

Assessing The Correctional Institution for Women's (CIW) Safety And Security Gender-Sensitive Prison Management In Compliance With The United Nations Bangkok Rules

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Introduction

Prison conditions vary among different countries around the world. Particularly within developing nations, problems facing prison institutions fall under the same umbrella. Common challenges to prisons like congestion, unmet health and sanitation needs, inadequate food provisions, poorly equipped medical facilities, and human rights abuses, combined with an inefficient prison management system unaware of the specific needs of both male and female prisoners render the prison environment unfit for human survival. Hence, there is a need to rethink and reassess prison management efforts in order to appropriately respond to the specific needs of prisoners.

Compared to male persons deprived of liberty (PDLs), the needs of female PDLs are more compromised as the majority of prison institutions are designed toward the needs of the male prison population (Pradier, Bastick, & Grimm, 2015). From the way prison institutions were built, the safety and security measures, the healthcare facilities, to the family contact and visitation schemes, the needs of male PDLs are reflected paving the way for a prison management system that is unaware and unresponsive of the specific needs of women PDLs. Most often today, women PDLs are admitted to the same prison institutions with men and are expected to adapt to the same facilities and routines designed for men.

With the observation that the *Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners* and the *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures* are not sufficient in considering the gender-specific needs of women and the prison realities confronting them, the United Nations General Assembly (2011) adopted the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women PDLs and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules) in order to supplement and complement both aforementioned international prison guidelines.

In its adherence to the Bangkok Rules, the Philippines moves along paths that aimed to uplift the lives of its women PDLs. However, according to Van den Bergh, Gatherer, Fraserb, & Mollera (2011), just like several prison institutions in Southeast Asia, prisons in the Philippines are often established with regard to the needs of male PDLs. In accordance, prison conditions for women in the country are still far from ideal as female PDLs continue to be exposed to prison institutions and jail practices suited designed for the majority male prison population (Pradier, Bastick, & Grimm, 2015).

Out of the facets of gender-sensitive prison management stated in the Bangkok Rules, meeting women's gender-specific needs in the field of healthcare is most commonly studied and analyzed in the Philippines. Most literature related to gender-sensitive prison management in the country focuses on its significant effects on women PDLs' healthcare

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(Baker & the Danish Institute Against Torture, 2015). Little attention is devoted to the effect of gender-sensitive prison management on the aspect of safety and security. Hence, there is also a need to take into consideration the challenges haunting female PDLs in relation to safety and security.

Accordingly, the Philippines devised gender-sensitive prison management mechanisms which espouse practices that recognize women's distinct needs. One of the primary and pioneer institutions in the country which utilizes such a gender-sensitive prison mechanism, catering to the special needs of women PDLs, is the CIW.

Operating under the Bureau of Corrections, CIW serves as the Philippines' principal penal institution designed for the majority of Filipino female offenders, pioneering the country's gender-sensitive prison management. Following the abovementioned safety and security challenges to women PDLs as well as the rising women prisoner population accompanied by the prison conditions haunting female PDLs in the Philippines, the researchers saw a need to rethink and reassess gender-sensitive prison management aimed at catering the gender-specific safety and security needs of women PDLs as well as uplifting their overall prison conditions. Hence, the researchers put into assessment the gender-sensitive prison management operationalized by the Philippines' principal penal institution for women offenders, the CIW.

Theoretical Framework

The theory used for the purposes of the study is the Women's Correctional Services Framework conceptualized by Kelly Anderson. The Women's Correctional Services Framework primarily posits that by recognizing gender differences between men and women PDLs and integrating them into operational and management practices, prison services will be more effective in responding to the needs of women PDLs (Anderson, 2007). According to Anderson, in order to develop a gender-sensitive approach in prisons, there should first be an affirmation that within criminal justice systems, prison programs have been created by men for men. Men and women are different hence they respond to prison interventions differently. This suggests that there is a need to consider gender-specific needs in the design and delivery of prison programs.

In this study, the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women PDLs and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules) were utilized in determining and assessing the CIW efforts toward its gender-sensitive safety and security prison management. In the said body of rules, the different aspects of women PDLs' safety and security inside prison facilities were given specific emphasis. These facets of safety and security hold distinctive characteristics which are crucial in the overall assessment of CIW's gender-responsive schemes.

