@gmail.com">gyan1954@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>Corporates want to work on this subject. However, with no clarity from Government of India on inclusion of prisoner/prison in 'community development' it is difficult to harness their energies into it. Therefore, the matter should be taken up with the appropriate authority in Government of India and facilitate the inclusion of prison as one of the subjects in community development.</p>
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## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Name of the Participant	Name of the Organization	Area of Work	Suggestions	Address
 <p><b>Ms. Kritika Singh</b></p>	<p>Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthaan</p>	<p>Rehabilitation of prisoners who have completed their punishment in order to reintegrate them into mainstream society. Currently running a project called <i>Antarkranti-Prisoner Reformation &amp; Rehabilitation</i> that works to impact the areas of prisoner reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration since 1995.</p>	<p>Corporates should revise their CSR policy and list of permissible activities for investment in the current efforts to reintegrate and rehabilitate prisoners</p>	<p>Plot-3, Pocket-OCF, Pitampura Extension, Delhi, India - 110034 M: 9711215088 email:<a href="mailto:kritkas@gmail.com">kritkas@gmail.com</a> Phone : +91-11-27020666, 27024555 Fax : +91-11-27032727 Email: <a href="mailto:info@djjs.org">info@djjs.org</a></p>



**Deepshikha Malhotra**

Divya Jyoti  
Jagriti  
Sansthaan

Rehabilitation of prisoners who have completed their punishment in order to reintegrate them into mainstream society.  
Currently running a project called *Antarkranti-Prisoner Reformation & Rehabilitation* that works to impact the areas of prisoner reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration since 1995.

Government and Corporates need to invest in Short Stay Homes for Released Women Prisoners

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**Sadhvi Lokeshha Bharti**

Divya Jyoti  
Jagriti  
Sansthaan

Rehabilitation of prisoners who have completed their punishment in order to reintegrate them into mainstream society.  
Currently running a project called *Antarkranti-Prisoner Reformation & Rehabilitation* that works to impact the areas of prisoner reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration since 1995.

Counselling has to be different for different kinds of offenders based on their criminal propensities. Counselling should also be provided regularly to prison officials. Interested in establishing Self Development Counselling Centers in every jail.

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**Mr. A.B. Paul**

Jeevandhara  
Samajkalyan  
Sanstha

Generate awareness on various issues like gender, literacy, dowry and education for the welfare of community and to further communal harmony. Have formed women and Self Help Groups in association with the Government.

Jeevandhara Samaj  
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Compound Lalsot Road,  
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**Mr. Rajnish**

Raj Vidya  
Kendra

The organization is dedicated to help people explore human potential, the enjoyment of being alive, and experiencing peace. In its endeavor to improve the quality of human life, it offers many humanitarian services, including free eye clinics and food in remote areas. It also supports other organizations having similar charitable, social and philanthropic goals. They have specifically worked in forty prisons.

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 <p><b>Ms. Sonali Jakar</b></p>	<p>Shilpayan Prashikshan Sansthan</p>	<p>Imparting Vocational training to prisoners of open jails; running a counselling centre and creche for prisoner's children; skill training in handicraft making; organizing exhibition-cum-sale of products made during the project.</p>	<p>The Rajasthan Skills and Livelihoods Mission ought to be tapped as they have a scheme to accommodate rehabilitation initiatives in prisons.</p>	<p>4/5 SFS, Agawarwal Farm Mansarovar, Jaipur – 302020, Rajasthan Telephone No: 0141-2395674, 0141-2395529 Fax: 0141-2395073, 09530043140 shilpayan05@yahoo.com sonali.jakar@gmail.com</p>
 <p><b>Ms. Mamta Jaitly</b></p>	<p>VIVIDHA</p>	<p>Vividha is a women's documentation and resource centre established in 1998.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> There is a need to give greater attention to the special needs of women in prison because very often they have no one coming to visit them. <b>B.</b> The prison officials should be made liable if any prisoner is harmed or hurt. Mere suspension is not the solution.</p>	<p>Women Resource and Documentation Centre, 335, Mahaveer Nagar II Maharani Farm, Durgapura, Jaipur – 302018 Mobile: 09829068744 Email: vividha_2001@yahoo.com</p>



**Mr. Anil George**

Picasso Social and Educational Society

Impart vocational trainings; work for women empowerment, community mobilization, elementary education and sustainable livelihood. They also provide awareness about these subjects to prisoners as well.

