
PFI Europe News

Bringing us closer together through news and prayer



January - March 2014

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

Preserving a Past, Pursuing a Future

Our European Summit took place March 10-13, 2014 in Amsterdam, hosted by Prison Fellowship Netherlands. The event represented the first in a series of regional events, which will cover the global network of PFI. The active participation in the proceedings by the new PFI President and Chief Executive Rev. Timothy Khoo, as well as the President Emeritus Ron Nikkel and several members of the Executive Leadership Team reflect the present PFI Secretariat transition phase. The Summit attracted the leaders of 28 national ministries, offering them many opportunities to:



- Connect with Timothy Khoo and the new executive leadership
- Understand PFI strategic direction (Vision 2020) and strengthen the partnership with the global movement
- Experience spiritual refreshment
- Reflect on the development of their National Ministry and envision the future growth
- Discover new ways to operate efficiently and capacity build.
- Create plans, appropriate to their country's individual context.

Time at the Summit was marked with the spirit of fellowship, relevant and challenging teaching, lively discussions, critical analysis of past achievements, and focused study of future objectives. The small group work offered every participant the chance to share and learn from others.



In Memoriam



We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing away of our dear brothers **Constantin Asavoiaie** - PF **Romania** Chairman and former PFI Europe Assembly Chair (on December 24th 2013) and **Dmitry Dobrolyobouv**, PF **Kazakhstan** Executive Director (on February 28th, 2014)



We publish here the 'In Memoriam' letter that Hans Barendrecht addressed to all Summit's participants inviting us to a moment of prayer, remembrance and silence.

[Click here https://www.dropbox.com/s/afv9ko62jpyic4f/In%20Memoriam.pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/s/afv9ko62jpyic4f/In%20Memoriam.pdf)

ICPA & PFI Release Joint Communiqué on Collaboration

ICPA was formed to operate as an Association for corrections and prison professionals, dedicated to improving global understanding and professionalism in the sector. ICPA promotes co-operation and collaborative initiatives between jurisdictions in areas of common interest, staff exchanges and study visits between interested jurisdictions. They encourage, where relevant, the involvement of victims, offenders' families, volunteer organisations and others in the community in finding helpful and workable solutions to correctional and criminal justice issues. They try to enhance public education, and understanding and involvement in correctional matters.

ICPA, like PFI, is a non-governmental organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

Click below to read the full Communiqué signed in Amsterdam by the president of the International Corrections and Prisons Association Peter van der Sande and Timothy Khoo, our President.

Peter van der Sande is also member of the Advisory Board of PFNL.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3l663j3hk6fsp5q/PFI%20-%20ICPA%20Joint%20Communique.pdf>



Volunteers as leaders: Restructuring and Training

The Tuesday evening at the European Summit consisted of the Ideas Blitz session. Small groups of participants rotated through a series of 10 minute 'best practice' presentations by twelve national ministry representatives. Claire Bonham, Head of Volunteering and Communications at PF **England and Wales** was one of them. She presented a training programme for volunteer leaders and group leaders, based in part on the PFI leaders' manual, that PF E&W has recently started developing.

PF E&W has 114 local groups supporting prisons and almost 2000 volunteers.

They have created a tier of volunteer leaders called Area Leaders to support their Regional staff by offering peer support to other volunteers.

If you are interested to know more about the process and the achievements, [click here](https://www.dropbox.com/s/0ay804vdf9qkwa/Ideas%20Blitz%20presentation.pdf)
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0ay804vdf9qkwa/Ideas%20Blitz%20presentation.pdf>



Tailoring the Sycamore Tree Project® (SOS) to fit

PF **Norway** and PF **Netherlands** recently collaborated to develop variations on the Sycamore reconciliation programme. At the Summit Ideas Blitz, PF Norway participants, Ingvald Viken (Chairman) and Arne Synnes (Board member), shared this partnership experience and answered the question - how did PF Norway initiate their restorative justice programme?



Ingvald reported: "We have for some years worked on adjusting the Sycamore Tree reconciliation program to fit the Norwegian context. First we reviewed the materials used in the U.S. and England & Wales. We decided to make a substantial revision of the guide materials in order to adapt them to the Norwegian society.

The plans came to a new level when we held a seminar at our 25th anniversary conference using the works of former Justice Minister Knut Storberget, who addressed the audience - as did Mr Erik Sårheim, the former/first director at Bastøy prison and leader in KRUS and Prison Administration.

We established a working group consisting of experienced leaders. We found the PF Netherlands (Gevangenenzorg NL) alternative program very relevant to Norwegian tradition and usable in small as well as large settings in prisons in Norway. The flexibility of the program in terms of length,

number of participants, and content was regarded as a very valuable feature for a possible adaption in Norway. The name in Dutch is SOS (speaking about victims, guilt, remorse and society). There is an increased interest in Restorative Justice in Norway. Many leaders and chaplains participated in a Seminar we held on January 11, 2014 in Oslo, with Ms Esther Klaasen as the main SOS instructor. Esther gave an impressive overview of the key aspects of the SOS program and its positive influence on inmates: has more victim empathy, less likely to reoffend, takes responsibility... on the victims: restoration of trust ; takes away bitterness (healed emotions), continues life as non-victim... and on society: re-integration, better start after detention, stronger feelings of safety.

