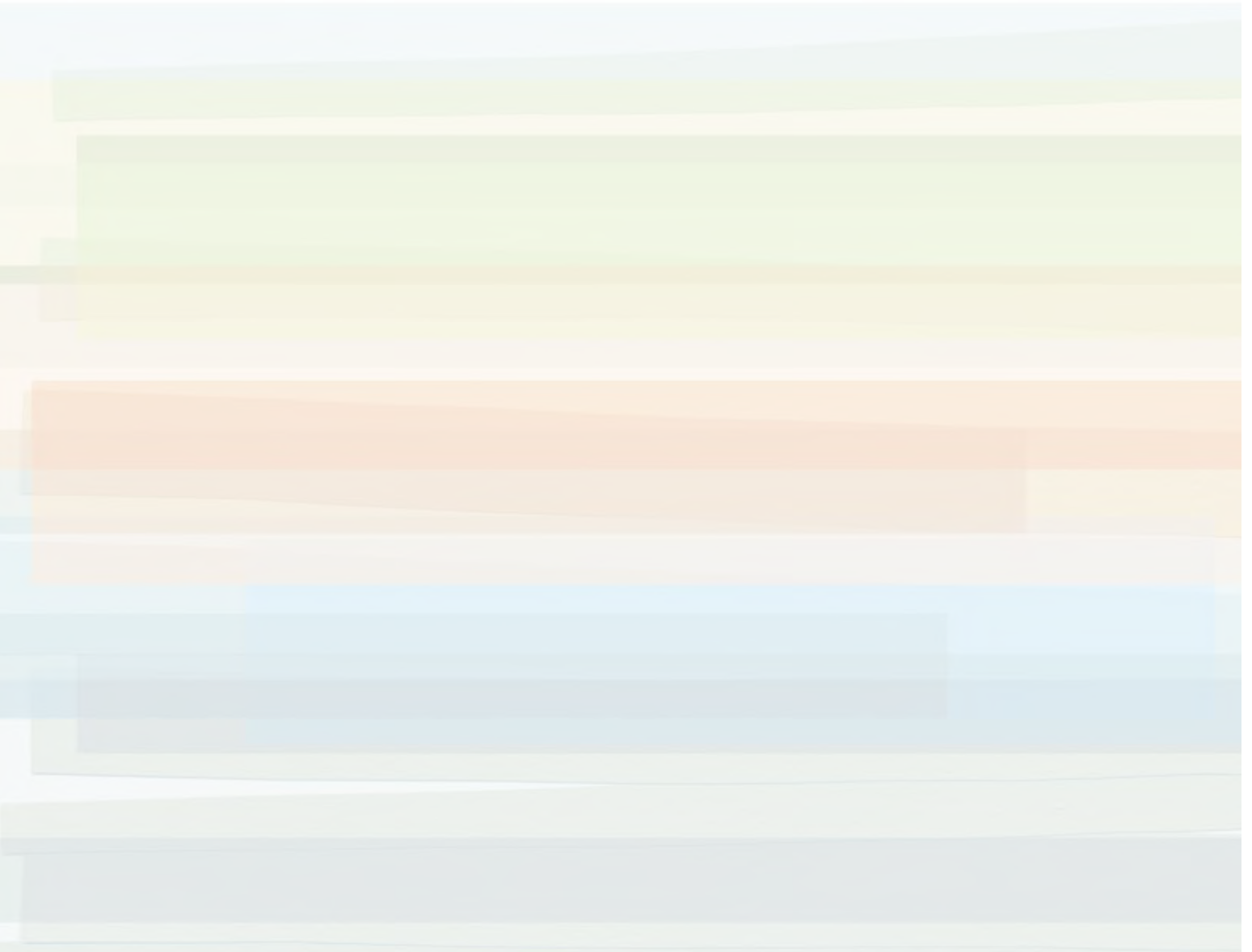


# The Prison System in Berlin





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# Foreword

For many people, prisons remain places that they regard with unease. Prison architecture is daunting. What happens behind prison walls is subject to speculation. And the impression that many have of the prison system is often only informed by television. Many tales have been told about prisons and what happens in them. *Fidelio* and *The Count of Monte Cristo* are just two of them. Such stories are, however, moving tales of adventure. The reality is different.

People are detained in prisons for a given period of their lives. Yet prisons also aim to prepare inmates for a life that is free of crime. This is why prisoners are granted the right to furnish their cells comfortably, to watch television and make purchases with their money, receive visits from relatives and friends, and are allowed to make telephone calls to people “on the outside”. They are also subject to just as many restrictions; they are “placed under lock and key”, they are not able to leave an allocated area of the prison without permission and they must accept that their cells may be searched at any time.

Five years ago, the first edition of this brochure provided insight into the everyday reality of the prison system, a system that, like no other area of public life, requires constructive guidance and critical supervision from society. The brochure was received with goodwill and interest as a contribution to constructive dialogue. Since its publication, the objectives pursued by the Berlin prison system have remained unchanged. However, there have certainly been developments, like in so many other areas, that are now described in this new edition. The interviews with employees included in the first edition received a particularly positive feedback. This is why other people are being given the opportunity to describe their everyday work and to provide information about what motivates them. This helps give a more realistic and more complete impression of the prison system.

The Berlin prison system strongly identifies with its mandate of making prisoners capable of leading lives free from crime following their release, and considers protecting the community from crime to be its duty. This can only succeed with the help of the broad number of employees from all different vocational areas who work in the individual prisons. They perform a service that is highly demanding, with high levels of responsibility and accountability for which they deserve respect and recognition. It would also be an achievement if this brochure were to inspire young people to consider pursuing a career in a correctional centre, for example as a prison officer or nurse, as a social worker or psychologist, as part of the administrative staff or as a legal expert.

Dostoyevsky once remarked that “You can judge a society by how well it treats its prisoners”. This brochure aims to draw your attention to, and deepen your understanding of, how the prison system in Berlin promotes a well-functioning society by the way it treats its prisoners.

The Berlin Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection  
Berlin, October 2015



# LEGAL FOUNDATIONS

**“By enforcing imprisonment, the prisoner should be enabled to live a socially responsible life free of crime in the future. Enforcing imprisonment also serves to protect the general population from further crimes.”**

**These are the words used by Paragraph 2 of the Prison Act to define the purpose and function of the penal system and to codify organisational principles for those responsible for its implementation.**

# The German Penal Code

On Christmas Eve 1967, a prisoner in the correctional facility in Celle wrote a letter to a prisoner advocacy organisation, in which he insulted the director of the prison. It is one of the countless letters prisoners were writing at the time, and are still writing today, to vent their frustration at real or imagined shortcomings in everyday prison life. What distinguishes this letter from all the others is that it was to make legal history. The prison examined what it said and did not forward the letter. The prisoner lodged a complaint at the Higher Regional Court, but without success. He then made a constitutional complaint, resulting in the case being assigned to the Constitutional Court. However, the letter was only a minor factor in the case, which saw the Federal Constitutional Court undertake an in-depth review of the issue of the legal status of prisoners. At the time, the principle known as the 'special power of authority' still applied. This determined that the basic rights of prison inmates, such as the right to free speech or privacy of communication, were rendered invalid by the very nature of the penal system. The very circumstance of being sentenced to incarceration justified the restriction of fundamental rights. The Federal Constitutional Court was to overturn this principle, and call for the creation of a Prison Act.

## Resocialisation as a key principle

A first draft prepared by the Federal Ministry of Justice failed to pass in the face of opposition from the German states which were to be held liable for the costs, and feared having to invest millions in the run-down penal institutions that still characterised the state of correctional centres in Germany. It took another three years to find a compromise, and on 1 January 1977, the Federal Prison Act, which still remains legally binding in Berlin, entered into force. Over large sections, it represents a progressive law, and is possibly one of the most sophisticated prison acts in the world. One major consequence of this Act was that it made resocialisation the guiding principle of the penal system in Germany.

Correctional centres started preparing sentence plans that also allowed for input from prisoners. Privileges for prisoners were acknowledged as integral to treatment, with open prisons for prisoners who proved suitable defined as a form of general imprisonment. Medical care for prisoners was regulated, just as their education and employment is. Advisory boards comprised of honorary advisors were to be formed at every institution to advise the facility, and which could be consulted by prisoners to obtain information about their issues of concern. The Act also defines under which conditions a letter sent by a prisoner may be withheld. However, the Act also has its downsides. Whenever financing is the issue, the Prison Act refuses to take a clear stance. While every prisoner does, in fact, have a right to an individual cell, prisoners can still be housed in shared cells in facilities built before 1977. Payment for work done by prisoners was initially so paltry that the Federal Constitutional Court felt it necessary to almost double the entitlement in 1998.

Yet despite all its shortcomings: The Prison Act remains an engine for a humane penal system and obliges the prison system to uphold the principles of resocialisation.

## The challenge of juvenile detention

Slightly less than 30 years after the Prison Act entered into force, the Federal Constitutional Court made another landmark ruling in May 2006. This time it concerned juvenile detention centres. The federal government and German state governments had made repeated attempts to introduce a similar act. Time and time again, the costs involved resulted in its failure.

The Federal Constitutional Court decided it was time to stop borrowing from the German Prison Act. The Juvenile Detention Act (Jugendstrafvollzugsgesetz) was to take account of the fact that the physical and mental development of juvenile detainees is not complete. The conceptual framework given to legislators by the Federal

Continued on page 6



Constitutional Court included making allowances for the fact that not only do inmates need to have suitable qualification openings, but also need to have adequate opportunities for family members to visit. It asked them to consider the need for an atmosphere in detention centres that is conducive to non-violent co-existence and, last but not least, that they offer adequate sport and recreational opportunities. However, this act will not become federal law. The reform of federal and state competencies in 2006 witnessed the transfer of competency from the federal to the state government level. This means that each state must now draft a law of its own. Together with the other states, Berlin wrote a sample draft for a Juvenile Detention Act on the basis of its consultations with the Berlin State parliament. The Juvenile Detention Act entered into force on 1 January 2008 as the first judicial Prison Act in Berlin.

In the years following, Berlin has developed a number of important laws for public prisons. In 2010, the Remand Centre Act (Untersuchungshaftvollzugsgesetz) came into force. Its guiding principle is the presumption of innocence. This determines that pre-trial detenti-

on must be oriented towards persons who have not been convicted by a court of law.

A law governing the protection of data in prisons has been in force in Berlin since 2011. It regulates how personal data are processed in prisons, and provides an authoritative framework governing the prerequisites prisoners must fulfil in order to examine their files, which information the prison may issue to third parties, and how sensitive data is forwarded within the institution.

The last important penal law, for the time being, entered into force in 2013. This was the Preventive Detention Act (Sicherungsverwahrungsvollzugsgesetz). Similar to the Juvenile Detention Act, this is a ruling by the Federal Constitutional Court that inmates in preventive detention – detainees who have served their sentences yet must remain in custody due to a continued, grave risk of reoffending, as decided by a court of law – have the right to be incarcerated in conditions significantly better than those of regular inmates. The state is obliged to offer them opportunities for treatment to lower their risk of reoffending and to use these measures to motivate them to cooperate.

## Objectives and responsibilities

The Prison Act provides clear guidelines for all those working in positions of responsibility in correctional centres. For one, prisoners should be prepared for reintegration into society during their period of detention. However, imprisonment is not social welfare but rather represents the state's harshest sanction against its citizens. Because the penal system must ensure that the community is protected from further crimes when an offender is imprisoned, it often cannot avoid placing inmates in high-security institutions. Furthermore, freedom of movement within the institutions is also frequently subject to considerable constraints.

How can prisoners be prepared for freedom while keeping them in conditions in which their freedom is denied? Many would argue that this is impossible. But what is the alternative? The abolition of torture and corporal punishment in favour of custodial sentences is an achievement our society can be proud of, as is the abolition of the death penalty in Germany a few years after the Second World War. However, no modern constitutional state can afford to forego the state's right to inflict punishment for its own sake and thereby waive an appropriate reaction to severe injustices that have been committed. If fair punishment requires custodial sen-



tencing as an ultimate sanction, this does not, in turn, mean that the enforcement of a prison sentence may be reduced to lock-up or simple custody alone. Quite the opposite: It is a known fact that a “tough” term of imprisonment does not redeem the offender, and may promote formation of subcultures and brutalisation. Only a penal system that places human dignity at the centre of its endeavours can have a positive impact on the prisoners. This insight is another achievement our society can be proud of.

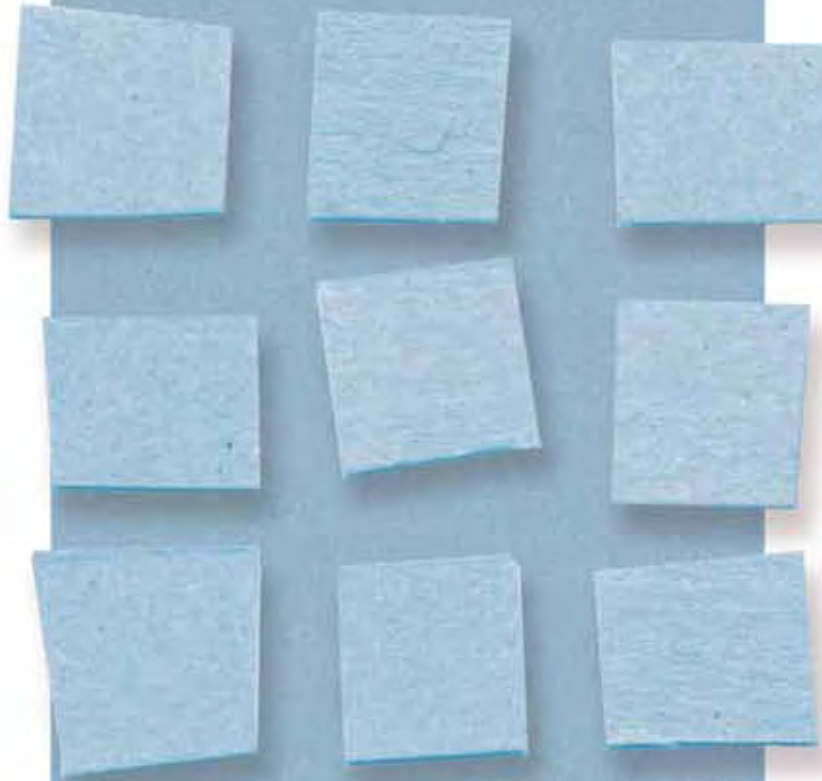
A humane penal system is, first and foremost, based on humane housing conditions. The fact that courts in Germany still have object to inhumane prisoner accommodation highlights an obvious deficit in the system.