For discussion, this study put emphasis on the following aspects of women PDLs' safety and security, to wit: **1.) Bodily Searches** are classified as an effective measure that ensures the protection of women PDLs' dignity during personal searches, carried out by properly trained women staff, it is practiced through appropriate searching methods in accordance with established prison procedures, **2.) Disciplinary Sanctions** are classified as modes of disciplinary segregation which are strictly not applied to pregnant women, women with infants, and breastfeeding mothers in prison, **3.) Modes of Restraint** are classified as instruments used to restrict physical movements which are not used to inflict pain, abuse, or torture upon women, **4.) Complaints and Inspections** refer to giving access to women offenders in the complaint system; in which, they will be provided immediate protection, support and counseling, and proper investigation, with full respect for the principle of confidentiality, **5.) Contact with the Outside World** refers to the free access of communication toward their families, including their children, and their children's guardians,

6.) Institutional Personnel Training refers to the capacity-building for prison personnel which enables them to address special social reintegration requirements of women PDLs and manage safe and rehabilitative facilities.

Shedding Light on Women PDLs

According to the World Prison Brief Female Imprisonment List (2017), an estimate of over 714,000 adult women and juvenile offenders including pre-trial detainees or remand prisoners are held in prison institutions worldwide. In the plight of women in penal institutions, female offenders are seen to be more vulnerable to personnel misconduct and recipients of ill-equipped prison services, especially in physical and mental health conditions, substance abuse, recovery from trauma, and economic or vocational skills (Covington, 1998).

Female PDLs are considered minorities in penal institutions. Predominantly run by men, prison management systems are primarily designed on male-oriented mechanisms that are only compatible with the needs and conditions of incarcerated men. As a result, women detainees find themselves inept in the jail structure, in which, specific needs for 'gynecological and obstetric care are compromised (Gainsborough, 2008). Even though the increasing involvement of women in the criminal justice system has prompted discussions on penal reforms, particularly in male-centered prison services, discrimination against female offenders remain rampant.

In the Philippine setting, penal systems are faced with outdated record management systems, court backlogs, and over-stayers which heavily contribute to the overpopulation of most prison institutions. According to Jones (2014), the inmate population, including the diverse men and women demographics, expands in numbers at a five percent rate annually. As a result, prison resources such as nutritious food and clean water are reduced in both quantity and quality, hence, this overwhelming scarcity increases the conflict and competition to acquire them among prisoners. In turn, these inhumane conditions are aggravated in the condition of women PDLs where the existing male-oriented prison design overshadows the gender-specific necessities of women.

The United Nations Bangkok Rules

One of the guiding international body of rules and principles pertaining to the welfare of women PDLs is the Bangkok Rules. Various international body of rules were enacted to safeguard the rights of prisoners, but the Bangkok Rules stood out as it specifically targets the rights of women offenders, as well as it serves as a foundation for the formulation of gender-sensitive prison management.

According to the United Nations General Assembly (2011), the Bangkok Rules are meant to supplement and complement the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners as well as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures. According to Barberet and Jackson (2017), the Bangkok Rules affirms the gender-specific needs of female PDLs compared to male PDLs as it takes into account women's high levels of victimization, their greater tendency to commit suicide and self-harm, their special status as mothers to their children, their particular health and hygiene needs as well as their safety and security requirements.

Evident in the provisions of the Bangkok Rules is the need to craft a gender-sensitive approach to the management of women PDLs. As embodied in the report released by the United Nations General Assembly (2011), the key contents of the Bangkok Rules include provisions for providing for the special needs of women PDLs, provisions for admission, registration, and allocation of women PDLs, and provisions highlighting personal hygiene and

healthcare, provisions pertaining to safety and security including searches, disciplinary measures, methods of restraint, complaints and inspections, institutional personnel and training, as well as contact with the outside world, provisions relating to breastfeeding mothers, mothers with dependent children, and pregnant women, provisions on juvenile female PDLs, and provisions on female foreign nationals and indigenous women.

Women's Safety and Security in Prison

Correctional institutions, operating through rehabilitation initiatives and treatment prison services, have reportedly shown great neglect of the women's jail system. As prison environments mostly respond to a male-dominated population, various gender-specific requirements such as healthcare, hygiene, education, livelihood training, recovery programs, and safety and security measures within the prison facility are compromised. Due to this, disinvestment in gender-responsive mechanisms, imprisoned women become vulnerable to abuse. In this case, women offenders easily become targets of verbal degradation, sexual assaults, unwarranted visual supervision, and denial of basic needs and privileges. Moreover, these prison struggles are reflective of the alarming condition of women PDLs. Especially today, women offenders are seen to increase in numbers. In the study of Calhoun, Messina, and Cartier (2010), they concluded that women PDLs require different gender-responsive necessities and penal services catered to rehabilitation compared to their male counterparts. Hence, the responsibility of jail institutions to adapt or uphold gender-sensitive prison management becomes more significant and apparent.

