



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# “GAINING AN EDGE OVER THE PANDEMIC”

**26th Council of Europe Conference of Directors of Prison and  
Probation Services (CDPPS)**

Funchal, 20-21 September 2021

Pedro das Neves,  
Member of the Board of Directors

**INTERNATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
AND PRISONS ASSOCIATION 2021**

[www.icpa.org](http://www.icpa.org)



# About us



An Association for corrections and prison professionals, **dedicated to improving global understanding and professionalism in the sector.**

Both individuals and agencies can become a member of ICPA.

Agency members include National Prison and Correctional Services, government departments, technology solutions companies, service providers, NGO's, non-profits, charitable and voluntary organisations.

ICPA is a **non-governmental organisation in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations** and has recently been approved as **“observer” at the PCCP of the Council of Europe.**

# ICPA Chapters

ICPA North America

ICPA Europe

ICPA  
Latin America

ICPA Africa



# Peter Severin

President of ICPA



# Hans Meurisse

Vice-president of ICPA

Chairman of the ICPA European chapter



# ICPA C19 Task Force

In March 2019, ICPA formed the C19 Prisons Taskforce to help our colleagues and members during this unprecedented crisis.

Our ability to share information, communicate openly and work together in addressing the issues concerning the prevention and containment of Covid-19 in prisons is paramount to the safety of those concerned.

The Taskforce comprises four groups:

**Central Response Group** A team of senior practitioners and prison professionals who are each responsible for a particular world region.

**Regional Correspondents Group** Forming a global network, our Regional Correspondents are volunteers from a number of public sector agencies and professional bodies who Support the Taskforce initiative.

**NGO and Partner Liaison Group** Our NGO and Partner Liaison Group maintains communications with stakeholders and other interested groups to ensure a bi-directional sharing of information, to seek advice and to foster collaborative efforts where required.

**Subject Matter Expert Group** Welcomed all participants from across the global corrections community to join the efforts of the C19 Prisons Taskforce by registering their expertise with the aim of providing advice and support to others and contributing to content and resources where needed.





**Central Response Group** – a team of senior practitioners and prison professionals who are each responsible for a particular world region. Their goal is to open dialogue with prison agencies within their respective regions, assess where assistance might be required, to support the exchange of information between agencies and to provide guidance on initiatives undertaken by the Association in response to the Covid-19 threat.



**Paul Geurts**  
African Region  
Advisor



**Ed Wozniak**  
Caribbean Region  
Advisor



**John May**  
Caribbean Region  
Advisor



**Michael Spurr**  
European Region  
Advisor &  
Chairperson



**Emiliano Blanco**  
Latin American  
Region Advisor



**Pedro das  
Neves**  
Latin American  
Region Advisor



**Doug Dretke**  
North American  
Region Advisor



**Diane Williams**  
North American  
Region Advisor



**Jennifer  
Galouzis**  
Oceanic Region  
Advisor

**Regional Correspondents Group** – forming a global network, our Regional Correspondents are volunteers from a number of public sector agencies and professional bodies who support the Taskforce initiative. Their work is to establish points of contact with the various correctional agencies within their area and create a communication channel for the bi-directional exchange of information, data and assistance requests. Regional Correspondents also contribute to the initiative by providing links to relevant news and resources from their respective regions.



**Johannes  
Muyemburuko**  
Namibian  
Correctional Service  
  
Regional  
Correspondent Africa



**Melvin LEE**  
Singapore Prison  
Service  
  
Regional  
Correspondent Asia



**Julie Renaud**  
Correctional Service  
Canada  
  
Regional  
Correspondent  
Canada



**Annemie  
Vanhoeve**  
Belgian Prison  
Service  
  
Regional  
Correspondent Europe



**Agustin  
Goncalves**  
Argentinian Prison  
Service  
  
Regional  
Correspondent Latin  
America



**Stevyn Fogg**  
Correctional  
Leaders Association  
  
Regional  
Correspondent USA



**Ruth Graver**  
Corrective Services  
New South Wales  
  
Regional  
Correspondent  
Oceania



**Beth Johnston**  
ICPA  
  
Regional  
Correspondent  
(Various)

# Information and Knowledge Sharing

- Dedicated resource portal on [www.icpa.org](http://www.icpa.org) to make it easier to find news, articles, resources and other information concerning Covid-19 in prisons.
- Ability to search based on keywords, categories, and filter-based criteria, it is aimed at helping colleagues to locate information quickly and more easily.
- Links to 'Highlighted Resources' from UNDP, UNODC, ICRC, WHO and EuroPris as well as listing of both internal and external webinars.

**Keyword Search**

Search for Covid-19 resources and news articles

Keyword ...  Category

## Covid 19 Action



Preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 in prisons and other places of detention: interim guidance, 8 February 2021 (produced by WHO/Europe)  
March 1, 2021

Prison commissioner defends health and dietary protocol for inmates  
December 1, 2020

Two Ohio Prison Officers Die From COVID-19  
December 1, 2020

Prisoners released during pandemic in UP, asked to return to jail  
December 1, 2020

### View News by Region

[Africa](#)  
[Asia](#)  
[Canada](#)  
[Caribbean](#)  
[Central Asia](#)  
[East Asia](#)  
[Europe](#)  
[See all news...](#)

### Our Initiatives

- About the C19 Prisons Taskforce
- Prison Industries Manual
- C19 Webinars
- C19 Interactive Map
- The #WeApplaud Campaign

### Highlighted Resources

- C19 Global News Feed
- C19 Resource Centre – Search by Category or Keyword
- Track Infection in Prison Facilities: Modelling Tools
- Community Corrections COVID-Safe Roadmap
- Recovery Planning Documents
- WHO: Preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 in prisons and other places of detention
- UNDP / UNITAR: Covid19 Operational Toolbox
- UNODC – Preparedness and Response in Detention
- ICRC – Prevention, Protection and Information for Detainees
- WHO – Preparedness, Prevention and Control of COVID-19 in Detention
- EuroPris – Prevention Measures in European Prisons

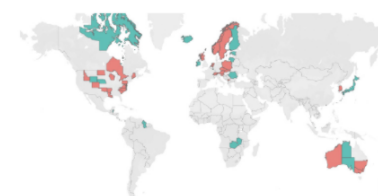
## C19 Webinars



View upcoming and past webinars from ICPA and others on C19 related topics.