## Cornerstones of the Berlin prison system

- The prison system in Berlin depends on a high level of professional competence and the commitment of the personnel responsible for its organisation and continued development. Professional interaction among the various vocational groups and the diversity of the skills they provide are a warranty for its high quality and high level of problem-solving competence.
- Taken as a whole, the Berlin prison system views itself as a system of enforcing therapy and treatment designed to address both the deficits of prisoners and their competences.
- The Berlin prison system teaches prisoners clear rules and codes of conduct, and expects them to be followed consistently. In doing so, it expects inmates to enter, and to comply with, specific agreements. By implementing the highest possible level of external security, the prison system can be more open on the inside.
- The Berlin prison system has the capacity to implement a broad range of programmes for individuals and groups. These include social therapeutic facilities for male, female and juvenile prisoners, as well as measures chosen to best satisfy individual needs in the remaining areas.
- The Berlin prison system is hallmarked by its innovativeness. Adapting concepts to changing circumstances, incorporating insights from the Criminology Services, and close relationships with the city’s scientific institutions characterise the culture of this penal system.
- The Berlin prison system cooperates closely with external agencies, acknowledging that their knowledge and skills are indispensable for an effective penal system and for successful reintegration of inmates into the community following their release.
- The Berlin prison system maintains separate institutions for the incarceration of female and juvenile inmates in order to do justice to the specific needs of women and youths in detention.
- The Berlin prison system maintains its own prison hospital together with a comprehensive system of out-patient medical care across its correctional facilities.
- The Berlin prison system is also characterised by the fact that it has always taken the conflicting priorities of incarceration and preparation for release very seriously. Berlin is one of German states with the highest proportion of inmates in open prisons.
- The Berlin prison system offers its inmates employment and qualification measures appropriate to their needs.



# DATA AND FACTS



**As of 2014, 9,930 persons were detained in prison on remand, in regular prison, juvenile detention and other forms of lawful detention or preventive detention and were housed in Berlin's correctional centres.**

**The Berlin prison system has a wealth of facets. This is shown by the data and facts and by the accounts of female correctional centres and juvenile detention, as well as preventive detention.**

# Data and facts

## Number of prisoners and detainees in Berlin correctional centres by type of prison and by gender

Date of survey: 31 March 2014

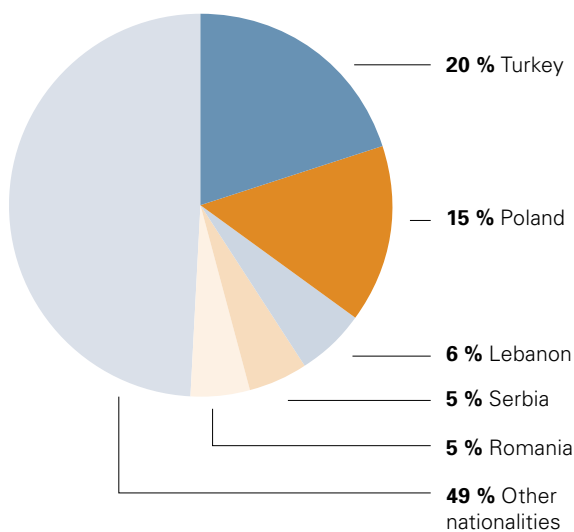
TYPE OF PRISON	NUMBERS		
	Male inmates	Female inmates	Total
Remand	642	25	667
Adult prisons Including persons under custodial sanctions*	2,885 329	160 24	3,045 353
Juvenile detention centres	238	7	245
Other forms of detention	29	5	34
Preventive detention	44	0	44
Juvenile custody	10	2	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,848</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>4,047</b>

→ The proportion of female inmates in relation to the total number of inmates is very low. It totals 4.9 percent.

\*Custodial sanctions are imposed instead of an original fine when the person convicted defaults on the fine, an attachment order cannot be executed and/or it is not possible to pay off the fine by performing community service.

## Proportion of foreign nationals in Berlin correctional centres

Date of survey: 31 March 2015



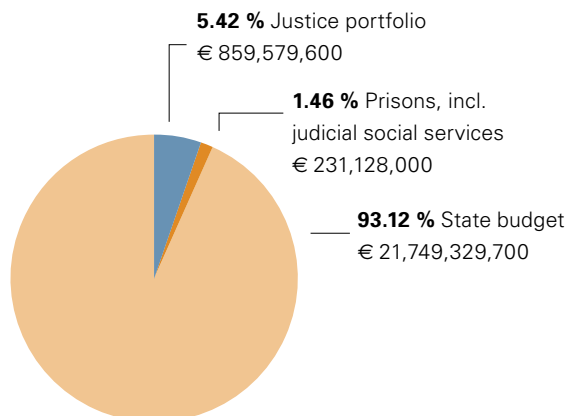
## Average inmate capacity in Berlin correctional centres (not including juvenile custody)

Year	Male inmates	Female inmates	Total
2006	5,040	240	5,280
2007	5,044	255	5,299
2008	4,769	225	4,994
2009	4,739	231	4,970
2010	4,502	227	4,729
2011	4,205	216	4,421
2012	3,957	206	4,163
2013	3,875	208	4,083
2014	3,800	183	3,983

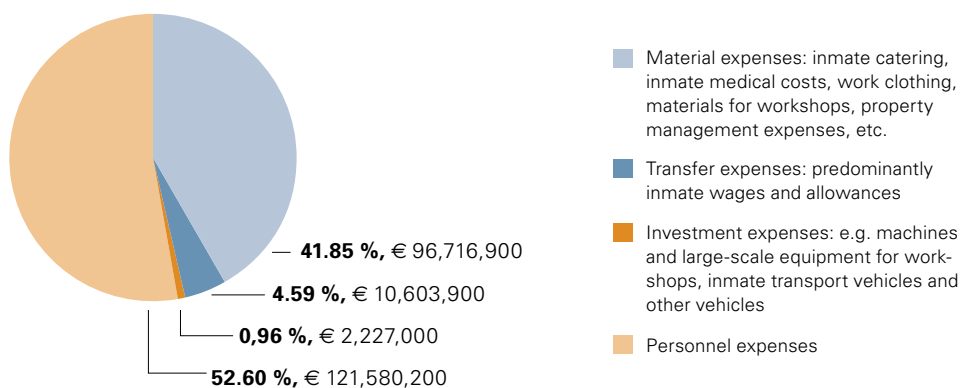
Source: The Berlin Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection



### Planned share of the Berlin state budget spending for 2014/2015 – Justice and prison portfolio



### Planned share of expenditure for prisons and judicial social services, 2014/2015



Source: The Berlin Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection

### Daily cost of detention per prisoner in Berlin and in Germany as a comparison for 2013

	Daily cost of housing an inmate (not including building costs)	Personnel costs per inmate in daily cost of detention	Building costs per inmate per day of detention	Total daily cost of housing one inmate
Berlin	€ 116.00	€ 91.97	€ 27.14	€ 143.14
Daily cost of detention for all German states as an average	€ 117.76	€ 86.87	€ 16.07	€ 133.83

Source: The Berlin Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection

## Prisoner rates for 2013 as an international comparison

Prisoner rate = prisoners per 100,000 inhabitants	
Denmark	73
Germany	79
Switzerland	82
Netherlands	82
France	98
Italy	106
Spain	147
England/Wales	148
Poland	217
Russia	475
USA	716

Source: International Centre for Prison Studies, Core publications, World Prison Population List (10th edition), Author: Roy Walmsley

Berlin	113
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Source: The Berlin Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection

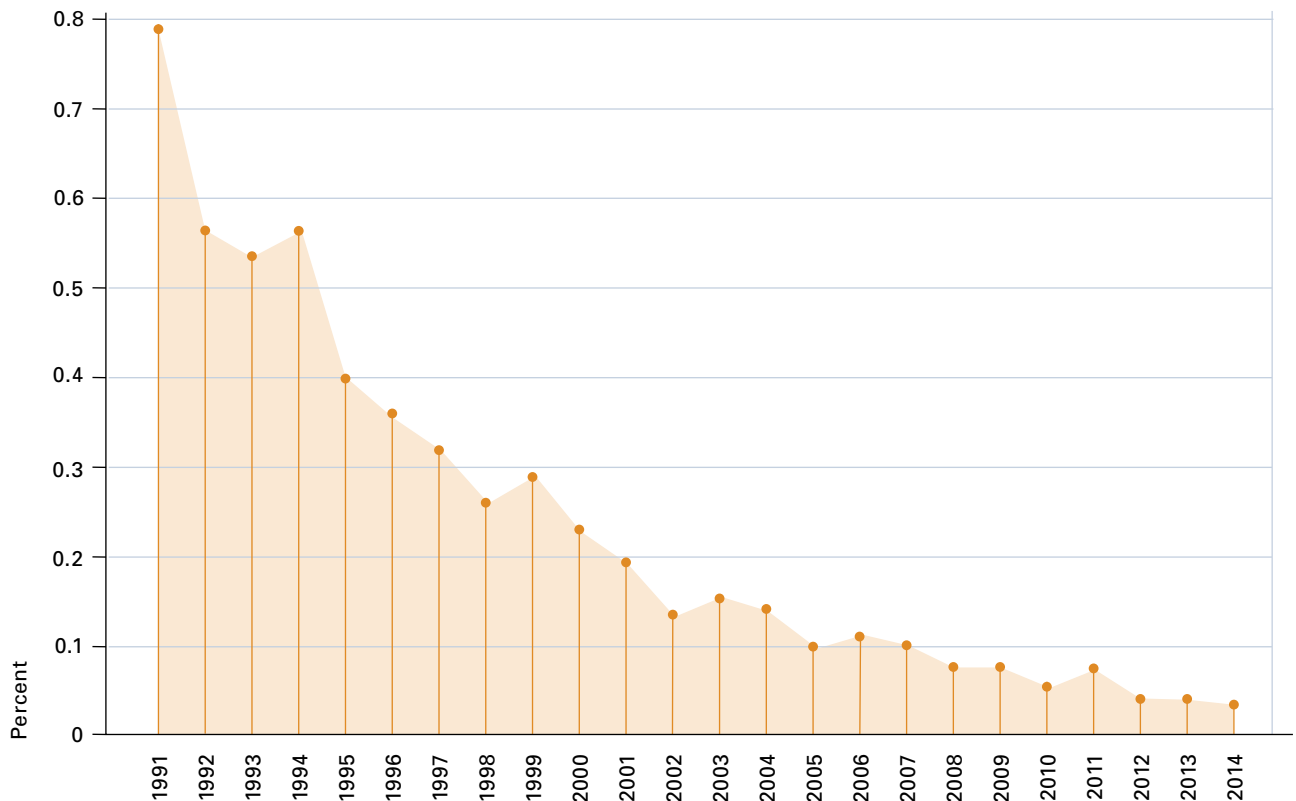
## Number of privileges granted

Year	Total number of cases	Total number of non-returnees
2014	243,894	80
2013	254,263	101
2012	269,137	113
2011	131,714	105
2010	92,955	51
2009	83,339	68
2008	87,171	68
2007	96,749	96
2006	101,302	107
2005	105,016	100
2004	110,679	159
2003	114,027	181
2002	105,676	152
2001	98,993	184
2000	96,479	226

Source: The Berlin Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection



## Proportion of non-returnees in relation to the total number of day releases as a total percentage of cases



Source: The Berlin Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection

### Figures and milestones for open prisons

In 2014, in open prisons for male inmates with an average occupancy of 902 and a total of 211,170 privileges granted (holiday, temporary release, day release), there were only 74 cases in which inmates failed to return or return voluntarily. In relation to the total number of cases, this only totals 0.035 percent.

This quota totalled 0.23 percent in 2000 and was considerably lower than the 0.50 percent recorded in 1990.

In open prison for female inmates, the rate of abuse of privileges has been shown to be lower than in open prisons for males. In the open prison for females in 2014, there were only eight cases of abuse of privileges at an average yearly occupancy of 60 inmates and 14,415 privileges granted in total. This is equivalent to a quota of 0.055 percent.

### Data on inmate privileges

Granting privileges to inmates is one of the methods of treatment used in prison. It allows social bonds to be maintained, personal matters to be taken care of, and preparations for release to be made, and thus makes an important contribution to achieving the objectives of the penal system.

- Paragraph 11 of the Prison Act allows inmates found suitable to pursue regular employment outside the prison under supervision of a prison officer ("outside employment") or without supervision ("day release"), or
- Prison leave under supervision of a prison officer for a certain period of the day ("accompanied release") or without supervision ("temporary release").

Failure to return from release is not an offense. The enforcement of the sentence in this case is suspended and continued should re-imprisonment occur. Privileges are, however, suspended.

# Preventive detention

Preventive detention is not a form of punishment for wrongdoing committed, but rather a disciplinary measure enforced in the interests of security. A court of law mandates it together with a prison term, and it is subject to very specific prerequisites governed by Paragraph 66 of the German Criminal Code (StGB). Among other factors, an overall assessment of the criminals and their crimes provides a basis for deciding that their tendency to commit significant crimes presents a danger for the general population. The prisoners initially serve the court-ordered sentences, after which – when a danger to the general population still exists – they are placed in preventive detention.