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**Ms. Zeba Siddiqui**

National Muslim Women's Welfare Society

Improving condition of women prisoners; imparting legal awareness; providing social and family counselling to inmates; advocating and lobbying for prisoners' rights and procuring material assistance for prisoners in need.

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Telephone No: 0141-2566078

 <p><b>Ms. B. Nishat Hussain</b></p>	<p>National Muslim Women's Welfare Society</p>	<p>Improving condition of women prisoners; imparting legal awareness; providing social and family counselling to inmates; advocating and lobbying for prisoners' rights; and procuring material assistance for prisoners in need.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Women prisoners need to be treated with greater humanity and understanding by prison staff <b>B.</b> The coordination for monthly meetings of the CSOs on prison reform will be undertaken by her</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-  -</p>
 <p><b>Mr. Shanti Bhushan Gupta</b></p>	<p>Legal Helpline Society</p>	<p>Providing legal aid to prisoners and organizing legal awareness camps.</p>	<p>799, Barat Nagar, Tonk Fatak Jaipur - 302015, Rajasthan Telephone No: 0141-2592084 Mobile: +91-9414238324 Email ID- guptashashi799@yahoo.co.in</p>
 <p><b>Mr. Anil</b></p>	<p>Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti</p>	<p>BGVS works on building networks on literacy, Right to information, Right to food, Right to work, Right to education and the campaign against atrocities on women</p>	<p>80/200, Nyay Path, Patel Marg, Mansarovar, Jaipur M: 09680831615</p>

 <p><b>Ms. Mridula Sarof</b></p>	<p>Institute of Human Rights Studies</p>	<p>Providing education to the prisoners</p>	<p>Interested in exploring if the functioning of Periodic Review Committee/Avadhik Samiksha Samiti in jails could be a possible area of research in the future</p>	<p>124/496, agrawal farm, Mansarovar, Jaipur Tel: 0141-2786066,2710654 M 09887775266 Email: mridulasarof2011@gmail.com</p>
 <p><b>Ms. Anupam</b></p>	<p>Institute of Human Rights Studies</p>	<p>Provided education to the prisoners</p>		<p>-  -</p>
 <p><b>Ms. Laxmi Ashok</b></p>	<p>Shilpayan Prashikshan Sansthan</p>	<p>Imparting Vocational training to prisoners of open jails; running a counselling centre and creche for prisoner's children; skill training in handicraft making; organizing exhibition-cum-sale of products made during the project.</p>		<p>4/5 SFS, Agawarwal Farm Mansarovar, Jaipur – 302020 Rajasthan M: 09414075964 shilpayan05@yahoo.com</p>

 <p><b>Ms. Meena Mathur</b></p>	<p>Society For Public Affairs</p>	<p>Working in the areas of skill development, training and education from last twenty years. Have worked with BPR&amp;D for developing model police manual and researched on prison overcrowding. She is a member of Confederation of Indian Industry and its State Council.</p>	<p>It is easy to include the subject of prison and prisoner under community development mandate of Corporate's social responsibility. It has not yet been done but that does not mean it cannot be done. There are a lot of Industrial Training Institutes that are being run by CII in PPP mode where technical and non-technical skills are imparted. Interested in exploring the idea with the Confederation of Indian Industry.</p>	<p>Reg. office:A-384,Vaishali Nagar, Jaipur-302021,Rajasthan. Admin Office:S-1,Subash Marg, C-Scheme,Jaipur-302001. Telephone : 0141-3111562 Mobile No : 9314060007 E-mail : meena.mathur@rediffmail.com</p>
 <p><b>Sister Mariola</b></p>	<p>Prison Ministry, India</p>	<p>Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners; rehabilitation of prisoners; visiting prisons for counselling and providing legal aid; imparting vocational training by introducing income generating programmes; de-addiction initiatives; and occasionally distributing food, fruits and other legally permissible consumables among prisoners.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Government should appoint CSO representatives as Non Official Visitors in the Prison Visiting System <b>B.</b> Prisons and other detention centers should be made accountable to public for the resources that are to be spent on prisoners.</p>	<p>Provincial House, Bhopa Ka Bada, Ajmer M: 09829138453 mariolamsa@gmail.com</p>
 <p><b>Ms. Mahitosh Bagoria</b></p>	<p>Gravis</p>	<p>Aims to develop self-reliance among rural communities, focusing especially on society's most vulnerable groups. Our core working areas are water, food security, livestock, healthcare, education, capacity building, and the empowerment of women, laborers, and the elderly.</p>	<p>Prison initiatives should definitely be extended to women prisoners who have proven to be highly skilled workers when properly trained.</p>	<p>3/437, 458, Milkman Man Colony, Pal Road, Jodhpur- 342 008, INDIA Tel: 91 291 2785 116, 91 291 2785 317, M: 09414787623 mahitoshbagoria@gmail.com email@gravis.org.in</p>

