



IPCA Europe
International Prison Chaplains' Association in Europe
www.ipcaeurope.org

Rome Feb 29th – March 3rd 2016
Minorities in Prison: Inside, isolated and alone.

Conference Statement

48 prison chaplains from 19 countries assembled at the Waldensian Theological Seminary in Rome. Chaplains from Christian churches and traditions were joined by Muslim and Sikh colleagues from the UK.

Meeting to study and consider minorities in prison;

Benefitting from the wisdom of speakers on Biblical, Penological, Political, Sociological and Theological themes;

And under the guidance of God we determined that:

Many of the two million people in the prisons of Europe, already isolated as the result of their imprisonment, become further isolated as the result of cultural, economic, ethnic, gender-related, religious and other factors.

The common experience of minorities in prison is of additional powerlessness in circumstances in which natural rights of self-determination are already restricted;

Leading to increased vulnerability from isolation and loneliness, self-harm and exploitation by others;

As chaplains we resolve:

To become more vigilant in our concern for marginalised groups and individuals in the prisons of Europe;

To build further bonds between ourselves as Chaplains and religious ministers;

To become individually more prayerful and dedicated in our service of others under the guidance of God.

We urge prison authorities and staff, churches and religious communities, the national and supra-national institutions of Europe and individuals to continue to be mindful that

All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with respect for their human rights.

(European Prison Rules 2006.1)

Prison rules should be applied equally and fairly (EPR13)

Special arrangements shall be made to meet the needs of prisoners who belong to ethnic or linguistic minorities. (EPR 38.1)

As far as practicable the cultural practices of different groups shall be allowed to continue in prison. (EPR 38.2)

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Rome 3/3/2016

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