IMPLEMENTATION OF BANGKOK RULES IN LATIN AMERICA

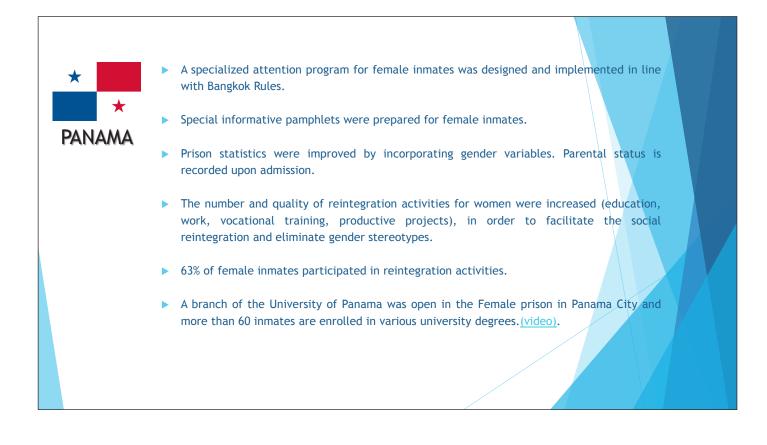
BEST PRACTICES

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	Bangkok Rules, a gender perspective of female imprisonment	
•	On December 21st, 2010 the General Assembly adopted the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders.	
•	Bangkok Rules provide guidance to States in order to adopt concrete measures to address the special needs and requirements of women prisoners or offenders.	
•	Rule 1: Basic principle, no discrimination: In order for the principle of non- discrimination embodied in rule 6 of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners to be put into practice, account shall be taken of the distinctive needs of women prisoners in the application of the Rules. Providing for such needs in order to accomplish substantial gender equality shall not be regarded as discriminatory.	

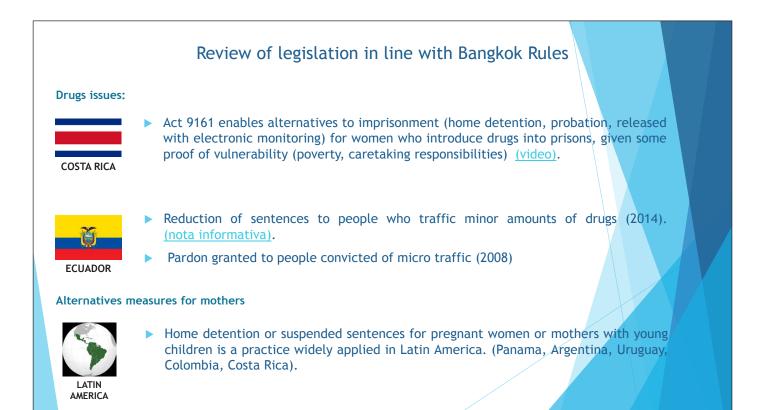
Bangkok Rules implementation progress



- Prison staff received gender and human rights training (including the publication of 500 copies of Bangkok Rules, study visits and workshops)
- UNODC prepared an online self-paced course based on the Women Imprisonment Handbook. (only in Spanish)
- Women prisoners are able to exercise conjugal visits on an equal basis with men.
- Cultural activities, such as: theater "<u>834, vidas detrás del muro</u>", and the book of poems "Mujeres en relieve".
- ▶ Workshops on Human Rights and sexual and reproductive health .
- Two campagins were launched :
 - "A book in prison, a window to freedom"
 - "Think before you act" (video)









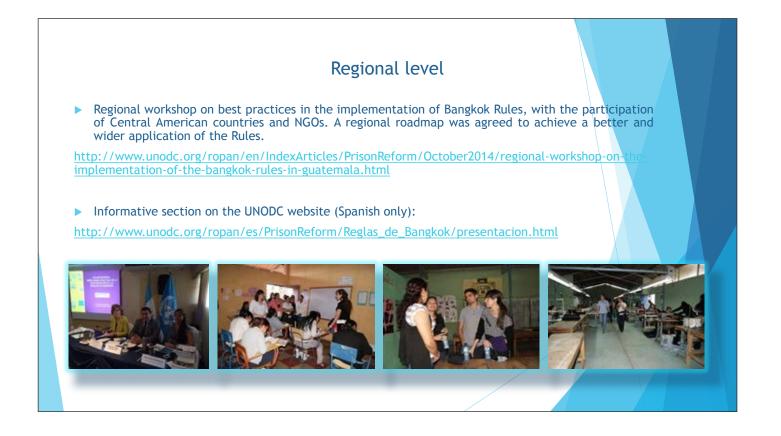
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

- ► ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING WOMEN PRISONERS, ARGENTINA
- ▶ PROGRAMMES TO REDUCE DRUG ADDICTION. ARGENTINA, COSTA RICA.
- SERVICE DOG PRISON PROGRAMME". EZEIZA, ARGENTINA.
- ▶ PROGRAMME "MY VOICE FOR YOUR EYES", PANAMA.
- ► FACTORY PRISON (with the support of a private company) in Ciudad del Este, PARAGUAY.
- ▶ INDUSTRIAL CLOTHING WORKSHOP (with the support of trade unions), URUGUAY.
- ▶ PROGRAMMES TO STRENGTHEN THE CULTURAL IDENTITY, GUATEMALA.



Coordination mechanisms and networking

- Inter-institutional Protocol to deal with female prisoners and ex offenders (Costa Rica).
- ► NGOs: <u>Colectivo Artesana</u> (Guatemala); NNAPEs.
- Inter-institutional working group to improve female prisoners conditions (Panama).
- Regional Gender Programme (Conference of Ministers of Justice of Iberoamerica, COMJIB) http://www.comjib.org/sites/default/files/PROGRAMA%20REGIONAL%20DE%20GENERO.pdf
- Draft norms to facilitate the social-labor inclusion of female prisoners and ex offenders in Latin America (EUROSOCIAL-COMJIB-IJJO). These standards seek to promote the inclusion of the gender specific perspective in prison intervention to improve the processes of social and labour reinsertion of women prisoners and released women.



Recommendations

- Inform, raise awareness, train and disseminate the Bangkok Rules among prison staff, justice officers, police agents, NGOs and the community.
- Establish or strengthen inter-agency working groups/networks to comprehensively address the needs of women in prison and ex offenders. These groups should include women deprived of liberty.
- Amend national legislation to adapt it to the Bangkok Rules, review the penalties of drug laws (based on the quantity and role of the offender), decriminalize minor criminal offences and set up programmes that address drug abuse from a gender specific perspective.
- Implement alternative measures to imprisonment for pregnant women and mothers. If not possible, create special units for mothers, nurseries and care programmes for the children of female prisoners, in coordination with the competent authorities.
- Create and promote opportunities for the exchange of experiences and regional coordination to achieve a better implementation of the Bangkok Rules.

