ANNUAL REPORT 2013

DÓCHAS CENTRE VISITING COMMITTEE
MOUNTJOY PRISON CAMPUS

Mr Alan Shatter TD
Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence
Department of Justice and Equality

Dear Minister,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the Visiting Committee of the Dóchas Centre for Women located in Mountjoy Prison Campus.

There are five members on this committee and it is my first duty to thank my colleagues for their work during the past year.

We welcome Ms Connolly as Assistant Governor who joined the staff during the past year. We are very confident that her leadership style will see very positive changes during the coming year.

I would also like to thank Campus Governor Whelan and Governor O'Connor of the Dóchas Centre and her staff on behalf of the committee for their attention, assistance and cooperation throughout the year.

The committee are deeply grateful to Ms Grainne Hyland for administrative support throughout the year.

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Mr Noel Cloak (Chairperson) 2013
Dóchas Centre Visiting Committee

Dóchas Centre
Visiting Committee Members

Ms Noel Cloak (Chairperson 2013)
Ms Bernie Donnelly (Vice-Chairperson 2013)
Ms Ruth Gallagher
Ms Mary Elliott
Ms Ann Delaney

Statutory Role of Visiting Committee.
Prisons (Visiting Committees) Act, 1925

Committee Meetings
The committee met each month.
Members of the Committee made many unannounced visits during the past year.

Buildings
Some of the houses have had rooms and corridors painted. The overall appearance of the Centre still looks shabby.Paths need to be cleaned and doors need to be sanded and varnished.

Outside
The rubber surface has been replaced in the Recreation Yard recently.
The flower beds are maintained constantly and seasonally planted.
Paths and walls are dirty and need to be cleaned.
System for rubbish collection and storage needs to be attended to more frequently.

Residential Accommodation
Kitchens have been replaced in all of the houses. Equipment is in working order and the addition of extra washing machines has eased problems of getting laundry done in the houses. This has made a great difference to the houses and occupants.The communal areas continue to be dirty, however. Some incentive or motivation for the women to foster attitudes of shared cleaning of communal areas would be welcome. Women continue to maintain their own rooms in good order.

The Willows accommodation is now occupied which provides additional places. The women occupying rooms in the Willows are on enhanced regimes, thereforethis does not impact very much onovercrowded conditions in the other houses, unfortunately.

Overcrowding
Given the increase in imprisonment of women in recent years, overcrowding continues to have a serious impact on the regime in the Dóchas Centre. Regrettably, we encountered overcrowding throughout the year at an average of 115% for most of our visits. Throughout 2013, we encountered many prisoners being doubled up in rooms and occasions where women were housed in recreation rooms, due to overcrowding. On one occasion we were aware of five women being accommodated in a recreation room. There were no curtains on the windows. Clothing was stored under beds. There were no lockers. Food was left on the floor. Recreation rooms aretotally unsuitable for this purpose.

Challenges to Women Leaving Prison

It is unacceptable that some women are not released when they should due to homelessness. We are aware of great efforts made by Probation Officers to seek suitable accommodation for prisoners about to be released, but this often tends to be short-term emergency accommodation and is not addressing the larger issue of what happens to these women afterwards. We suggest that responsibility is taken at a high level for the accommodation of released prisoners, as a matter of urgency. It is also inappropriate that women needing treatment for addiction, or who are experiencing homelessness, are sent to the Dóchas Centre from the courts when a more appropriate non-custodial or medical/therapy direction may be far more suitable for their individual needs. We look forward to improve measured in this area. The Visiting Committee would very much like to see the provision of a 'joined-up' service for women which addresses the issues of housing, health, employment, budgeting in one location.

Mothers and Babies

There were four babies in the Mother and Babies Unit at one point during the year. The Unit is fully equipped now which is due to the extra effort put in by Governor O'Connor and Assistant Governor Connolly. We were very pleased to see the purchase of baby equipment for this purpose. We observed officers who were very responsive to ensuring that the specific needs of mothers and babies were fully met. While we suggest that the imprisonment of mothers with young babies is not ideal under any circumstances and feel strongly that non-custodial sentences should be the norm in this case, we are pleased that the Dóchas Centre has attempted to facilitate mothers to keep infants up to the age of 12 months accommodated with them.

Drugs

The issue of illegal substances continues to be a problem. While the outdoor overhead nets are very successful, there have been a number of incidents where women have brought in drugs on return from temporary release. Unfortunately these were passed on to other women in the Centre which resulted in women becoming ill, having seizures and on occasion being hospitalised, due to the consumption of substances. This continues to be a major source of concern.