 <p><b>Mr. Hitesh Mishra</b></p>	<p>Help Aim India Sansthan</p>	<p>Working for the betterment of differently abled, women and children and the society in general by focusing on education, shelter, nutrition, rural development, legal awareness and right to information.</p>	<p>The State Bar Council should be approached to help prisoners in need of legal assistance. Recently graduated lawyers should be enrolled as jail visiting lawyers who would then make reports on the conditions of jail and give recommendations. This would serve a dual purpose - documentation of real jail conditions and training of lawyers.</p>	<p>1905, Ashok Marg, Link Road, Savitri Circle, Opp. Ashok Marg Post Office, Ajmer 305001 Rajasthan Telephone : 0145-2624681 Mobile No : 07665150000 E-mail : helpaimindia[at]gmail[dot]com</p>
 <p><b>Ms. Lad Kumari Jain</b></p>	<p>Rajasthan University Women's Association (RUWA)</p>	<p>Providing post release short stay facility to women inmates; providing employment opportunities to released prisoners; and imparting vocational training.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Improve conditions inside jails and court lock-ups. <b>B.</b> CSOs must understand the powers and responsibilities of duty holders with regard to prison monitoring mechanisms</p>	<p>B-182 A, Nand Kishore Parekh Marg, Bapu Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan Telephone No: 0141-2710039, 2700332 Mobile: +91-9414049983 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ladkumari.jain@gmail.com">ladkumari.jain@gmail.com</a></p>
 <p><b>Mr. P.L. Mimroth</b></p>	<p>Centre for Dalit Rights</p>	<p>Monitoring the atrocities committed against Dalit and supporting the victims/survivors with technical assistance in registering the case with the police and judiciary, Administrative follow up for compensation, legal follow up and media coverage. Spreading legal awareness and conducting capacity building programmes for Dalit Activists and lawyers. Instrumental in</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Improve the access to justice for the Scheduled Caste inmates in jails. <b>B.</b> CSOs should collectively work to prevent the unnecessary detention of scheduled caste communities. <b>C.</b> The output of community development initiatives taken by certain corporates inside prison should be reviewed so that human rights violations of prisoners can be prevented. <b>D.</b> The State Human Rights Commission should work more effectively and not</p>	<p>C- 56, First Floor, Siwar Area, Bapu Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan, Telefax: +91 141 2703736, M: 09351317611 Email: <a href="mailto:cdljaipur@gmail.com">cdljaipur@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:rajasthancdr@yahoo.com">rajasthancdr@yahoo.com</a> web: <a href="http://www.cdrjaipur.org">www.cdrjaipur.org</a></p>

		setting Dalit Atrocities Monitoring Committees in Rajasthan.	work like a postmaster where the complaints are forwarded to perpetrators for 'necessary action'.	
 <p><b>Meetha Lal</b></p>	Center for Dalit Rights	Monitoring the atrocities committed against Dalit and supporting the victims/survivors with technical assistance in registering the case with the police and judiciary, Administrative follow up for compensation, legal follow up and media coverage. Spreading legal awareness and conducting capacity building programmes for Dalit Activists and lawyers. Instrumental in setting Dalit Atrocities Monitoring Committees in Rajasthan.		112, Sursagar, Jaipur M: 08740905825
 <p><b>Ms. Rachna Khanna Singh</b></p>	Serve Samman	Working towards fulfilling the dreams of underprivileged children and women through health and education. Trained 800 police officials in Delhi.	<b>A.</b> Counsel and train Prison Staff to be better custodians. <b>B.</b> It will be beneficial if corporates could provide counselling centers inside jails.	A-7, Kailash Colony, New Delhi Mobile: 9810021945 Email: rachnasingh@hotmail.com

