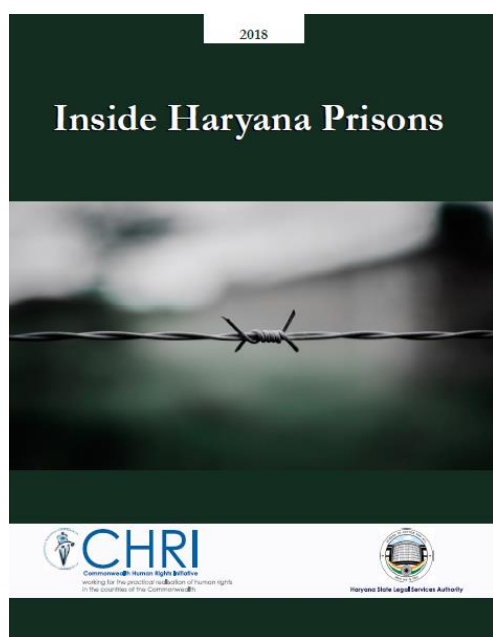


INSIDE HARYANA PRISONS

REPORT ON PRISON CONDITIONS IN HARYANA

ABOUT THE REPORT

Inside Haryana Prison provides an insight into the realities of the prison system in Haryana and covers all 19 prisons in the state. The report has been developed in pursuance of Supreme Court directives, and is the culmination of the team's in-depth examination of prison conditions conducted over several months. It has involved in-person visits and detailed interviews with inmates and officials.



The report comprises nine essential themes: administration and infrastructure; prison regime; medical facilities and healthcare; visitation rights and facilities; access to information; access to legal aid in prisons; vocational training and prison labour; prison oversight; and provisions for vulnerable categories of prisoners (women prisoners and their children, the mentally ill and foreign national prisoners).

In addition, as a result of the team's conversations with prisoners and prison staff, we have included an entire chapter built around instances of torture reported by prisoners, questions of juvenility and grievances of prison administrators.



For this report the team interviewed 475 prisoners (between December 2017 and May 2018). The team also interacted with prison officers and representatives of legal services institutions to better understand the complexities of the prison system.

These observations were further evaluated in light of the statistical information received from both prisons and legal services institutions, as well as relevant provisions of the Haryana Jail Manual 18941, Model Prison Manual 2016 and the Nelson Mandela Rules 2015. These have enabled CHRI to put forth recommendations for stakeholders aimed at ensuring just and humane prison conditions in Haryana.



To request a hard copy email us at hslsa.haryana@gmail.com or chriprisonsprog@gmail.com

KEY FINDINGS



Prison administration and infrastructure

-  Buildings are well maintained with sound infrastructure
-  High vacancies in sanctioned posts



Prison regime

-  Common living areas were clean
-  Prisoners not provided basic amenities, compelling them to work for other prisoners



Medical facilities and health

-  All jails hospitals are equipped with medical equipment
-  Injuries on prisoners not well documented; most prisons have no permanent medical officers, specialised doctors or lab technicians; there appeared to be an insufficient supply of medicines in some districts



Visitation rights and facilities

-  Visitation system is well organised; prisoners are permitted to make calls every day
-  Aadhar is considered the only valid identity proof for visitation, which causes problems for several families



Access to Information

-  All records of prisoners are available in the prison management system and accessible via e-kiosks
-  Prisoners are not provided a copy of their history ticket



Access to legal aid in prisons

-  All prisons have jail legal aid clinics, with jail visiting lawyers and paralegals
-  Even in their presence, some prisoners remain unrepresented



Vocational training and prison labour

-  Most convicts are engaged in vocational activities
-  Women prisoners have limited options for vocational training


Prison oversight

-  Both internal and external oversight mechanisms are functional in the state
-  The Board of Visitors do not visit prisons regularly and are not holding meetings for each prison; information on non-official visitors and their functioning is not readily available


Women prisoners and their children

-  Reasonably good levels of cleanliness maintained in female wards
-  One jail not providing sanitary napkins; no lady doctors have been appointed for women; there are no classrooms in women enclosures and there are limited options for vocational training; there are no separate legal aid clinics for women

Mentally ill prisoners

-  Specialised care is not available for such prisoners; medical officers, who may not be trained to deal with such cases, are de facto caregivers, which is inadequate