Committal Unit

The Health Centre has been completely repainted. It is expected that some rooms will be used to house women on committal to the Dóchas Centre as a transition to imprisonment in the Centre.

Reception Areas

The reception area where incoming women are processed was unclean each time we visited. Showers in reception need to be cleaned properly on an ongoing basis, particularly after each use, to bring it to an acceptable standard of cleanliness and hygiene. Reception waiting rooms are in very poor condition. The entrance area is unkempt and shabby. It is need of paint, varnish and industrial cleaning.

Communication

Mail to and from the Dóchas Centre, as well as between prisons, is an ongoing problem and we continued to receive complaints about this throughout 2013. The complaint that family members have difficulty getting through to book visits persists and we are concerned that there is a delay in resolving this situation. It is vitally important to the well-being of the women and their children that visits take place regularly.

The introduction of Virtual Visitation through video links to family members is in the early stages and is a very welcome development. Assistant Governor Connolly has put a lot of effort in to this enabling it to happen. We hope to see this grow over the coming year and would welcome its use in facilitating video calls between prisons.

Health

The Committee met with the Doctor from the Medical Centre during the year. She gave a comprehensive overview of the work of the Medical Centre. We are happy that the level of medical care on an ongoing basis is being adequately met.

We would like to see clear guidelines put in place for how the terminal illness of prisoners in custody should be dealt with. We accept that circumstances will vary for each individual. We experienced one such case during the year and it appeared to be dealt with on an ad hoc basis. It became apparent that holistic management was required and a very clear procedure to be followed in the future, one which includes psychological, social, physical and pastoral needs as well as the prisoner’s medical needs. We will continue to monitor this situation.

Health and Safety

Fire Drills took place on a regular basis.

Listening Service

A new member was trained as a listener during the year. This is a valuable service for the women.

Shop

The issue of the shop is ongoing. Prices are prohibitive and we received many complaints from prisoners in relation to this in 2013. It is our understanding that one wholesale company was contracted to ensure that prices were kept competitive, however it appears to the Visiting Committee that some very basic items are, in fact, comparatively overpriced and costs have become prohibitive for some women. We believe that the prison shop should not be used to generate profit.

Transportation

The Visiting Committee is concerned about the issue of transportation. Some matters in relation to this have been brought to our attention by prisoners in 2013. The Committee suggests that the matter of frequent rest stops, proper meals for prisoners on long journeys, and appropriate (not excessive) restraint on long journeys all need to be examined. This is particularly important when prison vans are used for the holding of prisoners, sometimes for several hours, when awaiting trial at rural court houses that may not be equipped with holding cells. The Director General, Mr Michael Donnellan, has undertaken to look in to this issue of protocols for the transportation of women, particularly if pregnant. We note that, while there is a small section about transport generally in the 2007 Prison Rules, it mostly relates to

privacy and there is no reference to the transport of women prisoners. We suggest that this should be addressed.Proper industrial cleaning is necessary to bring transport vehicles to an acceptable level of sanitation.

School

Women complained on an ongoing basis throughout 2013 about the school being closed. We have checked with the School Principal Ms Cathy O Flaherty who has substantiated these claims. The provision of two officers each morning for school is essential and the proper structure of the school day and school week must be maintained. It is difficult for women to be motivated when there are constant closures and changes. It is important for women to have full tuition for nationally accredited awards, which may be vital to their rehabilitation and prevent against reoffending, particularly for prisoners with long sentences. We counted 52 disruptions or changes to classes between September and December 2013. These included:

- School not opening at 9.30 a.m.
- Only upstairs open because only one officer was available.
- Only downstairs open because only one officer was available.
- School not opening until 11.30 a.m or 2.30pm in some instances.

The school needs two officers to open each morning. We are concerned that, when any staff shortage occurs through illness, holidays or other matters, officers are redeployed from the school. We request that school be prioritized and the officers assigned each day should not be taken from these posts.

Gym

The gym closure was another frequent occurrence and many complaints were received during the year because of this. Again, we are concerned that the lack of a proper exercise facility has an impact on the wellbeing and mental health of prisoners. We suggest that alternatives, such as the Rec Yard, be made available if the gym is not open.