Placing persons in detention for an indefinite period for preventive reasons is permitted by the provisions of the Basic Law only when such persons represent a continued, considerable danger. Moreover, this form of lawful detention must differ decisively from the way regular imprisonment is enforced. Furthermore, imposing disciplinary sanctions aims to reduce the danger presented by the convicted criminal. This is the core statement of the verdict handed down by the Federal Constitutional Court on 4 May 2011, with which the court acknowledged preventive detention as being compatible with Basic Law, yet simultaneously imposed strict rules on lawmakers and the practical enforcement of custodial sanctions.

The Preventive Detention Act (Sicherungsverwahrungsvollzugsgesetz) of the State of Berlin, which entered into force on 1 June 2013, makes a reference to this ruling. The approach taken to the enforcement of preventive detention in Berlin is based on the following pillars:

1. Treatment measures that comply with modern scientific guidelines and that are as intensive and as specific to the individual as possible
2. Outcome-based motivational work
3. Adaptation of disciplinary measures to general living conditions insofar they do not conflict with existing security concerns

4. Organisation of a system of detention that, outwardly, differs considerably from regular imprisonment
5. A focus on freedom, which is put to the test by means of regular supervised releases accompanied by personnel, by unaccompanied day releases based on objective, realistic risk assessments, and by using the programmes developed to prepare individuals for release.

Preventive detention pursues the objective of reducing the level of danger presented by the inmates to the extent that the enforcement of custodial sanctions can be suspended as soon as possible, or can be deemed to be completed.

Furthermore, preventive detention aims to protect the general population from further crimes. Officials and employees from a variety of professional disciplines work in close cooperation to organise individual treatment and therapy for those in preventive detention. Where necessary, external experts are consulted and involved in processes. Detention is enforced in residential groups comprised of up to ten detainees and permanently assigned supervisory and professional staff. In order to satisfy the provisions passed by the Federal Constitutional Court in structural terms as well, a new building project was completed on the grounds of the Tegel Correctional Centre in October 2014. The 37 detainees currently in preventive detention took up residency there in November 2014. The new facility provides the option of housing up to 60 detainees in six residential groups in 20 square metre rooms with individual sanitary facilities.

The detainees are granted a greater degree of freedom and given more opportunities to structure their everyday lives individually than regular prisoners are. They can, for example, move around freely all over the building during the day, have unrestricted access to the outdoor area in front of the building, and can cook for themselves.





## WOMEN'S PRISON

The differences between the sexes become particularly apparent in relation to criminality and incarceration. The criminal statistics maintained by the police reveal that the proportion of female suspects is just over one quarter of all suspects, while the proportion of females imprisoned out of all prisoners totals around five per cent, both as a national average and in Berlin.

### Brief sentences are the rule

Gender-specific characteristics cannot, however, only be derived from numerical values, but are also revealed by the pattern of crimes. Women predominantly commit property and financial crimes or violate the German Narcotic Drugs Act. Crimes with a particularly violent or harmful nature resulting in a victim sustaining severe or even fatal injuries, or resulting in damages exceeding € 2,500, account for around twelve percent of the crimes committed by women incarcerated in prison. These circumstances are inevitably reflected in the sentences imposed: Over half the women imprisoned are serving sentences of only one year at the most.

### Effects of imprisonment

Men and women often experience the prison situation differently. Women react to prison much more frequently with, for example, passivity, resignation, depression, psychosomatic symptoms and self-harm. Only seldom do they externalise aggression. Physical altercations among female prisoners or attacks on officials are rarely seen. The term of imprisonment has a decisive, and not infrequently irreparable, impact on the women's social environment, above all, however, on underage children who used to live in the same household.

### Separate accommodation

The prison system can only really satisfy the different requirements and therapeutic needs of women and men

when it aligns framework conditions with respective groups of prisoners. Consequently, the Prison Act has good reason to specify in Paragraph 140, Section 1, Clause 1, that women must be housed separately from men.

In Berlin, this provision is implemented in terms of location, organisation and the facilities offered. The Women's Correctional Centre with its four different facilities in the metropolitan area, located in Lichtenberg, Pankow, Reinickendorf and Neukölln, is one of six stand-alone women's prisons in Germany. Furthermore, it is the women's corrective centre with the largest capacity for female inmates in open prison (116 cells) and also has one of the oldest social therapeutic departments.

### Accounting for causes of crimes

A key focus of all therapeutic and educational measures is the objective of preparing incarcerated women for a socially responsible life without further crimes. This often involves making allowances for the needs of minors or relatives dependent on care.

To achieve this objective, the inmates are expected, and mentored, to deal with the underlying causes of their crimes. They also address, in part, extreme experiences of violence and abuse, grapple with addiction and dependency problems, build up on social skills and learn vocational competencies. This provides a basis for helping them to master regular work and appropriate social conduct.

The employees of the Berlin Women's Correctional Centre work in close cooperation with numerous external institutes to provide therapeutic and educational programmes for inmates. During the term of imprisonment, a case manager is appointed to help with overcoming individual problems. Moreover, there is also a long-term cooperative agreement with educational institutes that provides valuable support, particularly with



developing and implementing opportune vocational qualification opportunities for the inmates.

### Large numbers of drug addicts

A considerable proportion of women in prison are addicted to drugs. In Berlin, they accounted for 30 per-cent in 2014 (without including alcohol and prescription medication dependencies). Specific therapeutic programmes are required for these inmates in order to analyse the nature of their addiction, reveal the causes and develop perspectives for a life of abstinence. By working together with external addiction counselling centres, prison employees encourage the women to attend inpatient or outpatient therapy.

### Housing mother and child together

If certain prerequisites are met, the option of housing children up to the age of three together with their mothers after sentencing exists in specific areas of the correctional facility for women. The welfare of the child always remains the central deciding factor, as a prison is a fundamentally unsuitable environment for a child

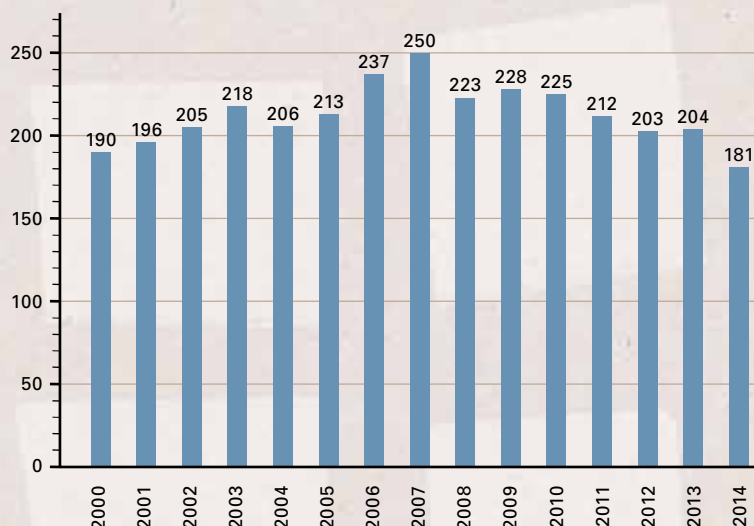
to grow up in. The Women's Correctional Centre works together with the youth welfare offices assigned to these cases, which also remain responsible for the child while it is housed in the prison.

### Juveniles in the women's prison

Female juveniles are housed in a separate area of the Women's Correctional Centre in Berlin. The full infrastructure of the adult prison is available for their care and treatment. Furthermore, there are a variety of age-appropriate services that satisfy the educational mandate of the Juvenile Detention Act.

This allows young women to learn social competencies and to overcome deficits in their school education and general education, for example in the prison's own Juvenile Employment Centre (JBZ), which offers structured basic programs run in cooperation with external educational institutes. The Centre aims to identify the individual skills of the young women, to resolve deficits and to prepare them to enter schooling to obtain a high school leaving certificate, or for a job in one of the prison workshops, for a training course or for their later life in freedom after joining the workforce.

**Changes to the annual average occupancy in the Women's Correctional Centre**



Source: The Berlin Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection



## JUVENILE DETENTION AND JUVENILE CUSTODY

The imprisonment of convicted juveniles has a special status in the state of Berlin. The specific guidelines and objectives pursued by a modern juvenile detention system are defined in the Berlin Juvenile Detention Act that has been in force since 1 January 2008.

Male inmates are placed in juvenile detention and held in remand in the Berlin Juvenile Detention Centre (inmate capacity as of December 2014: 389 places in closed prison and 32 in open prison).

### Educational and sustainable

Because juvenile inmates are still developing and maturing, the Juvenile Detention Act, and thus the Juvenile Detention Centre, both uphold the principle of educating and mentoring. The aim is to use suitable educational and corrective treatment concepts to have a positive and sustainable impact on the way juvenile criminals continue to mature during their period of detention. Exercising strict controls is necessary, as juvenile detention is only imposed when considerable – and often multiple – crimes were committed in the past. Prior to detention, neither parents nor the school or other institutions were able to sustainably steer the direction these young lives were taking in a positive way. The mandate of juvenile detention to achieve exactly this during the period of detention is one of the greatest challenges being faced.

Pre-trial custody and juvenile arrest are enforced in the Juvenile Detention Centre. Pre-trial custody also emphasises an educational and supportive approach to imprisonment. When youths and adolescents have been legally sentenced to a term in juvenile detention, their need for education and growth opportunities is assessed. The court verdict, information provided by social workers and probation officers, and the results obtained from psychological tests and competence assessment tools are evaluated. The findings are all factored into a sentence plan that is handed out to the inmate, reviewed regularly and continually updated.

There is a specific treatment concept for inmates with an existing drug addiction or who are at risk of addiction. This programme has a capacity for 87 inmates, features its own workshop and activities areas, a classroom area of its own and a separate visitors' area. This aims to ensure that the frequently highly unstable inmates, who may be dealing with multiple psychological burdens, are housed in a separate, secure area whose main focus is on abstinence motivation. Those inmates who satisfy the prerequisites are granted longer periods of time to spend outside their cells and, depending on the progress made in their treatment, are allowed to furnish their cells more extensively and, when applicable, are granted other prison privileges. This aims to encourage abstinence by reinforcing positive behaviour. The overall pedagogic concept combines intense work on building effective relationships, assigning responsibility, one-on-one discussions and group work, based on close cooperation between all the professionals involved.

### Social therapy in juvenile detention

The new Juvenile Detention Act has provided a basis for including a new, separate focus within the work being done by the Juvenile Detention Centre, with its 48-place social therapeutic department operational since early 2009. This is where young criminals with a particularly high risk of committing violence and or suffering relapses are housed, most of whom are multiple offenders exhibiting behavioural disorders. An intensive treatment programme is utilised to correct their behavioural problems. A variety of group therapy and offence-specific programmes have been developed to improve the everyday social competencies of these young men. They are made more aware of situations that present risks, and practice solving conflicts without resorting to violence. One-to-one therapy sessions also play a significant role in helping juveniles to overcome what are often severe personal problems and mental disorders. Other, constantly evolving, target-group-specific concepts are also practised in the Juvenile Detention Centre. One sound cornerstone is a stable, consistent re-

lationship to supervisors, as the biographies of young offenders are often characterised by broken family relationships that have had a negative impact on their development.

### Education and recreation

Juvenile prison inmates must participate in vocational qualification programmes or attend school classes. The overwhelming majority of inmates have neither graduated from school nor completed vocational training. This is why fundamental school skills often need to be taught first, before inmates start schoolwork to obtain a high school diploma or leaving certificate.

A particular focus of juvenile detention concerns vocational qualifications and education. A variety of trades and professions, such as carpenter, painter, fitter, bricklayer and bicycle mechanic can be learnt and taught in more than 20 workshops. However, other training courses or modular qualifications are also offered to prepare inmates for continued education and employment opportunities following their release. Another problem to overcome is the duration of the prison term. More than 70 percent of juvenile inmates are serving a term of less than two years, whereby subtracting the period spent in remand from the term of imprisonment often further shortens the period for many inmates. These periods of detention often only allow qualification modules to be completed, yet can also spark interest in continuing training or schooling subsequent to the term of imprisonment. In such cases, close cooperation with external institutes is essential to ensure that inmates have contact persons to turn to following release and that the transition from prison to freedom is made as smoothly as possible.

The rate of employment in juvenile detention centres has been consistently improving over the past few years, and now stands at over 90 percent.

Young inmates have the opportunity to participate in theatre, art and music workshops as recreational activities, or to attend one of the regular recreational groups. Sport plays an important role: Football, athletic sports, table tennis and many other types of sport are practiced and played.

### Advisory centre

Over the past few years, the Juvenile Detention Centre has built up a successful advisory centre. This functions as a coordinating office and activity space where the detention centre's own social services work together with external advisory and assistance agencies in the field of transition management. This is where agents from the Federal Employment Agency and the many external counsellors working for voluntary organisations find their primary point of contact. The internal and external processes conducted by the various state-run and private institutions in transition management are overseen by two employees of the Juvenile Detention Centre.

