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MISSION STATEMENT

Uniting, Encouraging and Equipping a global network of prison chaplains as they share God's love and restoring justice.

**I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO ME.
(Matthew 25:36)**

**REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE IN PRISON,
AS THOUGH IN PRISON WITH THEM.
(Hebrews 13:3)**

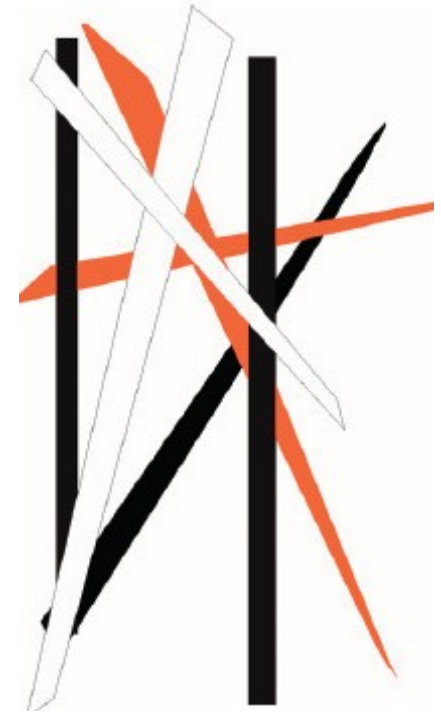
International Prison Chaplains Association

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IPCA WORLDWIDE



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INTERNATIONAL PRISON CHAPLAINS
ASSOCIATION

Organization in special consultative status
with the Economic and Social Council of
United Nations since 2014

INTERNATIONAL PRISON CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION

IPCA was founded at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, Switzerland, in 1985. Every five years a world conference is held in different parts of the world.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

IPCA connects prison chaplains all over the world and supports them regardless of race, gender and creeds.

IPCA invites the churches and community to offer the necessary support to chaplains in their ministry to prisoners and to prison staff.

IPCA is committed to implement peace and justice and affirms the obligations for all countries to adopt "The Nelson Mandela Rules" of the United Nations.

PRISON CHAPLAINCY

In every corner of the world, a large number of persons finds themselves incarcerated, justly or unjustly, for varying periods of time in conditions that range from good to horrific. They deserve access to pastoral and spiritual care. Chaplains are often sources of food, medicine, literacy, family connectivity, bureaucratic advocacy, intervention and provide thereby hope.

IPCA AND UNITED NATIONS

IPCA has acquired in 2014 the special consultative status with United Nations.

DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRISON CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION, VII. WORLD CONGRESS SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, 2015

The participants of the IPCA world conference meeting 2015 in Sydney, Australia adopted a declaration which included following extracts

- We challenge once more the principle that imprisonment is a successful way to solve the problem of crime in every society.
- We reaffirm the work being done by some governments in improving regimes and the respect for human rights in prisons.
- We reiterate and reaffirm the inherent dignity of all prisoners, our particular concern for vulnerable prisoners, and our commitment to work with others including NGOs, World Organizations, and Faith Groups to address poverty and facilitate access to food, clothing, medicines and literacy supplies needed in prisons.
- We advocate for the freedom of religion and for respect and resources for Prison Chaplains from all Faith Communities.

In addition to these efforts we especially nominate three developments in the world that influence the correctional systems and the prison ministry:

1. More than ever an increasing number of people are fleeing from their home countries due to war, terrorism, persecution and poverty to seek asylum in the safer countries of the world. We challenge the use of detention facilities for refugees and migrants as the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has aptly declared as being unacceptable.

2. In many countries people are still imprisoned because they are conscientious objectors. We affirm that the rejection of military service is a human right and should not lead to imprisonment.

3. We call again for an immediate worldwide moratorium on executions and the abolition of the death penalty. We welcome the revision of the United Nations Minimum Standard Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, now called Mandela Rules.

We ask that **Governments, Churches and Faith Communities** move away from the philosophy of retributive justice and encourage restorative justice strategies.

We are encouraged by examples of Faith Communities being involved in the reintegration of ex-offenders.

We encourage **Prison Administrators, Governors and Staff** in the difficult challenges that face them. We urge them to always carry out their duties with integrity, humanity, justice and care.

We affirm our commitment to **Prisoners**, and we encourage them to take part in programs that address offending behavior, victim/offender reconciliation programs, wider education and restorative justice initiatives.

We are aware of the pain of the **Victims** of crime and the lack of opportunity for them to express it. We urge Faith Communities to be more available to help victims work through their pain.

We recognize the need for professional training for **Prison Chaplains** and ask that Churches and Faith Communities support such programs.