



Prison Fellowship International

*beyond crime and punishment*SM

STATEMENT

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Mr. President,

On behalf of Prison Fellowship International I would like to express our satisfaction with all the elements concerning the UPR proceedings concerning Ukraine - the presentation of the national report, the pointed questions raised by a number of delegations, the work of the troika, and the report of the Working Group, that is before the Human Rights Council. The openness, the readiness of Ukraine to discuss all the problem areas in the human rights situation in the country, was another good example among many of the potential of the UPR process for promoting human rights on a global scale.

We noted especially the attention accorded to the situation in the prisons and the justice system in general. The adoption of the New Criminal Procedure Code, the introduction of alternatives to prison, The State Program for improving prison conditions are major steps in the right direction, and we stand ready to contribute in a modest way to the implementation of the reforms.

We would like to mention several areas among many, which augur well for progressive changes in the second biggest prison system in Europe:

- The increasing cooperation with civil society – over 140 NGO's participate in partnership programs with the prison system.
- The openness to morally uplifting presence of visiting chaplains and volunteers of religious organization without discrimination.
- The creative use of humanitarian assistance for vocational training of juvenile prisoners.
- The post-penitentiary centers for released prisoners, one of the best way to fight recidivism.

One critical note in all sincerity – the procedures for receiving humanitarian assistance for the prisons should be simplified !

Thank you Mr. President!