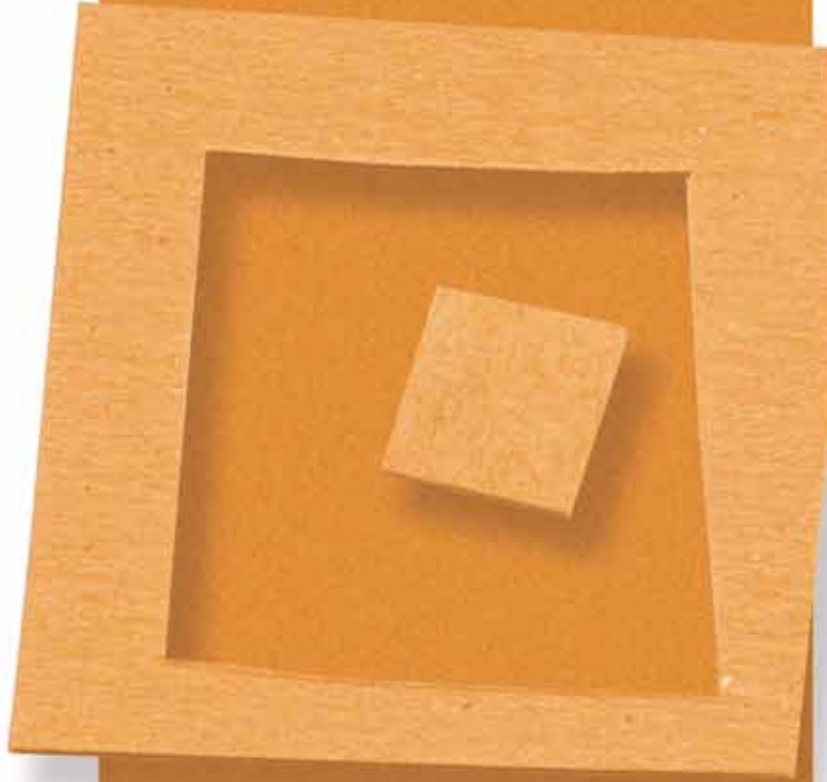
### Detention of juvenile delinquents

Placing juvenile delinquents in custody is a corrective measure foreseen by the Juvenile Detention Act. The Juvenile Custody Centre in Berlin has the capacity to hold up to 60 male and female juvenile delinquents who are housed here for a short period of arrest – a maximum of four weeks – in isolation from their social environment. Ensuring that juvenile custody has a constructive and successful outcome involves providing help by means of corrective measures. Custody provides the opportunity to counsel the young people, arouse new interests by means of discussions, counselling and information, and give a new impulse to their lives. However, rigid structures and clear rules are also essential, and compliance with them is encouraged using a modular, graduated approach.

# 3



## SAFETY AND SECURITY



**Correctional centres must be built, organised and operated in a way that ensures that imprisonment is enforced and that no escapes can occur. Just like inmates themselves, everyone working in a prison also has the right to expect the state to protect them from violations of their rights committed within the prison system. The correctional centres in Berlin implement security concepts that cover all structural, administrative and social components.**



# A safe and secure prison

The professionals working in the prison system are responsible for reconciling the prison's security measures with the objective of resocialisation and overcoming conflicts, while also making allowances for the different cultural backgrounds of the inmates. Without security, enforcing treatment is inconceivable. This means that systematic rules and principles are essential. Their framework is specified by law, while the public prisons are responsible for structuring implementation.

In a prison, people live together in a confined space. Many prisoners are incarcerated for committing multiple, often severe crimes, and are known to have flagrantly violated many of the rules governing society while still at large. Furthermore, many prisoners suffer from problems related to drug and alcohol dependency or psychological disorders. Employees of the prison system must be protected from being assaulted and threatened by inmates, while inmates, in turn, must be protected from violence against each other and from repression. This also involves preventing prohibited objects and prohibited substances from being introduced. Guaranteeing that this does not happen is a highly demanding task.

The closed public prisons in Berlin operate using security and safety concepts that cover all structural and technical, administrative and social components of prison security. They are reviewed regularly by employees working in the security divisions and modified on an ongoing basis. One central component of this security concept is the system of classification according to security levels. Such levels determine, for instance, the extent and nature of the technical security systems deployed. Inmates who present no risk, or only a very low risk need not be housed in high-security facilities. Even so, secure prisons are now unthinkable without

modern technology. This includes, for example, prison perimeter video surveillance or fencing systems that detect vibrations. The state of Berlin has already made significant investments in the purchase, maintenance and modernisation of technology for this purpose over the last few years, and will be providing further funding as needed within the scope of reviewing future requirements.

Major improvements to technology have resulted in a dramatic decrease in the number of breakouts over the last ten years. Even so, a reliance on technology alone is not the only way to maintain security.

Elements of so-called dynamic security are also incorporated into the security concept. This covers all security-relevant aspects resulting from the interaction of persons in the prison system and, when relevant, with persons outside it. This includes being attended to, and treated by, employees of diverse professional groups, the first of which are correctional officers working in the cell blocks. However, it also extends to visitors, correspondence and telephone calls, participation in discussion groups and cultural events. Dynamic security is based on a climate of dialogue, on mutual acceptance and on trust, and must be guaranteed by the commitment and dedication of all employees.

**Murrad Yacoubi,**  
JVA Moabit



“Every door is different”

**Murrad Yacoubi works as a correctional officer in the Moabit Correctional Centre (JVA Moabit). Working in shifts, he is responsible for overseeing 44 inmates housed in one cell block. His preferred weapon in critical situations: dialogue.**



*You report for work at six o'clock in the morning. What happens during your morning as the correctional officer responsible for the section?*

Although work starts at six o'clock, I tend to arrive a little earlier, of course, as it is still quite a walk to the cell block. I arrive at Gate 1, walk through the building and report for duty in the central office. That's where I find out where I am working. Once I arrive in the cell block, there is always some paperwork to do, mostly food orders for the day. I then take a look at the latest prisoner figures, and then go to the morning conference. This is where my colleagues from Block 1 meet to discuss the schedule for the day: Is a change of laundry planned? Or a change of towels? How are the recreational periods organised? That usually takes around 15 minutes. Back at the cell block, we carry out the morning inspection and hand out breakfast.

*Breakfast is also served in the cells?*

Yes, all meals are served in the cells here, before the men start their personal daily routines. My colleagues and I often walk long distances over the course of the day. When someone calls to tell me that one inmate or another needs to go to the doctor, to an appointment with their legal counsel or something like that, then I always have to walk to the respective cell, open the door and explain to the inmate where we are going.

*Why are cells usually kept locked?*

In other prisons, the cell doors are often left open. However, the Moabit Correctional Centre is a remand centre. The absolute majority of the detainees are still on trial, and are still considered to be innocent. Unlike with a prison sentence, a treatment mandate does not apply in this case. Instead, it must be guaranteed that criminal proceedings can be conducted correctly. Our task is to ensure no-one absconds and fails to answer to the court, and that contacts that could hinder the trial are prevented. A number of men are allowed to take part in specific group activities during the day, such as learning German or English, playing chess or participating in groups discussing prison routine. Others are assigned to work or other activities.

*You were born in Germany to Tunisian parents. Is your cultural background relevant to your interaction with inmates?*

I would be lying if I said it doesn't play a role. There are situations in which I react with more sensitivity to cultural differences. In these cases, I might give a different answer to what another officer would, and I can mediate. That's an advantage. However, my job here is not to be an interpreter. We have professional interpreters at the prison for that.



### *Do inmates sometimes accuse you of locking them up?*

Of course! But these issues can be resolved quickly. A court of law ruled that they are to be kept here. I didn't invite anyone personally, I don't make anyone come here. I'm here, and so is the inmate. That's something they usually grasp quickly.

### *What do you take with you for your own protection when you enter a cell?*

I carry a radio with speed dial, a red button. We all have a whistle and I can also call out. We do not carry a weapon. During training, we learn a few self-defence skills. In practice, however, it quickly becomes clear that those skills are not what keep you safe. You can only remain safe when you understand people and know how you have to talk to them. The most important thing is the spoken word – the way we speak to the inmates every day, and how we act towards them, is decisive. Your own behaviour dictates how people see us. You can't just act a certain way, you have to be that way. An honest, authentic manner is what keeps you safe.

### *How did you come to be a correctional officer?*

After the financial crisis in 2008, many employees feared for their jobs. My colleagues back then started arriving at work earlier, and leaving late, and giving each other a hard time. This uncertainty was not a good feeling. I then hit on the opportunity to enter the civil service in the prison system. I saw an advert in one of Berlin's daily newspapers and applied for the job. I think it was four or five days later that a large, A4 envelope arrived from the JVA Moabit, that was on a Friday. On Monday I was to come for a test. What were they thinking? You need to prepare for something like that.

So I called friends who worked for the police, who said you should read such and such a book and work through these tests. And everything went well, including the second interview, the medical test and the fitness test. The next step was to survive the training period – at 36 or 37 years of age, "going back to school" again was a big adjustment. And then a three-year probationary period followed. And later on I was congratulated on becoming a tenured civil servant.

### *How did your friends and family react when you said you are now working in a prison?*

My mother felt uneasy about it: "What do you want in a prison? There's a good reason why the people are there!" In a sense, she's right, however I've never encountered evil in person while working here. Every person has their own story. And I like working with other people, even if it's hard for an outsider to understand. The job has its rewards.



## Prison and life after release

The prison system aims to ensure society remains a safe place on a sustained basis by enabling prisoners to live a life free of crime and to successfully reintegrate into the community following release. The way prisoners are prepared for their release plays a major role in achieving this. Preparing prisoners for release, in a strict sense, encompasses all the steps needed when working towards a pending release date. However, in practice, the prison system has long since worked towards lending this definition, which is firmly focussed on the time of release, a much broader interpretation. Making prisoners capable of living a crime-free life after prison requires introducing the first measures to support their subsequent reintegration into the community right at the start of their sentence. Preparations for release start when a convicted criminal first starts serving a sentence.

Many years of practical experience have demonstrated that preparations for release succeed when the prisoners are guided towards regaining their freedom on a step-by-step basis. This makes it important to grant privileges by suitable means and to house inmates in an open prison. This form of structuring a sentence has proved successful. Moreover, preparing prisoners for release also encompasses innumerable counselling services provided by prison employees in close cooperation with external agencies. They provide advice on personal, social and economic concerns, help inmates find a job and a place to live, and help them pay off debts. The level of support provided always depends on the individual circumstances and on whether prisoners are prepared to accept the support offered.

## Cultural diversity

Inmates detained in correctional centres in Berlin originate from some 90 different countries. Even under prison conditions, the different cultures are given room to breathe and their coexistence is fostered. As a matter of principle, exactly the same treatment and resocialisation measures provided by the prison are available to both non-German and German inmates. For international inmates who depend on support given their lack of, or inadequate, language skills in German, there are experienced interpreters available in the Berlin prison system. Along with these, there are also specific programmes, such as German as a second language, and special events for inmates from other countries.

The Berlin Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Affairs promotes integration by supporting the “Round table for foreign inmates”. This provides a forum for social and political groups to exchange information and viewpoints, whilst also allowing the Senate Department for Justice, and other state departments, to

share information and experiences in the interests of foreign inmates.

### Freedom of religion

The prison system allows members of the Christian, Jewish, Islamic and other faiths to practice their religion. Customarily, the large Christian denominations maintain a presence in each correctional centre, sending in their own chaplains. Regular religious services, discussion groups, spiritual welfare for individuals and support services for everyday problems are provided. The religious guidance and services available to inmates who practise Islam have been expanded and structured with the support of the “Berlin Council for the Religious Guidance of Muslim Inmates”. Furthermore, individual prisons are obliged to provide help to all inmates by establishing contact with a representative of their religious community.



# SUICIDE IN PRISON

Suicides committed by prisoners are a traumatic event both for those working in prison and those serving sentences. However, as in the wider community, it is not entirely possible to prevent suicides from being committed altogether. Every year, around 100 inmates in German prisons end their lives at their own hand, and over half of these are detainees held in remand. Preventative measures help to identify dangerous tendencies and prevent suicides.

## Prevention through collaboration

All employees in the prison system work together closely on suicide prophylaxis and crisis intervention, contributing their expert knowledge and their experience. Prison officers acquire specific knowledge about this topic during their training and courses of study, and enrich such knowledge by attending regular further training.

## Measures to prevent suicides

When admitting inmates to the prison, prison officers conduct a so-called “suicide screening”, which is used to prepare an assessment of the inmate for any potential risk of suicide. Such a screening is conducted throughout the term of imprisonment, in particular for inmates who have gone through destabilising experiences. If indicators of a risk are identified, both the psychological services and medical services are informed immediately. Psychologists, in particular, are then called in for crisis intervention and counselling with no loss of time. There are also precautionary security measures for particularly unstable and at-risk inmates. The approaches and measures taken to prevent suicides are discussed and developed on an ongoing basis both within the Berlin prison system and, among other programmes, in a working group to which all the German states contribute.

SUICIDES						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	9	5	2	2	3	7

Source: The Berlin Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection



# PRISONER THERAPY AND TREATMENT



**The treatment and therapy of prisoners pursues the objective of enabling prisoners to live a life without committing further crimes. The intensity of measures is geared to the severity of the crime and how likely the risk of recidivism is assessed to be.**

**Examination and review of the crime, educational and qualification measures, and learning to work in a structured way are at the heart of modern treatment-based sentence planning. However, this also encompasses social therapeutic measures, medical treatment and care as well as treatment programmes for drug abuse and addiction problems.**

# In-depth diagnostics and binding planning management

The treatment and therapy provided to prisoners is based on two important cornerstones: in-depth diagnostics when the prison sentence commences, and binding plans that structure the prison term. Together with periodical updates of the sentence plans and preparations for release, these are the legally specified building blocks that structure and document a term in custody.

## The need for treatment and therapy

Making plans for an effective prison term for inmates starts with a diagnostic process. This is carried out by experts with degrees in psychology or social work. They evaluate both the court verdict and appraisals of the inmate, holding exhaustive discussions with the prisoners. This allows them to gain an impression of the personality traits, prior history and private circumstances of the prisoner. This is used to inform their assessment of the risk of recidivism and for defining the individual's need for educational opportunities and treatment and therapy. In closed male and youth correctional facilities, the diagnostic process and the first sentence plans for the prison term are carried out in separate departments by experts specialised in this field.