Gender-Sensitive Prison Management

In the ASEAN training module for correctional staff, the Thailand Institute of Justice (2016) defines gender-sensitive prison management as the collection of prison management rules, programs, and practices that guarantee women PDLs' protection from discrimination along with the acknowledgment and delivery of their gender-specific needs in an environment which is rehabilitative rather than punishment-oriented.

The Center for Gender and Justice describes gender-sensitive prison programs as those efforts which strive to create an environment that respond to the special needs of the women prison population through safe and secured prison sites, informed prison staff, and activities that reflect the realities of the lives of female PDLs in terms of their strengths and weaknesses (Treskon & Bright, 2017). According to Ashdown and James (2010), there is still a lack of rigid implementation and execution of gender-sensitive prison services around the world. They suggested that gender-sensitive models for prison management are often not executed as planned and still continue to fall short in meeting women PDLs' distinct needs.

In the Philippine setting, efforts toward the implementation of gender-sensitive prison management are also put into place. The Philippine Commission on Women (2003) advocated for a *Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework* which serves as a guide in assessing gender-sensitive measures and policies. In its efforts to push for gender-sensitive treatment of women PDLs, the Philippine Commission on Women and the University of the Philippines Center for Women's Studies continuously spearhead seminars in order to train prison staff in rights-based prison treatment as well as gender mainstreaming. In addition, the Philippine Commission on Women with the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Interior and Local Government also came up with a *Gender Mainstreaming Resource Kit* which has been guiding prison staff in implementing a gender-sensitive prison management approach.

In its course of integrating elements of gender-sensitive prison management, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (2010) in the Philippines also took a step toward recognizing the distinct needs of women PDLs by separating them from male PDLs. According to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, the Quezon City Jail also designated female

dormitories which specifically house women PDLs in the city. Rehabilitation projects like the *Therapeutic Community Modality* also incorporated elements of gender-sensitive prison management while boosting prisoners' personal development.

As the focus of the researchers' study, gender-sensitive prison management is also being conducted by the CIW, the country's first and only penal institution designed for women PDLs. Located in Mandaluyong, CIW adheres to a revised memorandum on "*reintegration of rehabilitation programs and prison rules and regulations for a gender-sensitive prison management*" which embodies rules surrounding a gender-sensitive prison approach in aspects relating to searching, restraints, and disciplinary punishments for female PDLs (CIW, 2013). The revised memorandum on gender-sensitive prison management followed by the CIW lists several measures to respond to the gender-specific needs of women PDLs as well as minimize, if not eliminate, the risks of discrimination and inaction to women PDLs' welfare. These include provisions on the protection of PDLs against any kind of harassment and abuse, provisions on body searches, restraints, disciplinary methods, provisions surrounding female PDLs' programs and activities, provisions on recreation, healthcare, counseling, and visitation rights, contact with the outside world, preparation for release, and provisions pertaining to pregnant women PDLs and women with children in prison (CIW, 2013).

Assessing Compliance

This study utilized *Data Source Triangulation*. In the words of Carter (2014), triangulation strengthens the validity of an argument through the accumulation of multiple quantitative and qualitative research techniques. Correspondingly, this study operationalized this method through three (3) data sources: Interview, Focus Group Discussion, and Questionnaire Form or Survey. Altogether, this data source triangulation approaches equally fortified and validated the findings on CIW's gender-sensitivity prison management from diverse respondents.

