

PROJECT ALTERNATIVE

PROMOTING ALTERNATIVE TO IMPRISONMENT FOR DRUG OFFENDERS



Preface

The problem of prisons in every country of the world represents one of the main unsolved issue of humankind.

In no field of human action, modern times can be compared with the Middle Age. Except for prisons: detention conditions of inmates are comparable with the ones in use in the past centuries, even in countries that consider themselves champions of human rights.

Without mentioning the aberrations of Abù Graib and Guantanamo, there's not a big difference between some Italian security cells, criminal mental hospitals, prisons and the detention conditions in Castel Sant'Angelo as represented in the third act of the opera Tosca.

Given the above and without considering the issue of torture, which in many parts of the world still do not arouse popular rejection and repulsion, as if it was something unavoidable, all those who strive for preventing incarceration, especially for ill persons, or for shortening the duration of detention facilitating the release, do a deserving work enhancing the community well-being.

If we consider that one third of prisoners all over the world are imprisoned for crimes related to the use of drugs, so that the disease adds up with an environment that exalts stigmatization and discrimination, all those who in their work are committed to find alternatives to detention for drug-using offenders, are even more meritorious.

The project described in the following pages and whose title is not by chance "Alternative", wants to be like an headlight on the attempts, successes, difficulties and also contradictions of those who every day works in silence and often experiencing discrimination, for avoiding the prison to a great number of persons with a disease, thus improving the general condition of civil society. At least in Europe, which is or should be, the heart of civilization.

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