## Binding plans: the prison term

The insights gained from the diagnostic process are integrated into the sentence plan. This defines, among other things, where prisoners are to be housed, for example in a closed or open prison or in a special treatment facility. The plan also covers whether prisoners will be assigned a job, or whether they will receive further education or attend training courses. It also defines when social therapy and treatment, or other supportive measures such as addiction counselling, debt counselling and training courses for increasing social

competencies are considered practical and productive. Prisoners can refer back to the agreements made in the sentence plan and have them examined by the court. The sentence plan is updated regularly during the prison term and adapted to the progress made.

## Preparing for life “on the outside”

From the very first day, prisoners need to be prepared not only for their release, but also for a life free of crime and their social and vocational integration. Reintegration is promoted at the earliest possible point in time by means of specific measures that are consistently based on the requirements presented by individual cases.

→ **TREATMENT** refers to all specific measures suitable for exercising a positive influence on the behaviour and attitudes, as well as personal competencies, of the inmates.



## Employment and qualification

Criminality and a lack of vocational and social integration are frequently very closely related. Most prisoners require comprehensive support with solving their social problems and improving their chances of finding opportunities on the job market. Placement in education, creating employability, ensuring successful participation in qualification and training courses as well as further training programmes therefore are core elements of prisoner resocialisation in the Berlin prison system. This encompasses regular work, training, school-level and vocational qualification programmes, as well as programmes for work training and occupational therapy. Not every employment opportunity within the prison automatically results in integration into the workforce. However, jobs considered to be productive and useful often help inmates to become more self-confident and assume more responsibility towards others. They gain confidence in their own abilities and achievements, and improve their social interaction skills. They thus acquire competencies that make a significant contribution to improving their chances of a life of social responsibility without committing further crimes following their release from prison.

The professional guidance and training available in the workshops of the judicial correctional centres is mainly provided by employees of the workshop services, yet also by employees from outside companies and educational institutes.

### A wide spectrum

The spectrum of services provided by workshops in the Berlin prison system is highly diversified. It ranges from individual production of hand-made items in the metalworking and carpentry workshops to the manufacture of a full range of office furniture. Printing and bookbinding services, laundry services, upholstery, metalwork and locksmith services, shoemaking, vehicle mechanics, carpentry work and horticultural work are all provided while bakery and confectionary products are also produced. There are several large-scale kitchens to provide inmates with their daily meals.

A diverse range of vocational qualifications is offered in the Berlin prison system, including, for example, qualifications as fitters and locksmiths, cooks, carpenters, gardeners, automotive mechatronic technicians and bicycle mechanics. Furthermore, there are other qualification programmes on offer, such as those required for obtaining a forklift truck licence and welder's certificate, basic work in the construction industry and the garden and landscaping industry, as well as modular training courses for industrial building cleaning and certified computer courses. In addition to this, there is an extensive range of school courses (preparatory school courses, courses for gaining qualifications for vocational studies or an intermediate school-leaving certificate, and the supervision of high school certificates by correspondence and Open University studies).

### Oriented to the labour market

The range of workshops is increasingly oriented to the demands of the regional labour market. Efforts are focussed on comprehensive integration of in-house prison educational programmes with the programmes of the Federal Employment Agency and the regional labour market.

### External know-how

The Berlin prison system also relies on the know-how provided by external educational institutes. The advantages of these cooperative ventures are primarily their capacity to focus qualification programmes more specifically towards the labour market and to react flexibly to fluctuations affecting the labour market and the composition of study groups and classes.

In what is a first for a correctional centre in Berlin, external institutions have been providing the full range of programmes at the Heidering Correctional Centre since 2013. At this facility, both the kitchen and canteen and the work and qualification programmes are being run by external service providers.

# Medical treatment and care

The prison system is legally obliged to look after the physical and mental health of inmates. To deliver medical care as tailored to the patient's needs as possible, doctors practices are maintained at all correctional centres. Nurses work together with doctors in these practices which provide primary medical care as well as some specialist medical care.

## The prison hospital

Should such services prove inadequate, inmates can be treated as outpatients or inpatients at the Berlin Prison Hospital which is located in the Plötzensee Correctional Centre. This is a hospital with all basic inpatient services and amenities, and a total of 116 beds. The facilities include specialist psychiatric and psychotherapeutic departments (36 beds) and internal medicine (80 beds), including 20 treatment places for the pre-operative and post-operative specialist care of surgical pathologies. Only when it is not possible to carry out the required examinations and treatment programmes at this facility – which is the case for intensive care, operations, dialysis, cardiac catheters or processes requiring large-scale specialist equipment – is treatment transferred to external hospitals or other medical institutions.

## Emergencies

Inmates with acute health problems and symptoms are immediately taken to the nursing service and – if necessary – see the prison doctor or a specialist. If a doctor is not on hand, the emergency medical service at the prison hospital will decide how to proceed. In acute emergencies, the prison staff and nursing services, which provide an around-the-clock response, will initiate life-saving measures with immediate effect, giving the emergency response doctor and ambulance or paramedics time to arrive.

## Health services

Along with the mainly full-time doctors (general medicine and internal medicine, psychiatry and surgery), independent specialists from a variety of medical fields (dentistry, dermatology, urology, etc.) provide services in the correctional centres in the state of Berlin. Together with the nursing staff, physiotherapists, medical technical assistants and practitioners of other health care professions, they guarantee medical treatment and care for prisoners.



**Sabine Hirschfeld,**  
registered nurse and head of  
the substitution programme at  
the Tegel Correctional Centre  
(JVA Tegel)



*"I'm not here to punish anyone"*

**She works in the job she dreamed of as a child: Sabine Hirschfeld is a registered nurse. She has now been working in providing medical treatment and care at the Tegel Correctional Centre for 16 years, and has been head of its substitution programme since 2010.**



*How is medical treatment and care arranged at the Tegel Correctional Centre?*

The Tegel Correctional Centre (JVA Tegel) is currently comprised of three self-contained subdivisions, the social therapeutic facility and House 7. Each of these sections has a doctor's practice which is staffed from 5:45 am until 1:45 pm from Monday to Friday. On weekends and public holidays, and during the late shift and night shift, medical treatment and care is provided from subdivision 2. There are certain treatment times when calls are made to all subdivisions and the appropriate care is provided.

The daily routine in a medical practice is structured like this: After the cells are unlocked, the inmate is free to report to the medical practice. There they can collect prescribed medication, put their name down for a doctor's visit, report in sick or clarify other medical questions and concerns. Over the course of the week, doctor's visits and specialist medical care are provided. Blood samples are taken and other medical examinations are also conducted.

There are doctors on hand at the JVA Tegel from Monday to Friday. Outside opening hours, medical care is ensured by an on-call doctor who works at the prison hospital in the Plötzensee Correctional Centre.

*What are the differences between nursing services in hospitals inside and outside the prison system?*

Are there any differences? I don't believe there are. Maybe just the one: I am not just a nurse, but also a prison officer. I have to combine both functions within one job. I have a duty of care. I often find myself having to pitch in during particularly critical situations, and I have to be capable of doing that. This is because when we are called to an emergency, we strap our backpacks on, grab the defibrillator and rush to the cell blocks where we need to be. This sometimes has to be done in a matter of minutes.

*How did you come to work at the JVA Tegel?*

I used to work in the first-aid station at the Urban Hospital in Berlin-Neukölln, and I saw a job advert on the noticeboard that said that the Department of Justice was looking for medical staff. At that time, cutbacks were expected at the hospital. Because I had a family to support, having a secure and stable job was important to me. I applied for the job, and was invited to an interview and to take various tests. And I had the opportunity to gain an idea of the work being done by the medical services at JVA Tegel beforehand. That was 17 years ago – in 1998 – and I've never looked back since. We opened a specific substitution station in 2010 which I now head.



*What does substitution therapy mean and which substitutes do you prescribe?*

Substitution therapy is the use of substitutes, or substances, to replace drugs. By this we mean the treatment of patients who suffer from an addiction to opiates. It is implemented in accordance with the guidelines issued by the German Medical Association covering substitution-based therapy. The therapy aims to help the patient abstain from using narcotics within the foreseeable future, and aims to improve and stabilise the patient's state of health and social situation. What's more, we also treat any concomitant diseases. At JVA Tegel, we administer methadone, Leva Polamidone, Subutex and Suboxone.

*Which conditions must an inmate satisfy to participate in a substitution programme?*

There are several options. If the inmate is already undergoing substitution when transferred to JVA Tegel, we continue the therapy. Or an inmate can apply for a substitution therapy. The inmate then writes a report providing information on how their addiction developed, a short covering letter and, working together with their responsible social worker answers a questionnaire. The documents are sent to the relevant medical practice which forwards them on to me. We then hold a preliminary discussion with the applicant. The inmate learns about the processes in the substitution programme and the further procedure. This includes the new daily schedule, the substitution agreement and the psychosocial supervision. The inmate then takes part in a substitution consultation while the doctor in charge takes care of everything else.

Another option, however, results from an acute situation in which the consulting physician decides on the strength of the consultation that the inmate needs immediate substitution therapy.

*How many inmates are currently participating in the substitution programme at JVA Tegel?*

The numbers fluctuate according to requirements. There are four stations with a capacity of 60 inmates in subdivision 6, however we also look after those inmates undergoing substitution therapy in other divisions within the prison. On average, around 90 to 120 inmates are participating in substitution therapy at any given time.

*What is your relationship to the inmates like? Is it difficult to maintain your distance?*

For my part, I always maintain a healthy distance. If an inmate doesn't respect this distance – whether it be the type of language he is using or just youthful exuberance – I will draw his attention to it. I keep a saying in mind: "The way you treat others is the way they treat you." When the inmates take a friendly approach, then I reciprocate. When they need help, I'm happy to provide it. There's just one thing I can't stand – being lied to. That's my own personal code and it serves me well.

*Some of your patients are serving lifelong sentences for serious crimes. Do you ever feel unsafe or threatened?*

When I first started the job, I probably felt quite unsafe, I can admit that. Occasionally I used to look at the files to see what crimes they had committed. I quickly stopped doing that. I am responsible for the medical care of the inmates and not their convictions or for condemning them in advance. At the time I applied for the job, I was very much aware of where I would be working. To date, I have never experienced a threatening situation and I hope it stays this way. What do you like about your work?

Even as a child I wanted to become a nurse, it was always my dream job. I want to help other people. I am a full-time nurse here, but somewhere in the back of my mind, I still believe I might also be able to help someone steer clear of a life of crime. When I receive letters from inmates thanking me for their treatment and care, or when I bump into them on the outside and have a pleasant chat with them and they make a good impression, that's something really positive for me. I simply love being a nurse.

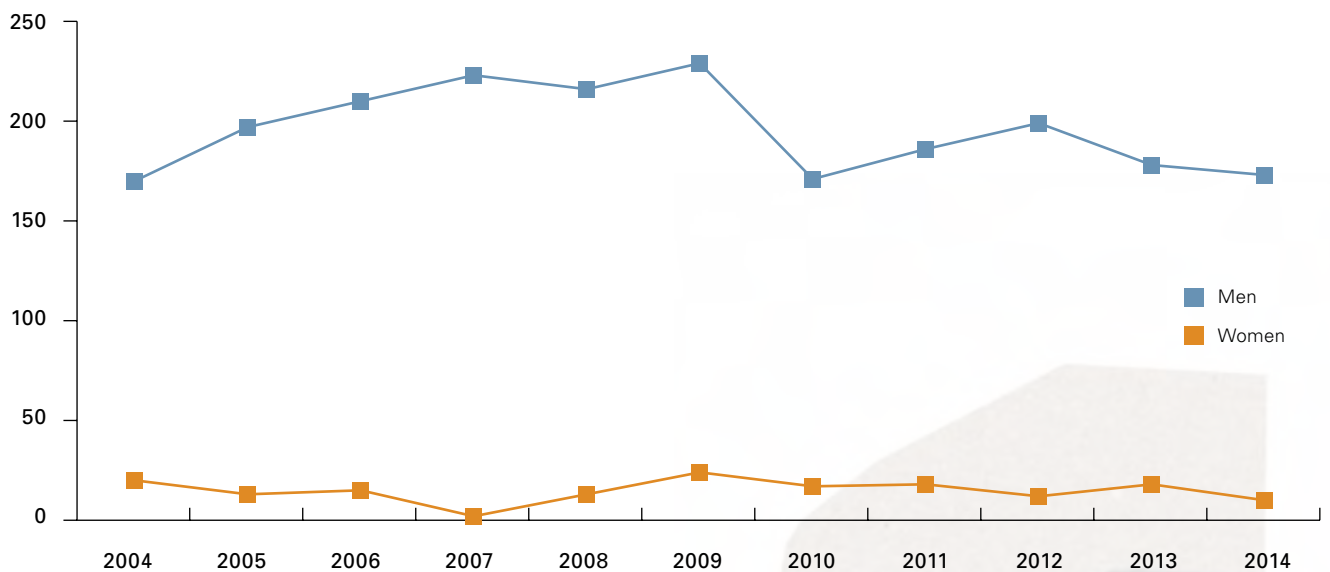


## Drugs and addiction

An average of 30 percent of the inmates in the Berlin prison system is affected by a chronic addiction problem. Their addictions relate to illegal narcotics, alcohol and prescription medication. A range of programmes are available to drug-dependent inmates. There are medication-assisted withdrawal treatments, while requisite substitution therapies are initiated and existing substitution programmes continued. There is a range of group workshops in which inmates, with the vital support of recognised drug counselling centres, are prepared for out-of-house treatment for drug dependency, or in which they will find the environment they need to confront and

discuss their own addiction problems. The Berlin prison system pursues the fundamental objective of arranging and providing eligible drug-dependent inmates with placements in an external rehabilitation centre. This is the reason why there are no actual therapy units for treating addiction, in a strict sense, in correctional centres in Berlin.

