

INTERNATIONAL PRISONERS' AID ASSOCIATION

For Offender Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention

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GENERAL BACKGROUND

IPAA was founded in 1950 by voluntary organisations in North America who were devoted to aftercare of prisoners and related activities. Membership in IPAA has grown through the years, recently reaching over forty organisations representing about thirty countries on five continents, including federal, national, and local agencies dealing with prisoners' aid, offenders' rehabilitation, and/or crime prevention. Until 1973, IPAA Secretariat was located at the Wisconsin Correctional Service in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In May 1973, it was moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where it was affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania, and since August 1975, it has been under the auspices of the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky. Since 1964, IPAA has held consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Early in 1971, the Council of Europe granted consultative status to IPAA, and in 1972, it became a charter member of the Alliance of Non-governmental Organisations at the UN on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

The principal purpose of the IPAA is to assist non-governmental organisations in different countries to serve more effectively in their efforts to rehabilitate offenders and prevent crime; to provide for the international dissemination and exchange of information, ideas, and experiences regarding offender rehabilitation and crime prevention; to seek world-wide improvement in correctional services while fostering firm law enforcement and sound administration of justice; to encourage the establishment and growth of local and national non-governmental agencies that render needed services to offenders and their families; and to promote cross-cultural correctional research and facilitate contact among correctional workers throughout the world.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

IPAA issues a regular newsletter three times per year, an informative periodical directory of offenders' aid agencies around the world, and special reports and pamphlets that deal

with international correction. Since 1982, the newsletter has covered numerous items of news on prisoners' aid agencies and correctional conferences in different parts of the world, and several articles and research reports relevant to offenders rehabilitation and crime prevention (including resolutions and other activities of UN bodies), such as:

- International Conference on Community Residential Care for the Socially Stigmatised.
- World Congress on Prison Health Care.
- International Congress on Criminology.
- Convention on Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners.
- UN General Assembly Adopts Code of Medical Ethics, Seventh UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders.
- Survey on Alien Prisoners in USA.
- International Seminar on Violence in the Family.
- International Congress on Drugs and Alcohol.
- Private Sector Corrections.
- Victims of Crime.
- Socio-psychological Impact of Imprisonment.
- Correctional Industries in Canada.
- Inter-regional Advisory Services in Crime Prevention and Offender Treatment.
- Political Prisoners.
- Volunteering in Correctional Services.
- Modern Treatment in North American Prisons.
- Howard League Conference.
- World Society of Victimology.
- International Human Rights.
- Immigration Prisoners.
- International Conference on Research in Crime Prevention.
- Crime and Justice in China.
- UN Assembly Declares Drug Abuse as Threat to Security and Development.
- European Conference of Probation and After Care, NGOS Alliance Conducts International Survey on Children in Prison.
- UN Economic and Social Council Deplores Summary or Arbitrary Executions.
- UN Declares 1986 International Year of Peace, and The United Nations at Forty.

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CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

In addition to its annual business meetings, IPAA holds a general membership meeting, combined with an international conference, twice every five years, one of which corresponds in time and place with the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders, held in a different country every five years. During the period from 1982-1985, IPAA has conducted two major international conferences: One was held in Vienna during 2-6 May, 1982 (Theme: New Trends in Criminal Policy and Offenders' Aid) dealing with Problems and Needs of Elderly Offenders and Treatment of Foreign Offenders, featuring a speaker from the UN-Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch; the other was held in Milan on 24-25 August, 1985 (Theme: International Co-operation in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: A Challenge for Non-Governmental Organisations) covering the Role of Offenders' Aid Agencies in Context of Development, Juvenile Justice: An International Dilemma, Victims of Crime, and Transfer Treaties and Treatment of Offenders. The Milan conference featured the Chief of UN-Crime Prevention Branch as its key-note speaker, and the Director of UN Social Defense Research Institute in Rome as its Banquet guest speaker.

REPRESENTATION AT UN AND NGO's ALLIANCE

IPAA continues to maintain its consultative status at the United Nations, as it has since 1964. It is an important affiliation that makes possible an exchange of information and ideas with other groups around the world that have common denominators of concern with the effectiveness and humaneness of crime prevention and treatment of offenders. It extends the voice of IPAA in encouraging an understanding of criminal justice issues and in establishing modern criminal justice policy. Delegates of IPAA meet and work with delegates of other groups holding similar interests. Their meeting ground is the

Alliance of Non-Governmental Organisations for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at the UN Headquarters in New York, bi-monthly. During the past four years, IPAA's previous representative served as President of the Alliance, and the present representative has been selected recently as its Secretary. IPAA has also maintained a regular representative at the Vienna International Centre.

Best known of IPAA's specific contributions via the UN has been successful efforts over many years to implement the repatriation of offenders imprisoned in jurisdictions outside of their native countries. That movement, slow to gain acceptance, has long since demonstrated its value and now continues to grow, world-wide. More recently IPAA, through its UN relationship with other organisations, has participated actively in a study of children held in adult prisons in various countries of the world. It has also co-operated in a survey of the use of halfway houses as alternatives to imprisonment or as follow-ups to imprisonment. Special thanks go to the IPAA agencies that have responded generously to inquiries and questionnaires concerning such projects. The continued co-operation and support of the UN Economic and Social Council is earnestly solicited to facilitate the forward progress of our important world-wide involvement. During the 1985 UN Seventh Congress on Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders in Milan, IPAA was represented by several members who attended different sessions and took active part in the various discussions. Several topical papers prepared by IPAA Executive Director were distributed at the Congress.

REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

IPAA has received during the last four years numerous inquiries and requests for assistance or advice from agencies and individuals all over the world, especially the United States. The Secretariat has made a special effort to respond to these letters and has, in many cases, had to refer requests to other specialised agencies.



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