Data Presentation

In order to assess the CIW's Gender-Sensitive Prison Management vis-à-vis its compliance with the Bangkok Rules, the following was utilized:

- (1) Quantitative Method by means of a Survey Questionnaire zooming into the women PDLs' experience on the six aspects of prison safety and security stipulated by the Bangkok Rules
 - Body Searches
 - Contact with the Outside World
 - Institutional Personnel and Training
 - Complaints and Inspections
 - Disciplinary Sanctions
 - Modes of Restraints
- (2) Qualitative Method by means of Focus Group Discussion in examining
 - How prison officials within CIW conduct body searches and inspections
 - Whether they allow women PDLs the freedom to participate in prison activities without restraining them to do so
 - Whether they have an existing grievance system that responds to women PDLs' complaints
 - What are their disciplinary sanctions for women PDLs and how are these sanctions conducted

- Whether they undergo trainings, seminars, and capacity-building related to gender-sensitive prison management approaches

(3) Qualitative Method by means of Interview in looking at

- External stakeholders' observations and experiences within the CIW
- Non-governmental organizations involvements and experiences in their direct and indirect interactions with women PDLs within the CIW
- Governmental agencies' perspectives and observations regarding the implementation of a gender-sensitive prison management approach within penal institutions

Quantitative Data

To have a general background of the respondents, the survey questionnaire distributed by the researchers utilized both completion and recognition types of questions to first obtain the basic information of respondents such as their name (optional), age, and number of years in prison. In the bulk of the survey questions, "Yes" or "No" questions were utilized. The survey form contained 18 questions as reflective of the indicators stipulated in the United Nations Bangkok Rules. The purpose of the survey is to determine the evaluation of women PDLs in the gender-sensitive prison management of the CIW.

The study utilized a non-probability convenience sampling in gathering respondents for the said study. Those who were only present at the time the survey was conducted were given questionnaire forms. The researchers were able to draw out 309 women PDLs from the CIW as the primary respondents to the survey questionnaire. The answers collected from the survey conducted were processed through frequency count and percentage analysis. This means that all the answers of the respondents were added in order to obtain the highest-occurring answer. The results of the frequency count were translated into percentages and tabulated by the researchers for the interpretation of data.

Qualitative Data

Qualitative data were also utilized in the research study in order to further supplement the results gathered from the survey questionnaire. The responses provided by both the interviews and the focus-group discussion were analyzed and tabulated thematically through content analysis.

The researchers were able to interview the five most active Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) affiliated with CIW, to wit:

- (1) Channel of Hope Foundation
- (2) Philippine Jesuit Prison Service
- (3) Association of Baptists for World Evangelism
- (4) Couples for Christ – Handmaids of the Lord
- (5) Friends of the Cenacle Prison Ministry Group

In addition, the Head of Visitation Division from the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), and a representative from the United Nations Women Peace and Security (UN WPS) were also interviewed.

The researchers were likewise able to conduct a focus group discussion with the officials of the CIW at the time:

- (1) Administrative Officer

- (2) Chief of Armory, Purchaser and Canvasser
- (3) Chief, Administrative Office
- (4) Gender and Development Administrative Officer
- (5) Chief Overseer, Investigation Section
- (6) CDG (Female) Chief, Deputy for Security and Operations
- (7) Chief, Diagnostics and Education Program

The questions presented to the respondents were the following:

1. *How are body searches and visitation schemes conducted in the CIW?*
2. *In what manner are the modes of restraints and disciplinary sanctions implemented and conducted in the CIW?*
3. *How are complaints filed and inspections implemented for women PDLs in the CIW?*
4. *How are institutional personnel and training employed and trained in the CIW?*

Summary of Responses

The researchers utilized both qualitative and quantitative approaches in gathering data from different relevant sources. The researchers distributed survey questionnaire forms to 309 women PDLs through a non-probability convenience sampling.

Summary of Quantitative Data Gathered

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESPONSES		
BANGKOK RULES SAFETY AND SECURITY FACET	YES (%)	NO (%)
Body Searches	95.14%	4.85%
Disciplinary Sanction	95.03%	4.96%
Contact with the Outside World	90.29%	9.70%
Complaints and Inspection	94.28%	5.71%
Institutional Personnel Training	97.08%	2.91%
Modes of Restraint	92.34%	7.65%
Average:	564.16%	35.78%
OVERALL TOTAL:	94.02%	5.96%

The results of the survey show that a huge portion of the total population of women PDLs surveyed believes that the CIW implements gender-sensitive prison management approaches which respond to the gender-distinct needs of women PDLs. In all six aspects stipulated by the Bangkok Rules on safety and security gender-sensitive prison management, the CIW was seen as gender-sensitive. Thus, an overwhelming number of women PDLs surveyed believe that their safety and security gender-distinct needs are taken into account by CIW.

Summary of Qualitative Data Gathered

The researchers were able to gather responses from seven prison officials of the CIW. All the respondents from the CIW generally believe that the penal institution responds to women PDLs' safety and security gender-sensitive needs in relation to the Bangkok Rules. They all agreed that body inspections are solely conducted by female prison staff and that male prison officers maintain only a marginal command inside the said prison institution.