### Deferment of the term of imprisonment to allow commencement of in-patient or out-patient addiction treatment programme in accordance with Article 35 of the Narcotics Drug Act



Source: The Berlin Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection



# Social therapy

There are three social therapeutic facilities in the Berlin prison system. The social therapeutic centre at JVA Tegel currently offers 154 placements and an extensive range of treatment programmes, and is the largest social therapeutic facility in Germany. The social therapy provided in the Berlin Women's Correctional Centre is also a pioneer within Germany. It currently has 21 treatment places available for young and adult women. The social therapeutic department in the Juvenile Detention Centre can treat 48 patients. All three social therapeutic facilities are integrated into the larger prison facilities but do, however, have premises of their own, some of which have their own infrastructure.

## Cooperation decisive for therapy

Inpatient social therapy is targeted at men and women who have committed a violent crime or sexual offences and/or whose criminality is related to a social developmental problem and/or a personality disorder. Severe sexual offences and violent crimes can frequently be attributed to dysfunctional social development or a severe personality disorder. An effective treatment for this group often only succeeds by employing the instruments available to social therapy. For male (both youth and adult) offenders, a high risk of recidivism for severe crimes is a further criterion for inclusion in the programmes offered by the social therapeutic facilities. Prevention of recidivism is one of the most important objectives of treatment. To ensure that it succeeds, inmates must be willing and capable of cooperating in their treatment.

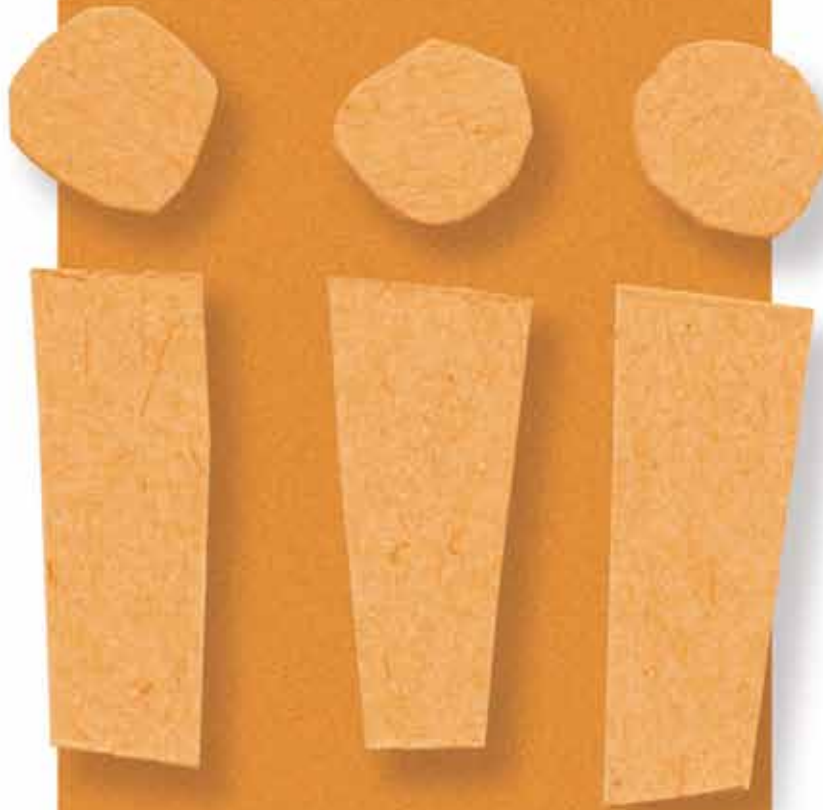
## Proven effectiveness

Social therapy pursues an integrative approach based on the principles developed by the therapeutic community. It focuses on methods that have been scientifically proven to be effective for the treatment of criminals. In social therapy, the inmates are expected to confront and work through their crime and its causes in order to help them to avoid relapsing. They are taught practical vocational and social competencies and skills, and learn to structure their everyday lives. All areas of everyday life both within the prison and their social environment outside the prison are factored into the treatment programme.

Aftercare plays a particular role in the social therapy programmes offered in the Berlin prison system. It allows offenders to continue their treatment following their release. In this area, social therapeutic facilities work in close cooperation with the forensic-therapeutic outpatient centre at the Berlin Charité hospital. The sophisticated approach to treatment pursued by social therapy programmes in the Berlin prison system can only be realised with an appropriate level of human resources. This is why the social therapeutic divisions within the prisons have more staff than other divisions.



# PRISON PERSONNEL



**A modern and safe prison system requires personnel who are aware of the high level of responsibility expected of them. The employees of the prison system are the mainstay of successful work with inmates. Only through them can the statutory mandate to resocialise prisoners and protect the community from further crime be fulfilled.**

**Everyday work with prisoners places major professional and personal demands on prison officers. This means that well educated and motivated employees with extensive training and further training are needed. This applies all the more as the prison system continues to evolve, because it is essential that the system can react quickly and appropriately to continually changing framework conditions.**

# Professional diversity

## General prison services

Employees within the general prison service form the largest vocational group by far in the prison system. They look after the inmates and maintain security within the correctional centres. Candidates undergo training in the prison system's educational centre (page 38).

## Workshop services

Workshop employees are experienced master craftspeople with qualifications as certified trainers. Furthermore, they have completed special training to qualify them specifically for the prison service. They manage inmates employed in the prison workshops, supervising them and coordinating processes and routines within the respective workshops. Hence they also assume responsibility for treatment as they teach inmates, who often display considerable deficits in their performance, structured work processes within a regular daily routine. This helps inmates to find stability and qualify themselves according to their individual abilities for pursuing further employment or qualifications. Workshop employees also contribute the experiences they have made working with inmates and their assessments of the same to the sentence planning conferences, thereby playing a role in determining the treatment of inmates.

## Social services

Social workers provide support and counselling to prisoners to help them solve personal and social problems. This is implemented to an equal extent by offering individual support and by offering group workshops, and involves collaborating with other professional groups. They plan and hold sentence planning conferences, draw up the sentence plans and assume responsibility for their implementation. These activities, provided in interplay between the resocialisation mandate on the

one hand, and protecting society in general from further crime on the other, make exacting professional and personal demands on the employees concerned.

Moreover, a large part of employees in social services also assume leadership and managerial tasks in the prison system.

## Psychological services

Psychologists employed in the prison system have specialised professional qualifications, for example certification in the specialist legal psychology field or a licence to practise psychotherapy. They work as social therapists and psychotherapists, and provide psychological counselling. In this context, they plan the treatment of prisoners and implement treatment programmes. They develop treatment concepts, implement them in the correctional centres and adapt treatment programmes that have proven successful in other institutions for use in the Berlin prison system. They cooperate with external treatment centres and registered psychotherapists. Furthermore, they provide support for other employees in dealing with specific crisis situations facing inmates, and work in suicide prevention. Psychologists provide expert appraisals for prognostic issues such as transfer to an open prison or the granting of privileges, and advise superiors and specialists in other disciplines on decisions impacting the prison system. Some psychologists also work in leadership positions, assuming personnel and managerial responsibilities as well.

## Educational services

The prison system maintains and operates school departments of its own. They are headed by teachers who have sole responsibility for giving lessons. The teachers ensure schooling for young inmates obliged to attend school, and also provide courses for inmates of all age groups at different levels of proficiency with the objective of helping them attain educational qualifications.



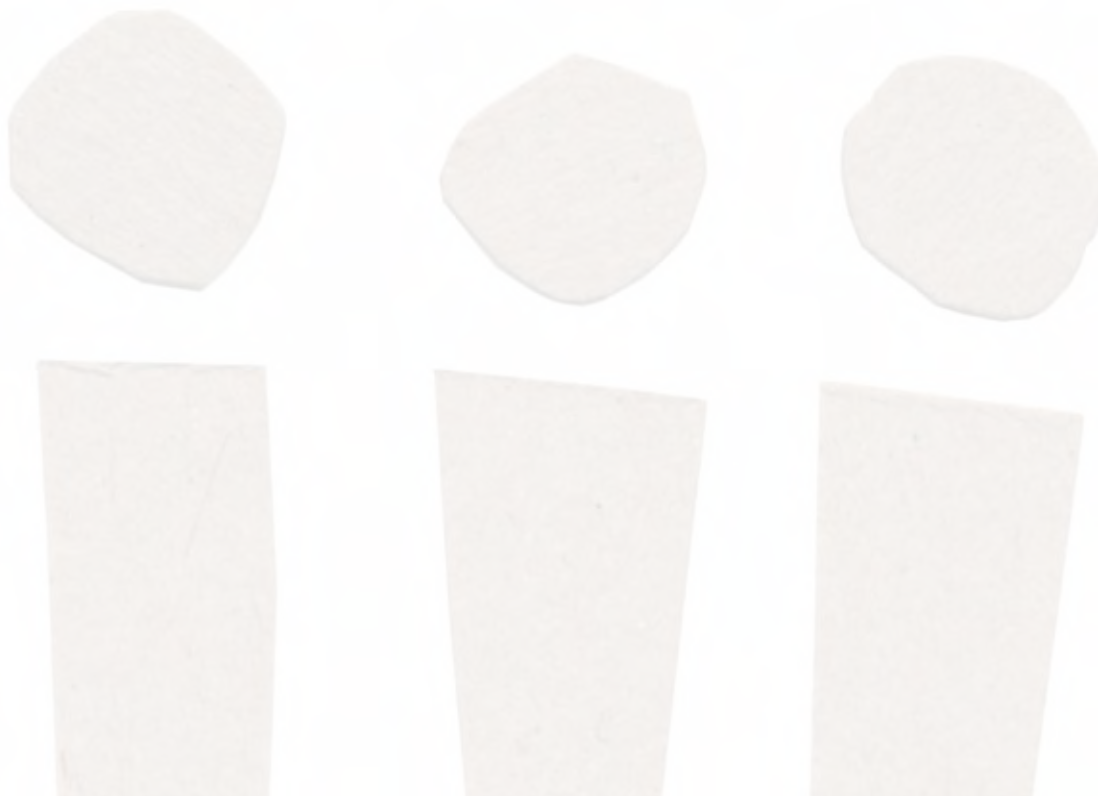
### Medical services

Registered nurses undergo additional training for work in prison services, and for work in the doctors practices within the correctional centres and in the prison hospital. They organise appointments during doctors consultation hours, carry out physicians' instructions, dispense medication and provide advice to inmates. Furthermore, they accompany inmates on supervised release for consultations in external hospitals, watch over the inmates and work together with visiting doctors.

Doctors employed in the prison hospital work in the specialist departments for psychiatry and psychotherapy, internal medicine and the specialist out-patient service. The medical practices within the correctional centres ensure that inmates receive primary medical care and supervise substitution measures for the men and women with addictions.

### Administrative services

The Berlin prison system employs jurists as well as a large number of administrative employees on managerial levels of the correctional centres for the multitude of administrative tasks, for service areas and all other incidental cross-divisional tasks. Depending on the occupational profile, these employees may be governor of a correctional centre or head of a division within the prison, representing it externally and ensuring its smooth and orderly operation within the administrative department.



## Positions in the correctional centres (including candidates)

As of: May 2015

CORRECTIONAL CENTRES	POSITIONS
JVA Tegel	700
JVA Moabit	533
JVA Heidering	219
JVA Plötzensee	603
Berlin Open Prison Centre	213
Berlin Women's Correctional Centre	186
Berlin Juvenile Detention Centre	359
Berlin Juvenile Custody Centre	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,840</b>

Source: The Berlin Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection

## As stand-alone administrative authorities, the correctional centres employ their own personnel.

As of: May 2015, figures for part-time positions have  
been rounded up

SPECIALIST VOCATIONS	2015
General prison services and workshop supervision	1,791
Workshop services	122
Medical services (doctors, nurses)	214
Administrative services	303
Educational services	6
Social services (social workers and psychologists)	187
Employees (non-tenured) in all vocational groups	217
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,840</b>

Source: The Berlin Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Protection

**Yvonne Behr,**  
Head of a Prison Subdivision,  
Berlin Open Prison Centre

## Open prison: "Painstaking work"

**She worked as a prison officer in the Berlin Women's Correctional Centre, studying psychology in her free time. As a graduate psychologist, she supervised youths in closed prison before changing her perspective: Yvonne Behr has been head of the Berlin Open Prison subdivision at the Robert-von-Ostertag-Strasse facility since January 2011. Working where life in prison and life after prison intersect, her team carries out their work with meticulous attention to detail.**



*Why did you apply for the position as head of the open prison subdivision?*

The role of head of the prison subdivision is one that many different professional groups could fulfil, for example jurists or social workers. For me, as a psychologist, it means becoming familiar with another, different perspective in prison. Only men are housed in the open prison within the prison system. Women's prison and men's prisons are fundamentally different, the problems inmates face have a different focus, and the rules and regulations are different. After working in the Berlin Women's Correctional Centre for 16 years, I felt that changing my position again was a new challenge. I particularly looked forward to meeting the many interested and dedicated colleagues. 60 employees in total work in this prison subdivision. They look after up to 250 inmates who are housed here.

*How is the decision made about whether an inmate will be housed in the open prison?*

In general, two roads lead to open prison: On the one hand, Berlin exercises the so-called self-surrender model. This means that sentenced offenders have the option of surrendering to detention at their own initiative following conviction. This primarily occurs at the other three sites operating open prisons: Hakenfelde, Kiefheider Weg and Kisselnallee. This is where a treatment analysis is undertaken by social workers and the psychological services who examine an inmate's suitability for open prison.

At our facility, however, we house those inmates who arrived by the indirect route, via closed prisons. They didn't manage to surrender themselves, or were not permitted to surrender themselves, for instance because they were detained at the Moabit Correctional Centre immediately after their trial for security reasons. This is where the admissions division is located. It also conducts a treatment analysis and examines whether the inmate can be transferred to an open prison. For those who are initially detained in closed prison, ongoing sentence planning determines if and when they can be transferred to an open prison. Currently around 30 percent of prisoners in Berlin live and work in an open prison.