 <p><b>Ms. Kavita Srivastava</b></p>	<p>People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL)</p>	<p>Social Commentator on prison regulations and laws. Working in central, district and sub jails, juvenile justice homes, women's remand homes as well as children's homes and providing legal aid to under-trial, women and child prisoners.</p>	<p><b>A.</b> The Prison Manual allows for civilians to enter prison for providing 'socio-legal assistance'. The provision should be tapped to its full potential.  <b>B.</b> First priority should be to make jails more open to CSOs as they provide socio-legal assistance to prisoners and face-to-face interaction is very necessary for those whom no one visits. The issue of corporate entry into prisons should follow after this. B. The 2011 CSO work on the Rajasthan Prison Bill needs to be strongly revived.</p>	<p>76 Shanti Niketan, Kisan Marg, Barkat Nagar, Jaipur - 302015  Rajasthan  Telephone No: 0141-2594131  Mobile: +91-9351562965  Fax: 0141-27110170  E-mail: pucl.rajasthan@gmail.com  kavisriv@gmail.com</p>
 <p><b>Mr. Ambuj Bhatt</b></p>	<p>Gita Mittal Foundation</p>	<p>The Foundations runs Computer Training Institutes for youth often in collaboration with Rajasthan Knowledge Corporation Limited.</p>		<p>09314612945  07665650555  inderjitkhanna@yahoo.com</p>

## RESOURCE PERSONS AND OTHERS

Name	Address	Suggestions
 <p><b>Mr. R.K. Saxena</b></p>	<p>P-27, Madhuvan west, 2nd Tonk Road, Jaipur-302015            M: 09928140582            Tel: 0141-2711725            rk_saxena30201@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>A.</b> Prison Department needs to revive the old prison industry of dari and carpets. <b>B.</b> A revolving fund could be set up by Chamber of Commerce and its corporates to institutionalise a CSR response to prisoners' skill building and training <b>C.</b> Government must appoint and empower the CSOs as Non Official Visitors in the Prison Visiting System through identity cards that help them access jails D. Prison authorities must take initiative to ensure the periodic and regular functioning of the <i>Avadhik Samiksha Samiti(PRC)</i> in all the jails to prevent unnecessary detentions. C6</p>
 <p><b>Dr. M.K. Devarajan</b></p>	<p>Room No. 8119, SSO Bldg. Secretariat (First Floor), Jaipur 0141- 2385102, M: 09772511111 0141-2227738 (Fax) rshrc@raj.nic.in</p>	<p><b>A.</b> The Tamil Nadu Prison Department experiment on vocational training and skill building of prisoners by corporates and CSOs can be replicated <b>B.</b> Prison industry should balance rehabilitation rights and prisoners' rights to equal wages <b>C.</b> SHRC can take forward recommendations of participants on prison monitoring, court production of prisoners, initiatives for their reintegration and any other issue of prisoners' rights to the Government</p>



**Mr. Nigel Akkara**

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**A.** Jails should transform as correctional homes to give prisoners a second chance.  
**B.** There must be handholding in the first 3 months of a prisoner's re-entry into society  
**C.** Corporates can be made part of a work credit system to incentivise prison initiatives.  
**D.** Mulaqat rules must take into account both the need to meet prisoners' families as well as the safety of the prisoners  
**E.** RTIs can be used by CSOs for them to be more informed about prisoners' release



**Ms. Maja Daruwala**

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**A.** CSOs must understand the rights of prisoners as well as the constraints of jail officers in building prison-civil society interface  
**B.** CSOs seeking to intervene in jails must know the law.  
**C.** A nodal agency and fund should be set up by Chamber of Commerce, FICCI and their corporate members to aid the skill development of prisoners and their eventual reintegration  
**D.** CSOs must be informed of the mandates of mechanisms like the Avadhik Samiksha Samiti and Prison Visiting System



**Ms. Sana Das**

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**A.** Rajasthan Prisons Bill should be taken up for advocacy by CSOs as it has a thrust towards 'correction'  
**B.** CSOs should have preparedness and training for the different levels of interventions and visits they would like to make in jails.



**Ms. Mrinal Sharma**

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Prisons should proactively disclose information on the jail rules under which they function.