Moreover, they all provided that they underwent trainings and seminars which taught them gender-sensitive measures in managing prison activities. They also generally stated that female PDLs are given the freedom to participate in prison activities without prison staff restraining them. Visitations with the female PDLs' loved ones were also allowed as long as it is according to schedule. The respondents also added that they have a 'Kaagapay Center' that assists prisoners' complaints. However, their opinions regarding the shortcomings of the CIW on some aspects of safety and security differ from one another.

All six respondents identified isolation or preventive cells as mechanisms for disciplinary sanctions of women PDLs. However, an officer from CIW first stated that they utilize disciplinary segregation as a way of sanctioning female PDLs who are proven to violate prison rules and regulations. Thus, the researchers observed some inconsistency in their responses pertaining to disciplinary sanctions conducted on women PDLs inside the CIW. In addition, another officer from CIW provided that the other complaints of women PDLs are mostly set aside and not prioritized. PDL complaints often take a long period of time to be processed and validated. According to the respondent, complaints go through a long and tedious process before having to be responded to by prison officials. Another CIW respondent also said that institutional training of prison personnel is not that consistent as such trainings and seminars on gender-sensitivity prison management are conducted in long year gaps. In which, these activities are not sustained in the long run especially when it comes to newly assigned prison officers.

On the other side, all respondents who participated in the focus group discussion believe that body searches and inspections on female PDLs are solely conducted by female prison staff. Even outside guests, only female staff attend, inspect, and search female visitors. Respondents observed that this is strictly enforced within the CIW and that male prison officers only maintain external support within the said penal institution. Likewise, all respondents provided that female PDLs are given the freedom to meet their loved ones and that they are not being restrained from doing so as long as they follow general rules and guidelines. When it comes to disciplinary sanctions and forms of restraints, the respondents said that they have not witnessed any violent and inhumane modes of disciplinary sanctions conducted by prison staff inside the CIW. The representative of CHR assured the respondents that no forms of torture are committed inside prison facilities. Women PDLs are also given enough freedom to move around the prison institution as well as participate in the CIW's prison activities without getting restrained.

All respondents provided that CIW has its own grievance system for women PDLs but they also stated various problems regarding such a system of complaints. Specifically, according to the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, there is a low level of communication between complainers and the prison administration hence their grievances are not immediately prioritized and responded to by the prison staff. At the same time, according to the Channel of Hope Foundation, there still exists favoritism among prisoners' complaints. Friends of the Cenacle Prison Ministry Group also pointed out the long-term recurrence of complaints expressed by women PDLs hence reflecting the level of responsiveness and effectiveness of the prison staff in resolving prisoners' concerns. On the other hand, a representative of the Commission on Human Rights stated that there is still a lack of strong protection of women PDLs' rights within the penal institution wherein women PDLs become frightened to express their grievances for the fear of getting scolded by the prison staff.

On the aspect of institutional personnel and training, the Channel of Hope Foundation, the Philippine Jesuit Prison Service, and the Couples for Christ – Handmaids of the Lord generally believe that prison staff within the CIW are well-trained and professional when it comes to their prison management skills. The Association of Baptists for World Evangelism pointed out that prison administrators need enhancement of their communication skills while

the Friends of the Cenacle Prison Ministry Group stated that the flexibility of prison personnel should be further enhanced in order to properly accommodate women PDLs' concerns. Aside from that, respondents have mentioned institutional training among prison staff within the CIW is still insufficient as other factors like government budget allocations affect the prison administration's capacity to develop their own personnel. It must be noted that according to the respondents, external factors such as budgetary constraints and lack of facilities prohibit the penal institution from fully employing and implementing gender-sensitive prison management within CIW.

General Findings and Analysis Categorized Per Facet

Body Searches

In general, body searches for female PDLs inside CIW are solely conducted by female prison personnel. The roles of male prison officers within CIW are only limited to support, security, and administrative duties. They are prohibited to enter prison facilities and are not allowed to have direct contact and interaction with female PDLs. Moreover, body searches are conducted for a reason deemed necessary for the purposes of safety and security. These searches and inspections are conducted without malicious intent and are done in the line of duty.