*Which factors play a role in a decision in favour of open prison?*

Whether the risk of escape or misuse can be assumed is the decisive criterion. This means that when there is a fear that the inmate may try to absent himself from imprisonment, or when we suspect that the inmate will use day release to commit new crimes, the inmate is considered unsuitable. Furthermore, personal factors also play a role: The inmate must be in a position to follow the rules, to get along with other members of a group, and the inmate must not pose a risk to safety or security.

Moreover, we also make a decision about the type of day release. This allows suitability to be examined on a step by step basis. Ultimately, protection of the community is the decisive critical factor.





*What happens when an inmate does not return at the end of the day?*

There are grace periods, and it depends on which inmate it concerns and the risk that the inmate may pose. We remain in close contact with support persons, with the family, partners and employers. We call them all to eliminate the eventuality that the person concerned may have lost track of time. Should this prove unsuccessful, then a search is started with immediate effect. It often happens that the person concerned turns up a few days later full of remorse. In any case, the first consequence is moving the person concerned out of open prison and rehousing them in a closed prison.

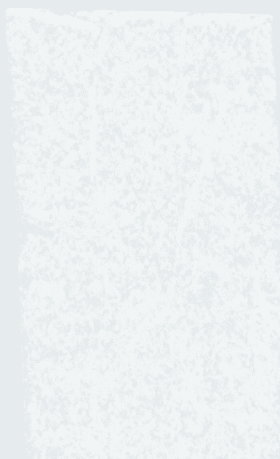
*Are there inmates who might not want to leave at all?*

That is rare, but does in fact occur. We give these inmates the encouragement they need. We once had an inmate who did not want to be released early. But our social workers do maintain close contact with inmates and start looking for the reasons. In general, however, inmates are all happy to be granted prison privileges and look forward to release. Most of them also have an idea of how their lives might change for the better following prison. We provide help with developing alternative courses of action. We consider the philosophy of the open prison to be "building a better life".

*What plans do you have for open prison?*

We opened our first bee-keeping station on the grounds this year, something which is utterly unique for the Berlin prison system. A colleague of mine keeps bees as a hobby, and is involved in setting up this project together with interested inmates. You can now buy honey made in the prison.

As for my own personal wishes, while I don't like being the centre of attention, I am pleased when the public takes an interest. There is still a prevailing attitude of "shouldn't they all be under lock and key?". Some time ago, a women's association from Berlin-Zehlendorf came to visit, and they had a bone to pick with us – because of our location in what is a residential area. We were happy to explain to them how we work: from the close supervision of inmates, the checks, the contact with relatives and employers, and verifying that these relationships are indeed stable. We need to know what every inmate is doing. We work meticulously. And meticulous work is important.





## The Berlin prison system as an educational facility

The Berlin prison system is a multi-professional operation that depends on cooperation between many different vocational groups. The employees working as general prison officers form its backbone. They are the ones who have immediate contact with the inmates on a daily basis. The system depends on their observation skills, their intuition and their resolve. They earn their qualifications in the educational facility operated by the Berlin prison system which – and this is unique in Germany – is located in one of the closed men's prisons.

### Two years of training for general prison services

The agenda of the training programme has undergone a number of “quantum leaps” since the 1960s. In particular, the German Prison Act introduced in 1977 made significant changes to the way work is done in prisons and incorporated general prison officers into treatment work. Training programme and further education have now been adopted all over Germany. Future employees are prepared for their responsibilities in prison, and their role in it over a period of 24 months. The training course consists of practical phases spent in the judicial institution (15 months) in alternation with theoretical components completed in an educational institution (nine months).

#### THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

- Organising and managing the application procedure for careers in the general correctional services
- Training for the general correctional officers
- Introducing the health care services and workshop services to the prison
- Planning, organising and implementing further training and extra-occupational seminars for the employees of the Berlin prison system and the judicial social services

By the end of the training course and theoretical instruction, the trainees should, above all, be capable of, and prepared to:

- meet the responsibilities assigned to them to the best of their ability
- work together with other professional groups
- respond to prisoners with a positive personal attitude
- play an active role in problem-solving processes
- reflect on their own behaviour, and
- commit themselves actively and responsibly to the objectives pursued by their own department.

### Looking for team players

Our constantly evolving society also brings about changes in this job profile. Inmates who congregated in the correctional centres reflect general currents and trends in society at large. Nowadays, what we are looking for is male and female employees of different age groups both with and without a migrant background who consider themselves capable of mastering this job and wish to take up the challenge. In any case, teamwork skills are required, together with an ability to be able to get along with many different personality types. In general, people with a wide range of different skills and abilities are needed in prison. The point is to deploy a person or train them in a way which best satisfies the requirements of a particular position.

### Lifelong learning about everyday life

Along with the training programme, the prison system educational facility ensures further education that is both modern and specific to the justice system. The objective is to accompany and support employees of the correctional centres over the course of their professional career, to prepare them for new responsibilities and to qualify them to be able to handle the many and diverse challenges of their work and job performance expectations with a robust, positive outlook.



**Thorsten Sauermann,**  
Social Services, Plötzensee  
Correctional Centre

“Prison is a world of its own”

**For the inmates of the Plötzensee Correctional Centre, Thorsten Sauermann is an important figure: The social worker is employed as a group counsellor in the prison’s social services. In his function, he not only looks after and supervises the inmates, but is also responsible for their sentence plans – contributing to the decision about potential prison privileges and day release.**



*You have been working for the Berlin prison system for 16 years. Do you still even notice the difference between “inside” and “outside”?*

Only when I go on an accompanied day release with an inmate who has not seen freedom for many years. For them, a lot has changed while they have been serving their sentences. That’s when I realise that prison is a world of its own.

*How did you come to apply for a job with the Berlin prison system?*

When I was still studying social pedagogy, I started specialising on working with offenders, focussing on the topic of “deviant behaviour”. After my year of induction training at the probationary services, I successfully applied for a position at the Plötzensee Correctional Centre. I’ve been here since 1998 – so it seems that I made the right decision.

*You have been working in a closed prison since 2011. What does your everyday work involve?*

There’s no real routine. The first inmates often approach me in the morning, because they need help, for example, with writing a letter to public authorities. And, of course, I hold many discussions with them about their crime, their next objectives, and about personal matters bothering them.

As a group leader, I am also responsible for planning inmates’ sentences. I gain the required insight from the files, and consider what made the inmate become criminal. I let

him explain it to me, and listen to his biography. I also pay attention to the consistency of his story, whether he is telling me what I want to hear or what he is actually thinking. By means of a series of discussions, I gain an impression of the inmate and I use this knowledge to create the sentence plan which I coordinate with my colleagues. We are hoping to integrate a new approach – the case management – into our work in the near future. Using a detailed situational analysis, the inmate himself should arrive at an awareness of what he wants to do and how, of which resources and networks he has at his disposal, and of how to use this to develop his own framework objectives.

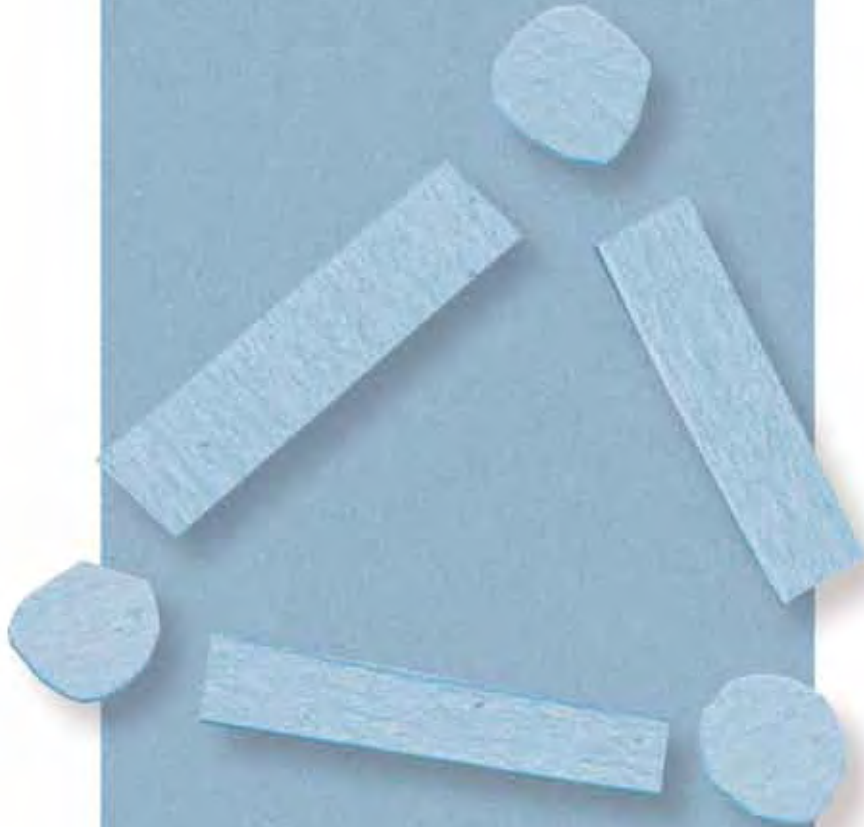
*You look after about 40 inmates. How often do conflicts occur?*

In a prison, conflicts with inmates are, unfortunately, unavoidable. Quite often this is because the inmates have a different idea of what their personalities are and which treatment they need than we do. If the sentence plans don’t correlate to the ideas and desires the inmates have, then from their point of view, it’s the social services that are largely responsible. During periods like this, it’s my job to try to maintain a dialogue with inmates and uphold a working relationship that is based on trust. From their perspective, I am the one who stops them from going on day release to visit their family and their children. This is why I can understand why they are disappointed and can, to a certain degree, understand why this causes conflicts. However, in the long term, you need to overcome any differences and keep working together to achieve your goals.

# 6



## COOPERATION AND NETWORKING



**Prisoners are expected to integrate successfully back into the community following their release. The Berlin prison system helps them to do so by means of numerous support programmes and measures. Some of them start in prison, while others are only offered after release.**

**To ensure this help and these measures are effective, they need to be coordinated and be as mutually compatible as possible. This requires transparent structures and networks involving everyone participating in the process of reintegrating released prisoners.**

# Building bridges, providing support

Successful reintegration of prisoners released back into society is shaped by two factors: how the former inmate's life is structured, and how the community can be protected from further crime.

## Returning to freedom

Imprisonment is a major event in the individual biographies of the persons concerned and those of their relatives. It can lead to the loss of social relationships and destroys other important foundations and livelihoods. The subsequent road back to freedom is often very difficult for released prisoners, and harbours seemingly insurmountable obstacles. To build bridges, provide support and minimise the negative consequences, the prison system requires the help and support of external institutions. The Berlin prison system aims to maintain binding, structured cooperation with reliable regional and local networks, and has already gained benefit from cooperating with other support systems. The Berlin prison system exchanges information about successful prisoner resocialisation models on the federal and European level, and also shares its own positive experiences with its partners at this level. Its objective is to plan coordinated measures using available resources and competencies, to structure them and oversee them with a view to achieving the successful reintegration of released prisoners.

## Transition management: continued therapy

Over the last few years, the term 'transition management' has become widespread all over Europe. While transition management also recognises release preparations as a key cornerstone of prison activities, its focus is placed on the entire term of imprisonment as a therapy period, and on support and supervision following release from prison. Social and vocational reintegration requires professional transition management that does not solely depend on the prison system's capacity and willingness to cooperate.

Not only in Berlin, but all over Germany, various facilities operate that are widely acknowledged as being responsible for the resocialisation of prisoners. To date, their work has not coalesced to form a coherent, systematic programme, and they often operate independently. For example, one facility will work together with the prisoner until his or her sentence has been served, while the next assumes responsibility following the release of the prisoner without, however, any systematic exchange of information between the two. Assuming responsibility for only a limited period of time prevents the facilities involved from finding integrated solutions and results in considerable unproductive tension at the integration planning stage.

However, the effect of a programme, no matter how well it is implemented, is wasted when it proves impossible to organise a smooth transition between life on the inside and the outside following imprisonment that does not involve the full cooperation of all parties involved.

## Resocialisation as a shared responsibility

Reintegration of criminals is a responsibility shared between many different institutions and, ultimately, by society in general. This is because, at core, most inmates will sooner or later be released back into the community to resume their respective roles as partners, parents, neighbours, colleagues, friends, teammates, and so on. It is therefore in everyone's interest when inmates can benefit from the best possible preparation for a life in freedom, and can place their trust in coordinated assistance networks and authorities that work in close cooperation, rather than remaining isolated from one another. This very important approach has allowed significant improvements to be made over the last few years through systematic networking and binding cooperative agreements. Even so, there is still much work to be done.



## Judicial Social Services

The Judicial Social Services (SozDJ) are involved in organising court-appointed advocates, probationary services and victim-offender mediation for adult criminals. The Juvenile Probation Service operated by the Senate Department for Education, Youth and Science is responsible for juveniles and young adult offenders.

### Responsibilities and objectives

Court-appointed advocates examine the personal circumstances and social situations of persons involved in criminal proceedings, and prepare statements about them. Reports by court-appointed advocates are drafted at the specific instruction of public prosecutors, criminal courts, law enforcement authorities or appeals councils. Furthermore, court-appointed advocates help place criminals in employment and monitor the performance of community service.

Probationary services support the social integration of criminals following release from prison or following a court conviction by providing targeted expert support. They facilitate independent living and provide advice on numerous social issues and everyday problems. They also supervise and ensure compliance with court-ordered sanctions and instructions.

Other areas of responsibility specific to the Judicial Social Services currently include victim-offender mediation, topic-oriented group workshops, advisory services for debtors, advisory services specifically for women, and counselling for victims in cooperation with victim support services.