Staffing

We are also concerned that the management of annual leave may lead to a large number of prison officers accruing leave and requesting time off at the end of the quarter. This contributes to and compounds the problem of school and gym closures. Where shortages of staff occur in the Dóchas Centre for Women, we suggest that the re-deployment of available staff from the Campus should be sought to ensure consistent availability of these vital services to women. We would very much welcome attempts to resolve this issue. It impacts very negatively on the daily lives of the women in the Centre.

Staff Training

The Dóchas Visiting Committee supports the view that women prisoners warrant treatment that is different to male prisoners, in some respects. We welcome the introduction of n**ew Human Rights Training Programme for Prison Staff launched in 2013.**This is being rolled out for all staff and will be part of the training programme for new recruits. The Inspector of Prisons has been very clear in his recent interim report on the Dóchas Centre on the need for gender responsive training and for prison issues to be dealt with in a gender specific manner. We support this view. We would also like to see staff trained in how to recognise and deal appropriately with women who have suffered from physical, sexual, psychological abuse in childhood, adolescence and/or adulthood.

Gender Specific Measures for the Imprisonment of Women

As expressed in our 2012 Annual Report, the Visiting Committee continues to feel very strongly that the use of community-based alternatives to prison for women should be the core aim for the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service in dealing with women offenders in the future. This is supported by our interaction with women prisoners throughout 2013, where we have observed the knock-on effect on entire families of the continued use of custodial sentences for women, many of them for non-violent offences. As well as an economic cost, there is a serious social cost as a result of this practice.

The Visiting Committee would like to thank Campus Governor Whelan and Governor O'Connor of the Dóchas Centre and her staff for their attention, assistance and cooperation throughout 2013.

Signature ____ Date ____________________

Mr Noel Cloak (Chairperson2013)

Signature ____ Date ____________________

Ms Bernie Donnelly (Vice-Chairperson2013)

Signature ____ Date ____________________

Ms Mary Elliott

Signature ____ Date ____________________

Ms Ruth Gallagher

Signature ____ Date ____________________

Ms Anne Delaney

TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2013

COISTE CUAIRTE IONAD DÓCHAS
CAMPAS PHRÍOSÚN MHUINSEO

An tUasal Alan Shatter TD
An tAire Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Cosanta
An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais

A Aire, a chara,

Tugann sé pléisiúr dom Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Choiste Cuairte Ionad Dóchas do Mhná atá lonnaithe i gCampas Phríosún Mhuinseo a chur i láthair.

Tá cúigear comhaltaí ar an gcoiste seo agus is é mó chéad dualgas buíochas a ghabháil le mo chomhghleacaithe as a gcuid oibre le linn na bliana seo a chuaigh thart.

Cuirimid fáilte roimh Iníon Connolly a chuaigh leis an bhfoireann mar Ghobharnóir Cúnta le linn na bliana.
Tá an-mhuinín againn go dtiocfaidh athruithe dearfacha as a stíl cheannaireachta sa bhliain atá le teacht.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le Gobharnóir an Champais, an tUasal Whelan agus le Gobharnóir Ionad Dóchas, Iníon O'Connor, agus lena foireann thar ceann an choiste as a n-aird, a gcuidiú agus a gcomhoibriú le linn na bliana.

Tá an coiste fíorbhíoch do Ghráinne Hyland as an tacaíocht riaracháin a thug sí le linn na bliana.

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An tUasal Noel Cloak (Cathaoirleach) 2013
Coiste Cuairte Ionad Dóchas

Ionad Dóchas
Comhaltaí an Choiste Cuairte

An tUasal Noel Cloak (Cathaoirleach 2013)
Bernie Donnelly (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2013)
Ruth Gallagher
Mary Elliott
Ann Delaney

Ról Reachtúil an Choiste Cuairte.
Acht na bPríosún (Coistí Cuairte), 1925

Cruinnithe Coiste
Tháinig an coiste le chéile gach mí.
Thug Comhaltaí an Choiste a lán cuairteanna gan fhógra le linn na bliana seo a chuaigh thart.

Foirgnimh
Péinteáladh seomraí agus hallaí i roinnt de na tithe. Tá cuma sheanchaite ar an Ionad ina iomláine go fóill, áfach. Is gá cosáin a ghlanadh agus is gá doirse a ghreanáil agus a vearnaiseáil.