We have recently applied for funds for a test trial in Prison Administration in Norway to take place in the coming months. We count on having a key partner in PF Netherlands, Mr Ton Daans, to help us in this process.”

Esther Klaasen surrounded by

From left:

Chaplain at ILA prison: Odd Cato Kristiansen

Chaplain at Ullersmo prison: Odd Gjøen

Former director at Prison Administration: Erik Såheim



Bank Partners to reach out to Prisoners' Children

Brochures, leaflets and other communication materials were displayed along the corridor of the Summit's main conference room. Mark Vella, PF **Malta**, exhibited the resources, available thanks to HSBC bank in Malta. The bank sponsored the association's activities focused on children, which also included Angel Tree materials (stickers, leaflets) as well as the Prize Competition on Drawings.

View the March 6 Times of Malta article:

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20140306/local/Reaching-out-to-the-children-of-prisoners.509418>



Building Bridges

Preceding the Summit, 7 Prison Fellowship European affiliates which recently got confirmation that their Restorative Justice programmes based on Sycamore Tree Project were going to be funded 2014-2015 by the European Commission, had their kick-off meeting in Amsterdam (6-8 March).

Building Bridges is the project name of a 2 years lasting project that will contribute to promote Restorative Justice processes between offenders and victims in Europe. 80% of the budget will be paid by the E.U. provided the group meets the criteria agreed upon the May 2013 application (26 pages). For the evaluation part of the project, two non-PF organisations joined the team (the University of Hull -UK and Die Berater Agency based in Vienna).

“Building Bridges” is the project name for activities that aim to explore possibilities to start Sycamore Tree Projects in more European Countries, adapt the programme in a multi-cultural setting inside and outside prisons, train facilitators in the methodology, implement the training in 14 different settings inside and outside prisons, and evaluate in order to show evidence for enabling and hindering factors of victim support on a European-wide basis.

Interested to read the detailed project description? Ask Joost de Jager, PF Netherlands or Dominique.



Honouring our Leaders

After 21 years of service at PFI, **Ivan Sotirov** (PFI European Office fundraiser and former Europe Director) retired on April 1st. Ivan will continue his support as an active volunteer! A special dinner honouring **Ron Nikkel** (PFI President Emeritus) and Ivan took place in Amsterdam. During the evening, both men received two books / albums containing inspirational testimonies reflecting the impact of their leadership in the region. Most of the participants expressed spontaneously their gratefulness for the men's contributions to PFI. Ivan is responsible for the emergence and building of so many National Ministries, especially in the Eastern part of Europe. As a diplomat he solved problems related to crisis; over the years he has shared his expertise on how to build connections and support for improving imprisonment conditions (in Europe and Africa) and developing restorative justice programs.





Gilbert Chellembon, PFI Europe Office Manager, has decided to devote himself fully to his worship music mission and will leave PFI European Office on the first week of April. On the last day of the Summit, Gilbert was thanked for his 13 years of faithful and countless hours of service. Gilbert served as the event planner in Amsterdam, leading the morning worships with his beautiful voice and his musicians.

Newsletter Evaluation

Based on the evaluations and suggestions made by participants at the Summit (Session: *How to Develop our Connectedness*), we will continue providing PF affiliates with the Newsletter. However it will only be sent out once a quarter (April 1, July 1, October 1, and January 1), and the length will be shortened by using hyperlinks and links to websites allowing the reader the option of further information. Evaluations also recommended a more interactive newsletter spotlighting one or two ministries. We will do our best to meet your needs in the forthcoming issues.

The European Support Group and the European Office will reflect on the 'small and big dreams' that the participants shared too.

Staying tuned

- **European Summit Photos:** thanks to Marton Magyari, Executive Director of PF Hungary, who did an outstanding photo report, the photographs bring back great memories! View them at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/o8cslsrk3o8tuv4/n4M8PTO4HJ>
- Leaders who were unable to attend, but would like to review the content of the sessions, may request the **Participant Book** by contacting Dominique or Nikolai. And the individual **Evaluations of the Summit** have been put together on a report by Alison Clarkson Webb. It can be sent to you upon request.
- Dominique will provide the participant list with **emails addresses**, upon request.
- The **PFI Directory 2014** will be available online in early May (limited access). To help make that happen, if you have not done so, please send your updates to Dominique and Nikolai today!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for:

- *Constantin's family : his wife Cornelia and their children Bogdana, Oana and Raesh and for Andrei Csiliki who has taken over the prison ministry in **Romania**. Andrei attended the Summit.*
- *Dmitryi's family : his wife Marina and his 18-year old son David. For Prison Fellowship **Kazakhstan**.*
- *Rosie Lycett, Board secretary from PF **Guernsey** who is going through very serious health issues. May the Lord heal and give her comfort.*
- *The leaders and partners who are working to build future Prison Fellowship ministries. Claudine Figueira from **France** attended the Summit.*
- *The Sycamore Tree Project® course that PF **Italy** starts this month in Sardegna's high security prison.*

**May this Easter Season
be a blessed Time
full of Hope and Confidence**



ALL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT EUROPE NEWSLETTER ARE MORE THAN WELCOME:
PLEASE SEND THEM TO dalexandre@pfi.org

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