### Cooperation partners

Around half of all prisoners released in Berlin will be subject to supervision by probation officers or parole supervisors immediately after having served their sentences. By initiating cooperative measures at an early point in time, and coordinating the necessary work, the transition to freedom can be made easier, despite the danger of a particularly high risk of reoffending during the release phase and the first six months following release from prison. In a cooperative agreement signed by multiple government departments, the correctional centres and the Judicial Social Services have agreed on binding standards applying to their combined efforts in this very important area of transition management.

# Support from volunteers and private agencies

For many years now, dedicated and untiring voluntary aides have been working successfully on providing care and support for both individuals and groups of prisoners in the correctional centres of the state of Berlin. As voluntary prison aides, they must be prepared and able to adapt and respond to individual prisoners and provide them with help in leading a socially responsible life free from crime in the future. It is critical for their activities that they maintain regular contact with the person in their care. This is why only qualified and reliable persons can work in the prison system on a voluntary basis. The minimum age is 18. The respective correctional centre decides on whether they will be accredited.

## Advisory boards to liaise with the public

Advisory boards contribute to organising prisons and to the supervision and care of prisoners. They provide support to the prison administration by making suggestions and proposals for improvements, and help with the reintegration of prisoners following their release. By liaising with the public, board members foster understanding for the issues confronting a prison system oriented towards resocialisation. Apart from advisory boards to the individual correctional centres, there is also an advisory board to the Berlin prison system, an independent committee specialising in prison policy. It consists of at least 17 voluntary members who are the chairpersons of the advisory boards to the correctional centres, together with representatives from social insti-

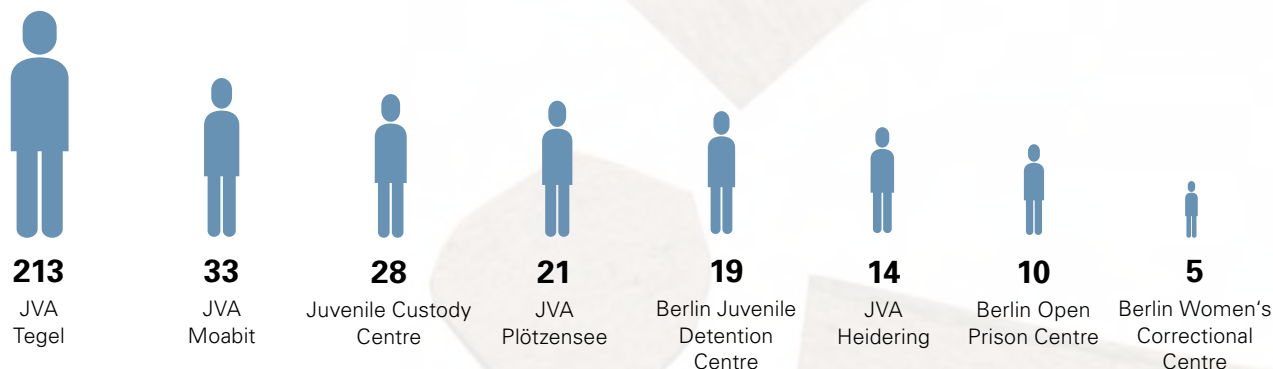
tutions such as universities, the media, trade associations, employees' associations, the medical association, public welfare services and other organisations appointed by the judicial administrations. This committee provides support and advice to the Senate Department for Justice and Consumer Affairs on planning and developing how sentences are enforced, and above all in matters of fundamental importance.

## A broad variety of programmes by private agencies

The work carried out by private agencies and voluntary organisations within the prison system and following prisoner release is widely acknowledged as being both important and necessary. The organisations involved in delivering public welfare services, together with other external institutions represent an important connection to life outside the correctional centres. Their programmes supplement the range of treatment options provided by the Berlin prison system. These include training courses and further education, work with alcohol-dependent and drug-dependent prisoners, anti-violence training, job application training and debt counselling. Because many private agencies work both inside and outside the prison, they are able to provide uninterrupted support and care for inmates. In particular, they ensure that inmates who started treatment and support programmes during their sentences continue to receive support following their release.

## Volunteers working in the Berlin correctional centres

(As of: January 2015)





# A DAY IN PRISON

How prisoners actually spend their days will depend on a number of different factors. The daily routine of prisoners in remand differs considerably from those of prison inmates or those in preventative detention. Some of the rules that apply in the Juvenile Detention Centre are quite different to those in adult prisons. Treatment programmes and recreational opportunities which play

a considerable role in structuring the daily routine differ according to gender. At this juncture an account is only possible in a highly simplified form. However, this will not prevent us from giving a general impression of how the “clock ticks” for inmates in the Berlin prison system.

An inmate from the Pankow Correctional Centre reports

*I'll start with the weekdays. The cell door opens shortly after six o'clock in the morning, and the workday begins: in the computer workshop, in the laundry, in the kitchen or as a "housemaid" in the cell block. Painting jobs are also carried out by the female inmates, with supervision.*

## Life in prison – from early to late at the Tegel Correctional Centre

The daily routine is structured around a defined schedule, but can vary according to the type of imprisonment. For inmates of the Tegel Correctional Centre, how a typical day unfolds can be described in simplified terms as follows:

### **Start of the day**

An inmate's day starts at 6 am from Monday to Friday with the unlocking of the cell. This presents an opportunity for an inmate count. They then have breakfast.

### **Start of work or school**

If an inmate has work or an apprenticeship in one of the prison workshops or operating units, work starts at 6:55 am. If an inmate is attending school classes, there is still some time until school lessons begin at 8:05 am.

### **In the individual cell blocks**

The cells of those inmates on leave from work and those inmates assigned to work within the cell block are opened from 8 am to 12 pm. The doors to the cells of all other inmates remain locked.

### **Breaks and lunch break**

A 30-minute lunch break is held in the workshops sometime between 11:30 am and 12:45 pm; this is only interrupted by an attendance check. Inmates have the opportunity to eat a cold meal in the workshop.





The doors to the cells of the so-called in-house workers are also locked from 12 pm to 2 pm. They are also given time for a cold meal. The remaining inmates not working have the opportunity to self-cater with groceries, hot water or similar needs outside their cells before lunchtime.

#### **End of work or school**

At 2:50 pm, inmates in the workshops and in the prison classrooms finish for the day.

#### **Warm meal**

It is time for a warm meal, which is dished out at 3 pm.

#### **Afternoon**

30 minutes later, the inmates are locked in their cells and another formal inmate count is carried out. When the recreational period starts, the inmate may move around within the area he has permission to enter – before he is locked in again in the evening.

The afternoon hours give those inmates obliged to work or to attend school the opportunity – subject to prior agreement – to see visitors or participate in one of the recreational activities offered at the correctional centre.

#### **End of the day**

The final, formal inmate count is held at night time lockdown at 9:40 pm.

#### **Weekends and public holidays**

On weekends and public holidays, the day doesn't start until 9:05 am, and there are a number of changes to the routine: There is the opportunity to attend a Protestant or Catholic church service, with the day's hot meal being served at lunchtime, and night time lockdown and the last formal inmate count for the day taking place some time around 4:45 pm.

*We play theatre. At the moment, we're working on a new project on the topic of "Integration". The prison theatre gives us inmates an opportunity for self-expression, and to express our status in society.*

*Tuesday:  
A happy hour spent meeting relatives, spouses and friends. After the visit, to which a "small donation" can be brought (we're allowed € 15 twice a month), there's a "mad dash" to buy things from the vending machines – it's almost a ritual.*



## AN OVERVIEW OF THE CORRECTIONAL CENTRES



**Berlin maintains six judicial correctional centres, one juvenile detention centre and a juvenile custody centre. Details about them and their specific divisions can be found below along with the number of prisoners each can accommodate, and the addresses of the respective correctional centre.**

### **Tegel Correctional Centre (Justizvollzugsanstalt Tegel)**

#### **Function/type of correctional facility:**

Closed (high-security) prison facility for men; enforcement of prison sentences and default imprisonment, accommodation of preventive detainees

**Specific divisions within the correctional centre:**  
Social therapeutic centre, facility for enforcing preventive detention

**Inmate capacity:** 935 – as of May 2015

#### **Contact:**

Justizvollzugsanstalt Tegel  
Seidelstrasse 39  
13507 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 90147-0  
Fax: +49 (0)30 90147-1809  
poststelle@jvatgl.berlin.de

[www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/justizvollzug/tegel/](http://www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/justizvollzug/tegel/)

### **Moabit Correctional Centre (Justizvollzugsanstalt Moabit)**

#### **Function/type of correctional facility:**

Closed (high-security) prison facility for men; enforcement of pre-trial custody and custody prior to extradition, and enforcement of prison sentences

**Specific divisions within the correctional centre:**  
Induction division, Central Information Office for the Berlin prison system

**Inmate capacity:** 962 – as of May 2015

#### **Contact:**

Justizvollzugsanstalt Moabit  
Alt-Moabit 12a  
10559 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 9014-0  
Fax: +49 (0)30 9014-5005  
poststelle@jvambt.berlin.de

[www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/justizvollzug/moabit/moabit\\_index.html](http://www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/justizvollzug/moabit/moabit_index.html)

### **Plötzensee Correctional Centre (Justizvollzugsanstalt Plötzensee)**

#### **Function/type of correctional facility:**

Prison facility for men with both open and closed (high-security and low-security) sections; enforcement of sentences and default imprisonment and enforcement of disciplinary detention, preventive detention, coercive detention and arrest to enforce a court order

**Specific divisions within the correctional centre:**  
Berlin Prison System Educational Facility, Central IT Office for the Berlin Correctional Centres and Judicial Social Services, Criminological Service for the Berlin prison system and the Judicial Social Services, Tenant Management of the Berlin Correctional Centres and Berlin Prison Hospital with a 116-bed treatment capacity

**Inmate capacity:** 536 – as of May 2015

#### **Contact:**

Justizvollzugsanstalt Plötzensee  
Friedrich-Olbricht-Damm 16  
13627 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 9 01 44-0  
Fax: +49 (0)30 9 01 44-1505



**Berlin Prison Hospital in the  
JVA Plötzensee  
(Justizvollzugskrankenhaus  
Berlin)**

**Contact:**

Saatwinkler Damm 1a  
13627 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 9 01 44-1270  
Fax: +49 (0)30 9 01 44-1274  
poststelle@jvapls.berlin.de

[www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/  
justizvollzug/ploetzensee/](http://www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/justizvollzug/ploetzensee/)

**Heidering Correctional  
Centre (Justizvollzugsanstalt  
Heidering)**

**Function/type of correctional  
facility:**

Closed (high-security)  
prison facility for men; enforce-  
ment of sentences and default  
imprisonment

**Inmate capacity:** 648 –  
as of May 2015

**Contact:**

Ernst-Stargardt-Allee 1  
14979 Grossbeeren  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 901473-0  
Fax: +49 (0)30 901473-253  
poststelle@jvahdr.berlin.de

[www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/  
justizvollzug/jva-heidering/](http://www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/justizvollzug/jva-heidering/)

**Berlin Juvenile Detention  
Centre (Jugendstrafanstalt  
Berlin)**

**Function/type of correctional  
facility:**

Juvenile detention centre with  
closed and open (high-securi-  
ty and low-security) sections;  
enforcement of juvenile detenti-

on, pre-trial custody, disciplinary  
detention, preventive detention  
and coercive detention

**Specific divisions within the  
correctional centre:**

Social-therapeutic department

**Inmate capacity:** 421 –  
as of May 2015

**Contact:**

Jugendstrafanstalt Berlin  
Friedrich-Olbricht-Damm 40  
13627 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 90144-0  
Fax: +49 (0)30 90144-2560  
poststelle@jsa.berlin.de

[www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/  
justizvollzug/jsa/](http://www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/justizvollzug/jsa/)

**Berlin Women's Correctional  
Centre (Justizvollzugsanstalt  
für Frauen Berlin)**

**Function/type of correctional  
facility:**

Prison facility for women with  
both open and closed (high-se-  
curity and low-security) sections;  
enforcement of sentences/juvenile  
detention and pre-trial custody.  
Enforcement of administrative  
detention, disciplinary detenti-

on, preventive detention, coercive  
detention and arrest to enforce  
a court order, as well as enforce-  
ment of default imprisonment

**Specific divisions within the  
correctional centre:**

Social-therapeutic department

**Inmate capacity:** 263 –  
as of: May 2015

**Contact:**

Justizvollzugsanstalt für Frauen  
Berlin  
Alfredstrasse 11  
10365 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 9 02 53-600  
Fax: +49 (0)30 9 02 53-677  
poststelle@jvaf.berlin.de

[www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/  
justizvollzug/frauen/](http://www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/justizvollzug/frauen/)

**Berlin Juvenile Custody  
Centre (Jugendarrestanstalt  
Berlin)**

**Function/type of correctional  
facility:**

Enforcement of juvenile custody  
and coercive detention

**Inmate capacity:** 60 –  
as of May 2015

**Contact:**

Jugendarrestanstalt Berlin  
Kirchhainer Damm 66  
12309 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 764917-0  
Fax: +49 (0)30 764917-88  
poststelle@jaa.berlin.de

[www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/  
justizvollzug/jaa/](http://www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/justizvollzug/jaa/)

**Berlin Open Prison Centre  
(Justizvollzugsanstalt des  
Offenen Vollzuges Berlin)**

**Function/type of correctional  
facility:**

Open (low-security) prison for  
men; enforcement of sentences

**Inmate capacity:** 908 –  
as of May 2015

**Contact:**

Justizvollzugsanstalt des Offenen  
Vollzuges Berlin  
Niederneuendorfer Allee 140  
– 150  
13587 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 (0)30 901474-710  
Fax: +49 (0)30 901474-717  
poststelle@jvaovb.berlin.de

[www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/  
justizvollzug/hakenfelde/](http://www.berlin.de/sen/justiz/justizvollzug/hakenfelde/)

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