An Taobh Amuigh
Athsholáthraíodh an dromchla rubair sa Chlós Áineasa le déanaí.
Déantar na ceapacha bláthanna a chothabháil go minic agus a chur gach séasúr.
Tá na cosáin agus na ballaí salach agus ní mór iad a ghlanadh.
Is gá cloí níos minice leis an gcóras chun bruscar a bhailiú agus a stóráil.

Cóiríocht Chónaithe
Cuireadh cistineacha nua in áit na seanchistineacha i ngach ceann de na tithe. Tá an trealamh in ord ceart chun oibre agus mhaolaigh na meaisíní breise níocháin fadhbanna a bhain le níochán a dhéanamh sna tithe.
Is mór an difear a rinne sé sin do na tithe agus do na háitritheoirí. Tá na limistéir chomhchoiteanna fós salach, áfach. Ba cheart dreasacht nó spreagadh de chineál éigin a thabhairt do na mná ina leith sin ar mhaithe le comhghlanadh na limistéar comhchoiteann a chothú. Leanann na mná le dea-chuma a choinneáil ar a gcuid seomraí féin.

Tá lóistín na Saileog á áitiú anois agus cuireann sé sin áiteanna breise ar fáil. Is ar réimis fheabhsaithe atá na mná a áitíonn seomraí i lóistín na Saileog. Ar an drochuair, ní dhéanann sé sin an oiread sin difir do na dálaí plódaithe i dtithe eile.

Plódú
Mar gheall ar an méadú atá tagtha ar líon na mban sa phríosún le blianta beaga anuas, leanann plódú le difear mór a dhéanamh don chóras in Ionad Dóchas. Is oth linn a rá go bhfacamar an plódú sin le linn na bliana, toisc go raibh daonra an phríosúin 115% dá chumas ar an meán le linn fhormhór ár gcuairteanna. Le linn na bliana 2013, chonaiceamar a lán cásanna ina raibh líon na bpríosúnach i seomra ar leith a dhá oiread chomh mór le cumas an tseomra. Uaireanta, bhí mná ag fanacht i seomraí áineasa de dheasca an phlódaithe. Ar ócáid

amháin, bhí a fhios againn go raibh cúigear ban ina gcónaí i seomra áineasa. Ní raibh aon chuirtíní ar na fuinneoga. Bhí éadaí á stóráil faoi bhun na leapacha. Ní raibh aon taisceadáin. Fágadh bia ar an urlár. Níl seomraí áineasa oiriúnach ar bhealach ar bith don fheidhm sin.

Dúshláin roimh Mhná a Fhágann an Príosún

Níl sé inghlactha nach scaoiltear mná áirithe saor nuair ba cheart iad a scaoileadh saor toisc go bhfuil siad gan dídean. Is eol dúinn na hiarrachtaí móra a dhéanann Oifigigh Phromhaidh cóiríocht oiriúnach a lorg do phríosúnaigh atá le scaoileadh, ach is cóiríocht ghearrthéarmach éigeandála í sin go minic agus, dá bhrí sin, ní bhítear ag dul i ngleic leis an mórfhadhb a bhaineann le cad a tharlóidh do na mná sin tar éis a scaoilte. Molaimid, mar ábhar práinne, go nglacfar freagracht ag ardleibhéal as cóiríocht a chur ar fáil do phríosúnaigh scaoilte. Níl sé oiriúnach ach oiread go gcuireann na cúirteanna mná a dteastaíonn cóireáil don andúil uathu, nó mná gan dídean, chuig Ionad Dóchas nuair is dócha go mbeidh socrú neamhchoinneála nó ordú míochaine/teiripe i bhfad níos oiriúnaí dá gcuid riachtanas. Táimid ag súil le feabhsuithe sa réimse sin. Ba mhaith leis an gCoiste Cuairte soláthar seirbhíse 'comhcheangailte' do mhná a fheiceáil, rud a thugann aghaidh in aon áit amháin ar na ceisteanna a bhaineann le tithíocht, le sláinte, le fostaíocht agus le buiséadú.