Foreign National Prisoners

-  FNPs unable to communicate with their families; no special diet provided

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	Revise the Haryana Jail Manual
2.	Improve Quality of Training for Prison Officers and Warders
3.	Appoint Board of Visitors, including Non-Official Visitors, for each prison
4.	Permit every member of the staff to take a day off once a week, as recommended by the Mulla Committee
5.	Adopt a clear segregation policy to ensure that undertrials and convicts are not kept in the same wards
6.	Frame guidelines to make frisking and body searches more humane to ensure dignity of all prisoners, especially women
7.	Ensure that the Medical Officer diligently documents all injuries and alleged cause at the time of medical examination of prisoner at admission
8.	Appoint specialised doctors like psychiatrists, gynecologists, dentists. If permanent posts are unavailable, ensure that visits should be made by specialised government doctors
9.	Provide copy of history ticket to each prisoner upon admission to prison. S/he should be permitted to keep it with them at all times
10.	Conduct review of garbage disposal process in all prisons
11.	Link the legal services authority's Front Office database to the kiosks or to the Phoenix Software database so that information is regularly updated and shared
12.	Conduct regular trainings for Convict Para Legal Volunteers to capacitate them to impart basic legal information to inmates, identify urgent cases, and keep track of legal aid cases

CHRI PROGRAMMES

CHRI believes that the Commonwealth and its member countries must be held to high standards and functional mechanisms for accountability and participation. This is essential if human rights, transparent democracies and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). CHRI specifically works on strategic initiatives and advocacy on human rights, access to justice and access to information. It does so through research, publications, workshops, information dissemination and advocacy. It has three principal programmes:

1. Access to Justice (ATJ)*

***Police Reforms:** In too many countries the police are seen as an oppressive instrument of state rather than as protectors of citizens' rights, leading to widespread rights violations and denial of justice. CHRI promotes systemic reform so that the police act as upholders of the rule of law rather than as instruments of the current regime. In India, CHRI's programme aims at mobilizing public support for police reform. In South Asia, CHRI works to strengthen civil society engagement on police reforms. In East Africa and Ghana, CHRI is examining police accountability issues and political interference.

***Prison Reforms:** CHRI's work is focused on increasing transparency of a traditionally closed system and exposing malpractices. Apart from highlighting failures of the legal system that results in overcrowding and unacceptably long pre-trial detention and prison overstay, we engage in interventions and advocacy for legal aid and policy changes to revive prison oversight systems. Attention to these areas can bring improvements to the administration of prisons and conditions of justice.

2. Access to Information

CHRI is acknowledged as a key organisation working on the promotion of Access to Information. It encourages countries to pass and implement effective Right to Information laws. It routinely assists in the development of legislation and has been particularly successful in promoting Right to Information laws and practices in India, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ghana, and more recently, Kenya. In Ghana, CHRI is the Secretariat for the RTI civil society coalition. We regularly critique new legislation and intervene to bring best practices into governments and civil society knowledge both at a time when laws are being drafted and when they are first being implemented. We have experience of working in hostile environments as well as culturally varied jurisdictions; these enable us to bring valuable insights into countries seeking to evolve new laws on right to information. In Ghana, for instance, it has been promoting knowledge about the value of Access to Information and to campaign for the introduction of an effective law.

* South Asia Media Defender's Network (SAMDEN)

CHRI has developed a regional network of media professionals to address the issue of increasing attacks on media workers and pressure on freedom of speech and expression in South Asia, especially in rural areas. This network, the South Asia Media Defenders Network (SAMDEN) recognises that such freedoms are indivisible and know no political boundaries. Anchored by a core group of media professionals who have experienced discrimination and intimidation, SAMDEN is developing an interactive website platform to highlight pressures on media, issues of shrinking media space and press freedom. It is also working to mobilise media so that strength grows through collaboration and numbers. A key area of synergy lies in linking SAMDEN with the Right to Information movements and activists

3. International Advocacy and Programming

CHRI monitors the compliance of Commonwealth member states with human rights obligations and advocates around human rights exigencies where such obligations are breached. CHRI strategically engages with regional and international bodies including the Commonwealth Secretariat, Ministerial Action Group, the UN and the African Commission for Human and People's Rights. Ongoing strategic initiatives include advocating for and monitoring the Commonwealth reform, reviewing promised by Commonwealth members at the UN Human Rights Council, and the Universal Periodic Review. We advocate for the protection of human rights defenders and civil society spaces and monitor the performance of National Human Rights Institutions in the Commonwealth while pressing for their strengthening while advocating for their strengthening.

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