[See all webinars](#)

## C19 in Prisons Map



View our interactive map to see how Covid-19 has affected prison agencies across the world.

[View Map](#)



# Information Exchange Meetings

Our Information Exchange Meetings provided a virtual roundtable environment for prison/correctional professionals to come together and discuss their practices and procedures, share tips and advice and to create new relationships with colleagues for future exchanges and support. Groups of individuals who share a common background were convened in small groups of approximately ten people for meetings up to 90 minutes.

## Peer-to-Peer Programme

The ICPC 19 Prison Taskforce's Peer-to-Peer Programme (P2P) was designed to facilitate the matching of correctional professionals within our network or with partners for addressing the Covid-19 situation in prisons. Utilising ICPC's global network our team reviewed requests from colleagues in the field who had difficulty in finding information to address issues of a particular nature. With the P2P programme our aim was to seek colleagues through our network and via partner agencies who can get in touch on an individual basis to provide further advice and support.

## Data Collection

Utilising various media sources, an interactive map of Covid infections and other indicators can be found on our website.



## C19 Webinars



View upcoming and past webinars from ICPA and others on C19 related topics.

[See all webinars](#)

## Webinars

ICPA convened a number of webinars on the Covid-19 topic, bringing speakers together to advise participants on information relating to the virus in correctional settings. Access to these webinars was made open and free of charge with priority for attending live given to our colleagues in Public Sector prison/correctional services and service providers involved in prison staffing and operations. The videos produced from these webinars are publicly available to all.

Our C19 Prisons Taskforce still continues although as systems return to some 'normality' we have decreased our level of activity seen during the initial response stage. The Taskforce continues to monitor the situation and remains on hand to assist colleagues and members across the world wherever we can.

## Prison Industries Manual

With the global shortage of protective equipment a number of agencies were using their prison industries programmes to produce items such as facemasks, cleaning solutions and disinfectants, alcohol-based and alcohol-free sanitisers, textiles and disposable/reusable apparel.

The Prison Industries Manual initiative requested contributions from prison industries worldwide to share their technical specifications and procedures for the in-house manufacturing of such products which can be used for inmates, correctional staff and also for national distribution in the absence of any commercial availability. These instructions were posted on our dedicated Covid-19 Action website.



Cristi Plesa

Project Lead

# #WeApplaud Campaign

In April 2020, a campaign was launched in partnership with the global corrections community to highlight the work of prison and correctional staff during the coronavirus pandemic.

Messages of support were sent to jurisdictions across the world in an effort to boost the morale of those who work within our prison and probation/parole systems and to give recognition for their dedication, commitment and professionalism as this crisis penetrated into all aspects of society.

This campaign was supported by 37 organisations comprising NGOs, Associations, Public Sector agencies and Trade Union bodies and reached out to some 260,000 people, gaining 23,242 reactions on social media platforms.

#WeApplaud  
#staysafe  
#CorrectionalStaff





# What do we know from data collected so far?

- **500,000+ prisoners** are recorded to have got COVID-19 (through to June 2021 – Delta numbers not completely included as yet)
- Around **4,000 prisoners and staff** are recorded to have died
- **Responses could be better co-ordinated and planned** where a robust set of data was available (data on expected transmission rates, vaccination, proactive measures to stop the spread – modelling).
- **Systems were found to having to better integrate their health and custodial services and that happened**

## Challenges

- **fast turnover at the front-end**, not a homogenous group of persons
- need to **balance health needs with operational requirements**
- **identification of vulnerable groups and differentiated management of such groups**
- **few integrated data sets**

## Opportunities continuing to be explored and implemented:

- Testing
- Vaccination rates
- Isolation and Quarantine arrangements
- Communication

## Further to be explored:

- Modelling – more integrated
- Better link between Prison and Population Health systems
- Education
- Continued data collection and analysis – better data integration
- Preparation for the next pandemic

# What do we know from data collected so far?

A lot of good work has been done globally – outstanding exchange of knowledge and resources

- Promotion and **adoption of alternative measures to incarceration** – including pardons, the broader use of community sanctions and electronic Monitoring).
- Adoption of **remote work**
- Implementation or **strengthening of technology-based solutions** allowing inmates to be in frequent contact with their families (prolonged and more frequent phone communications and video-calls).
- Implementation of **video visitation and virtual court hearing** solutions.
- Use of **telemedicine and e-learning**, among others.



We must find the time to reflect on how the use of alternatives to incarceration may endure beyond the crisis period.

Find the time to rethink existing detention regimes and conditions or imagine new futures adopting new ways of working and working together.

Find the time to reflect on embracing technology and the challenges of digitisation or digital transformation.

**Don't we do this, and we would have lost the great opportunity that emerged from chaos.**

# Be part of the *Global Corrections Community*



Get Recognised



Network with other professionals



Contribute your ideas and learn from others



Attend conferences, workshop and events



Access presentations and materials



Display your skills and expertise



Seek opportunities



Support the platform for advancing corrections



[www.icpa.org](http://www.icpa.org)



**ICPA**  
International Corrections  
& Prisons Association