Máithreacha agus Leanbáin

Bhí ceathrar leanbán san Aonad Máithreacha agus Leanbán ag pointe amháin le linn na bliana. A bhuí leis an iarracht bhreise a chuir an Gobharnóir O'Connor agus an Gobharnóir Cúnta Connolly isteach, tá an tAonad feistithe go hiomlán anois. Bhí an-áthas orainn gur ceannaíodh trealamh leanbán chun na críche sin. Chonaiceamar oifigigh a bhí an-sofhreagrach dona chinntiú go bhfreastalófaí go hiomlán ar riachtanais ar leith na máithreacha agus na leanbán. Cé gur fearr gan máithreacha a bhfuil leanaí óga acu a chur i bpríosún in aon imthosca agus go gcreidimid go láidir gur cheart pianbhreitheanna neamhchoinneála a chur mar ghnás i gcásanna den sórt sin, tá áthas orainn go ndearna Ionad Dóchas iarracht freastal ar mháithreacha maidir le naíonáin a choinneáil lena máithreacha go dtí go mbaineann siad 12 mhí amach.

Drugaí

Leanann substaintí neamhdhleathacha de bheith ina bhfadhb. Cé gur éirigh go geal leis na heangacha lasnairde lasmuigh, bhí roinnt cásanna inar thug mná drugaí isteach agus iad ag filleadh ar an bpríosún tar éis scaoileadh sealadach. Ar an drochuair, tugadh na substaintí sin do mhná eile san Ionad. D'éirigh mná tinn, bualadh taomanna iad agus, ar ócáid amháin, cuireadh mná san ospidéal tar éis na substaintí sin a thógáil. Is ábhar leanúnach imní iad drugaí.

An tAonad Cimithe

Athphéinteáladh an tIonad Sláinte ina iomláine. Táthar ag súil go n-úsáidfear roinnt seomraí chun cóiríocht a chur ar fáil do mhná atá ar cimiú in Ionad Dóchas sula gcuirfear iad san Ionad.

Limistéir Fáiltithe

An limistéar fáiltithe ina bpróiseáiltear príosúnaigh nua, bhí sé salach gach uair a thugamar cuairt ar an Ionad. Is gá na cithfholcadáin sa limistéar fáiltithe a ghlanadh i gceart ar bhonn leanúnach, go háirithe tar éis gach úsáide, chun go gcloífidh siad le caighdeán inghlactha glaineachta agus sláinteachais. Is olc an riocht ina bhfuil seomraí feithimh an limistéir fáiltithe.

Tá cuma mhíshlachtmhar sheanchaite ar an mbealach isteach. Is gá péinteáil, vearnaiseáil agus glanadh tionsclaíoch a dhéanamh air.

Cumarsáid
Fadhb leanúnach is ea post chuig Ionad Dóchas agus amach uaidh agus post idir príosúin agus fuaireamar gearáin faoi sin ar fud na bliana 2013. Díreach mar a bhí roimhe, bhí deacracht ag baill teaghlaigh teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an Ionad chun cuairteanna a chur in áirithe agus tá imní orainn go bhfuil moill ar an bhfadhb sin a réiteach. Tá sé an-tábhachtach go reáchtáiltear cuairteanna rialta ó thaobh fholláine na mban agus a gcuid leanaí de.

Táthar sna luathchéimeanna maidir le Cuairteanna Fíorúla do bhaill teaghlaigh a thabhairt isteach trí naisc físe agus cuirtear fáilte mhór roimh an bhforbairt sin. Rinne an Gobharnóir Cúnta Connolly an-iarracht maidir le Cuairteanna Fíorúla a chumasú. Tá súil againn go bhforbrófar úsáid Cuairteanna Fíorúla sa bhliain atá le teacht agus chuirfimis fáilte roimh a n-úsáid chun glaonna físe a éascú idir na príosúin.

Sláinte
Bhuail an Coiste leis an Dochtúir ón Liachtlann le linn na bliana. Thug sé forbhreathnú cuimsitheach ar obair na Liachtlainne. Táimid sásta go bhfuil leibhéal an chúraim leighis ar bhonn leanúnach á chomhlíonadh go leormhaith.

Ba mhaith linn a fheiceáil go bhfuil treoirlínte soiléire i bhfeidhm maidir leis an dóigh ar cheart déileáil le tinneas foirceanta ar phríosúnaigh faoi choimeád. Glacaimid leis go mbeidh éagsúlacht i dtosca do gach duine aonair. Thángamar ar chás amháin den saghas sin le linn na bliana agus déileáladh leis ar bhonn sealadach de réir dealraimh. D'éirigh sé soiléir go raibh bainistíocht iomlánaíoch ag teastáil mar aon le nós imeachta an-soiléir nach mór a leanúint sa todhchaí. Chuirfí san áireamh sa nós imeachta sin riachtanais shíceolaíocha, shóisialta, fhisiceacha agus thréadacha, chomh maith le riachtanais mhíochaine an phríosúnaigh. Leanfaimid ar aghaidh ag déanamh monatóireacht ar an gcás sin.