Contact with the Outside World

Base on the data gathered by the researchers, women PDLs are allowed to be visited by their loved ones in accordance with the prescribed visitation schedule designated by the prison administration. They are also given the freedom to communicate with their loved ones through phone calls and letters provided that they will forward formal letters of request to the prison personnel. They are not prohibited from meeting and having time to meet their families and relatives even if they committed violations inside the prison institution. Removal of the rights for visitation is not practiced within the CIW as a form of disciplinary sanction for women PDLs.

Modes of Restraint

Prison officers from the CIW do not utilize unnecessary and inhumane modes of restraining women PDLs, especially those which limit their free movement inside the prison environment. They are also given the freedom to participate and join in prison activities. Prison personnel gives women PDLs the option to participate in different activities within the penal institution.

Disciplinary Sanctions

Almost all of the respondents answered that there are no inhumane methods of disciplinary sanctions utilized inside the CIW. Only isolation or preventive cells within 24 hours are employed when women PDLs become violent and unrestrained. There is a single inconsistency in the response of the officials of the CIW wherein disciplinary cells are said to be utilized for women PDLs. Nonetheless, all other involved respondents of the research study stated that women PDLs who committed offenses are sanctioned only after a thorough investigation and validation of offenses. The CIW follows a legal process before subjecting women PDLs to disciplinary sanctions. Accordingly, only a reduction in the good conduct allowance is done when offenses are not that serious and threatening. However, the shortage in prison personnel as well as the lack of appropriate prison facilities led the CIW's disciplinary sanctions to more of a punishment approach instead of one that is rehabilitative in nature.

Complaints and Inspections

The CIW has a functioning grievance system called the '*Kaagapay Center*' wherein all prisoner concerns are forwarded and processed. Women PDLs can just submit their written grievances to their dorm leaders or to prison staff. In this manner, women PDLs have a way of notifying the prison administration about their gender-distinct demands and concerns. However, few respondents noted that the grievance system within the CIW takes too long to accommodate and respond to women PDLs' concerns. The processes involved in the forwarding of prisoner grievances are too long and tedious hence resulting in the unresponsiveness of prison administrators in the issues confronting female PDLs. The concerns of female PDLs are also sidelined and commonly not prioritized by prison personnel. This may be caused by other factors such as the lack of prison staff as well as the resources to incentivize prison personnel to be flexible in their assigned duties.

Institutional Personnel and Training

Respondents of the research study provided that prison personnel undergo trainings and seminars in order to inform them about proper prison management approaches especially those which relate to gender sensitivity inside the prison institution. Prison officers manifest expertise and knowledge in handling prison affairs as well as in accommodating the gender-distinct needs of female PDLs. However, due to a lack of sufficient budgetary allocations, too much fixation on seminars and trainings, as well as the shortage of prison personnel, the CIW is hindered from further enhancing the gender-sensitive prison management skills of its prison staff, especially those who are new in the said penal institution.

Conclusion

Based on the results and findings of the gathered data, the study confirms that CIW is compliant with and is employing gender-sensitive prison management approaches as set under the Bangkok Rules' safety and security facets. This was substantiated by a focus group discussion of CIW's internal stakeholders, interviews with members of NGOs who provide direct intervention to the female PDLs, and the PDL's survey responses. Despite integrating the Bangkok Rules, it is stated that CIW's proper implementation of the provisions is hampered due to the factors of 1) prison congestion, 2) lack of manpower to monitor PDLs 3) lack of funds and resources for the establishment of infrastructure.

General Recommendations

In accordance with the findings and conclusion of the study, recommendations for succeeding studies are as follows: (a) review and revisit the Bangkok Rules and take into account other equally important facets such as registration, allocation, personal hygiene, food and sanitation, and mental health and psychosocial well-being, among others as part and parcel of assessing the overall gender-sensitivity of CIW; (b) assess how and to what degree these programs and activities respond or cater to the specific needs of more at-risked groups such as but not limited to pregnant women, mothers, single mothers, widows, and teenagers; (c) examine how and to what extent humanitarian ethics and principles are integrated into all prison activities; and (d) identify and assess whether there are spaces for women PDLs to participate and make decisions in various activities that can hone their strengths and talents.

The CIW should frequently hold gender and development trainings in order strengthen the capacities of the staff in implementing gender-sensitive prison measures and activities. The BuCor, among other relevant government offices, should also expand its efforts in mainstreaming gender-sensitive prison management in all institutions, prioritize the establishment of infrastructure, assist in the employment of appropriate officers and staff, and provide appropriate solutions to the prison congestion.