**Mr. A.R. Niyazi**

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M: 09414960277



**Mr. Mahesh Bairu**



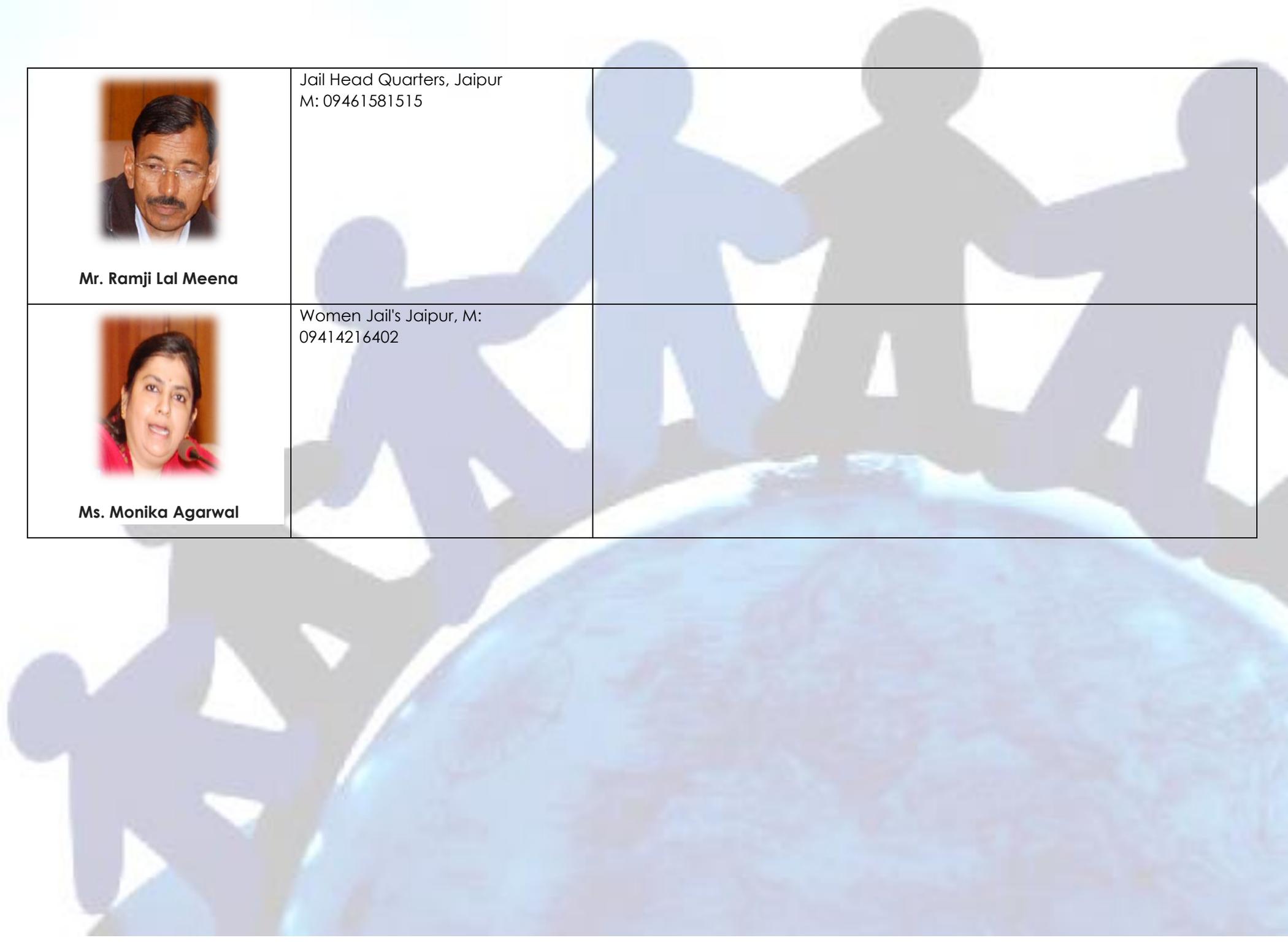
**Mr. Ramji Lal Meena**

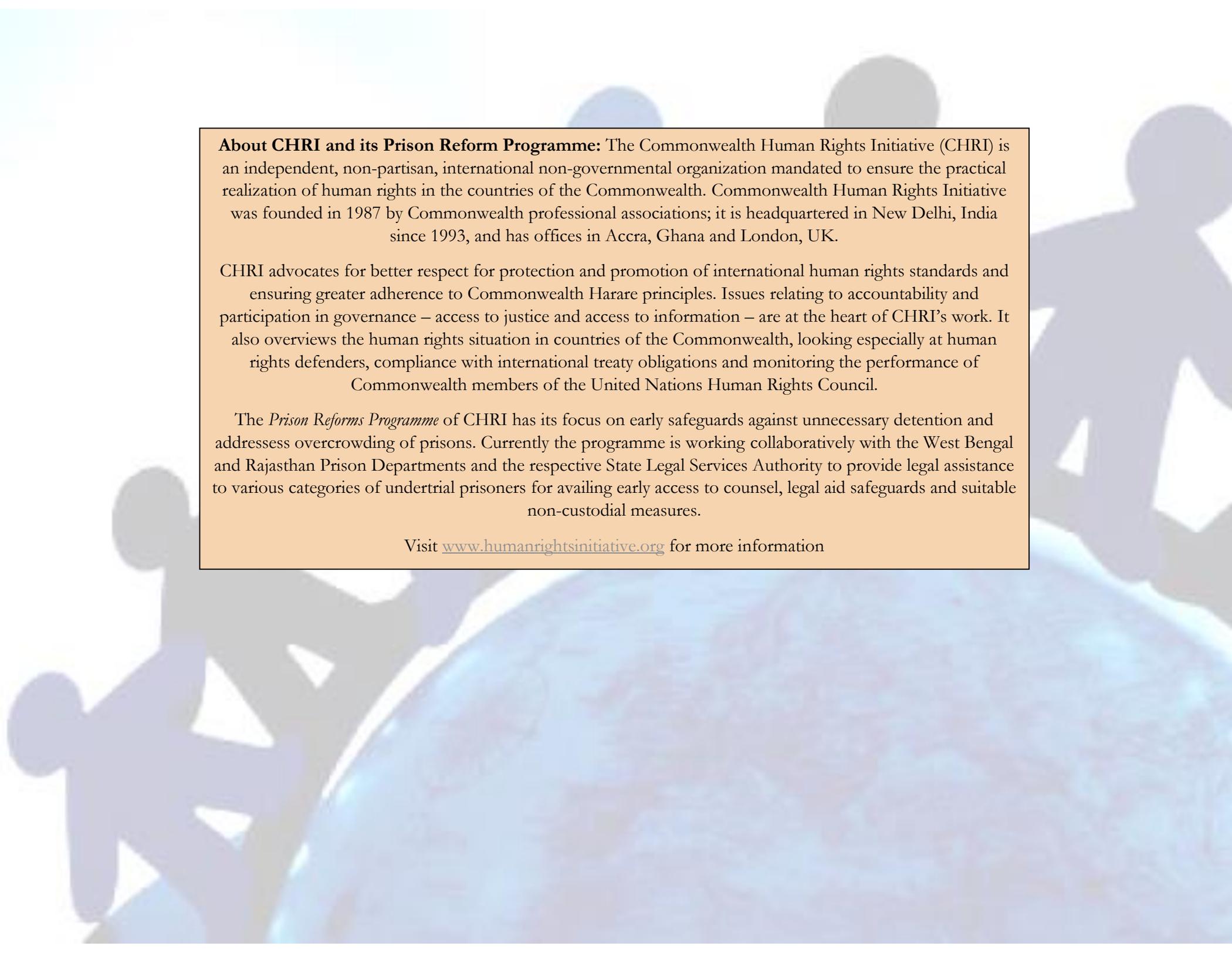
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**Ms. Monika Agarwal**

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**About CHRI and its Prison Reform Programme:** The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is an independent, non-partisan, international non-governmental organization mandated to ensure the practical realization of human rights in the countries of the Commonwealth. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative was founded in 1987 by Commonwealth professional associations; it is headquartered in New Delhi, India since 1993, and has offices in Accra, Ghana and London, UK.

CHRI advocates for better respect for protection and promotion of international human rights standards and ensuring greater adherence to Commonwealth Harare principles. Issues relating to accountability and participation in governance – access to justice and access to information – are at the heart of CHRI's work. It also overviews the human rights situation in countries of the Commonwealth, looking especially at human rights defenders, compliance with international treaty obligations and monitoring the performance of Commonwealth members of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The *Prison Reforms Programme* of CHRI has its focus on early safeguards against unnecessary detention and addresses overcrowding of prisons. Currently the programme is working collaboratively with the West Bengal and Rajasthan Prison Departments and the respective State Legal Services Authority to provide legal assistance to various categories of undertrial prisoners for availing early access to counsel, legal aid safeguards and suitable non-custodial measures.

Visit [www.humanrightsinitiative.org](http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org) for more information