Sláinte agus Sábháilteacht
Cuireadh Druileanna Dóiteáin ar siúl ar bhonn rialta.

Seirbhís Éisteachta
Oileadh comhalta nua mar éisteoir le linn na bliana. Seirbhís luachmhar do na mná is ea an tseirbhís seo.

An Siopa
Is leanúnach atá saincheist an tsiopa. An-ard atá praghsanna agus fuaireamar roinnt mhaith gearán ó phríosúnaigh ina leith sin i 2013. Is é an tuiscint atá againn ná gur conraíodh cuideachta mhórdhíola amháin chun a chinntiú gur coinníodh praghsanna iomaíoch. Mar sin féin, feictear don Choiste go bhfuil roinnt míreanna an-bhunúsach ró-chostasach i ndáiríre agus d'éirigh costais ró-ard do roinnt de na mná. Creidimid nár cheart siopa an phríosúin a úsáid chun brabús a ghiniúint.

Iompar
Tá imní ar an gCoiste Cuairte faoi shaincheist an iompair. Chuir príosúnaigh roinnt ábhar i dtaca leis sin in iúl dúinn i 2013. Molann an Coiste nach mór scrúdú a dhéanamh ar na hábhair

seo: stadanna scíthe, béilí iomchuí do phríosúnaigh ar thurais fhada, agus srianadh iomchuí (gan srianadh iomarcach) ar thurais fhada. Baineann tábhacht ar leith leis sin nuair a úsáidtear veaineanna príosúin le haghaidh príosúnaigh a choinneáil, ar feadh roinnt uaireanta ó am go chéile, agus iad ar feitheamh trialach ag tithe cúirte tuaithe nach mbeadh cillíní coinneála acu. Gheall an tUas. Michael Donnellan, an tArd-Stiúrthóir, go ndéanfadh sé scrúdú ar an tsaincheist seo um prótacail maidir le mná a iompar, go háirithe más torrach atá siad. Cé go bhfuil rannán beag faoi iompar i gcoitinne i Rialacha Príosúin 2007, tugaimid faoi deara go mbaineann sé le príobháideachas den chuid is mó agus ní dhéantar tagairt d'iompar na bpríosúnach is mná. Molaimid gur cheart aghaidh a thabhairt air sin. Tá glanadh tionsclaíoch iomchuí riachtanach le go gcomhlíonann feithiclí iompair leibhéal inghlactha sláintíochta.

An Scoil

Rinne mná gearán ar bhonn leanúnach i 2013 faoin scoil a bheith dúnta. Sheiceálamar le Cathy O'Flaherty, Príomhoide na Scoile, a thug bunús leis an méid a maíodh. Tá sé riachtanach beirt oifigeach a chur ar fáil gach maidin le haghaidh na scoile agus ní mór struchtúr iomchuí an lae scoile agus na seachtaine scoile a choinneáil. Tá sé deacair do mhná bheith inspreagtha nuair a dhéantar dúnadh agus athruithe go seasmhach. Tá sé tábhachtach do mhná teagasc iomlán a bheith acu i gcomhair dámhachtainí atá creidiúnaithe go náisiúnta. D'fhéadfadh siad bheith ríthábhachtach maidir lena n-athshlánú agus le hathchiontú a chosc, go háirithe do phríosúnaigh atá ag caitheamh pianbhreitheanna fada. Chomhaireamar 52 cur isteach nó athrú ar ranganna idir mí Mheán Fómhair agus mí na Nollag 2013. Áiríodh leo:

- Níor osclaíodh an scoil ag 9.30 a.m.
- Ní raibh ach thuas staighre ar oscailt mar nach raibh ach oifigeach amháin ar fáil.
- Ní raibh ach thíos staighre ar oscailt mar nach raibh ach oifigeach amháin ar fáil.
- Níor osclaíodh an scoil go dtí 11.30 a.m. nó 2.30pm i roinnt cásanna.

Tá beirt oifigeach ag teastáil chun an scoil a oscailt gach maidin. Tá imní orainn go n-ath-imlonnaítear oifigigh ón scoil nuair a tharlaíonn aon easpa foirne mar gheall ar thinneas, ar shaoirí nó ar ábhair eile. Iarraimid tosaíocht a thabhairt don scoil agus gan na hoifigigh a shanntar gach lá a ghlacadh ó na poist sin.

An Giomnáisiam

Tarlú minic eile a bhí i ndúnadh an ghiomnáisiam agus fuarthas roinnt mhaith gearán faoi sin le linn na bliana. Arís, tá imní orm go bhfuil tionchar ag easpa saoráid aclaíochta iomchuí ar fholláine agus ar mheabhairshláinte na bpríosúnach. Molaimid gur cheart roghanna eile, amhail an Clós Caitheamh Aimsire, a chur ar fáil mura bhfuil an giomnáisiam ar oscailt.

Soláthar Foirne

Tá imní orainn freisin go bhféadfadh bainistiú na saoire bliantúla bheith ina chúis le líon mór d'oifigigh an phríosúin ag dul ar saoire agus ag iarraidh am saor ag deireadh na ráithe. Cuireann sé sin le fadhb dhúnadh na scoile agus an ghiomnáisiam agus géaraíonn sé an fhadhb sin. Cé go bhfuil easnaimh foirne le sonrú in Ionad Dóchas do Mhná, molaimid gur cheart ath-iomlonnú na mball foirne ar fáil as an gCampas a iarraidh chun infhaigheacht chomhsheasmhach na seirbhísí ríthábhachtacha sin do mhná a chinntiú. D'fháilteoimis go mór roimh iarrachtaí ar an bhfadhb sin a réiteach. Imríonn sé an-drochthionchar ar shaol laethúil na mban san Ionad.

Oiliúint Foirne

Tacaíonn Coiste Cuairte Ionad Dóchas leis an tuairim gur gá déileáil le príosúnaigh is mná ar bhealach atá difriúil leis an dóigh a ndéileáiltear le príosúnaigh is fir, ar dhóigheanna áirithe. Fáiltímid roimh thabhairt isteach an **Chláir Oiliúna nua um Chearta an Duine d'Fhoireann an Phríosúin a seoladh i 2013.** Tá sé sin á chur i bhfeidhm maidir le gach ball foirne agus beidh sé mar chuid den chlár oiliúna le haghaidh earcaigh nua. Bhí an Cigire Príosún an-soiléir ina thuarascáil eatramhach le déanaí ar Ionad Dóchas maidir leis an ngá le hoiliúint a fhreagraíonn d'inscne agus le déileáil le saincheisteanna príosúin ar bhealach a bhaineann go sonrach le hinscne. Tacaímid leis an tuairim sin. Ba mhaith linn dá gcuirfí oiliúint ar fáil do bhaill foirne faoi conas sainaithint a dhéanamh ar mhná a d'fhulaing mí-úsáid fhisiceach, ghnéasach nó shíceolaíocht agus iad ina bpáistí, ina n-ógánaigh nó ina n-aosaigh agus conas déileáil go hoiriúnach leo.

Bearta a Bhaineann go Sonrach le hInscne maidir le Príosúnú Ban

Mar a léiríodh inár dTuarascáil Bhliantúil do 2012, creideann an Coiste Cuairte go láidir gur cheart an úsáid comhroghanna pobalbhunaithe thar phríosún do mhná a bheith ar an gcroí-aidhm do Sheirbhís Príosún na hÉireann agus don tSeirbhís Promhaidh maidir le déileáil le ciontóirí ban sa todhchaí. Thacaigh ár ngníomhaíocht le príosúnaigh is mná ar fud 2013, mar ar bhreathnaíomar an éifeacht iarmhartach ar theaghlaigh ar fad mar gheall ar an úsáid leantach pianbhreitheanna coimeádta do mhná, a mbaineann roinnt mhaith díobh le cionta neamhfhoréigneacha. Chomh maith le costas eacnamaíoch, tagann an-chostas sóisialta as an gcleachtas sin.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le Gobharnóir an Champais, an tUasal Whelan agus le Gobharnóir Ionad Dóchas, Iníon O'Connor, agus lena foireann as a n-aird, a gcuidiú agus a gcomhoibriú le linn na bliana 2013.

Síniú ____ Dáta ____________________
An tUasal Noel Cloak (Cathaoirleach 2013)

Síniú ____ Dáta ____________________
Bernie Donnelly (Leas-Chathaoirleach 2013)

Síniú ____ Dáta ____________________
Mary Elliott

Síniú ____ Dáta ____________________
Ruth Gallagher

Síniú ____ Dáta ____________________
Anne Delaney