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PRESENTATION TO BUREAU OF PRISON ADMINISTRATION OF CHINA DELEGATION

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- As an independent NGO, Justice Action (JA) acts as a unique voice for offender reintegration and participation in society. JA takes its direction from people in prison and locked hospitals and families.
- Our social enterprise Breakout Media Communications has funded us for over thirty years, from the profit after printing publications, designing and making websites for unions, corporations and community groups.
- JA defends human rights by increasing accountability whilst also giving voice and opportunities to those in prison, and the most vulnerable in the community. We represent those people in negotiations for OPCAT.
- We have campaigns and strategies across criminal justice, mental health, privacy and social cohesion. Our membership includes prisoners, ex-prisoners, families, students, academics, judges and other people of goodwill.
- **iExpress** is the world's first prisoner webpage and interactive email system aimed at empowering people in prisons and locked hospitals by bringing them into the digital world.
- **JUST US** is the only national newspaper going into Australian institutions.
- **Computers in Cells** campaign opens up efficient communication and offers services like email and education to lessen isolation.

Restorative justice

- We support restorative justice as an alternative to prison. The concept also assists in negotiation for prison living, and to assist in resettlement back into their community. If peace has been made with victims a welcome back after prison is fair and should be expected.
- We know that mediation (*tiaojie*) is a model of restorative practice in China and in reconciliation among concerned parties such as victims, offenders and family members. It supports empathy for the poor and weak encouraging Confucius values of 'peace' and 'social harmony'.
- The downside of restorative justice may be unequal treatment for powerless people. In domestic violence cases, women may be unfairly treated. Careful training and structures are necessary.

Lessening isolation during imprisonment

- During the time of imprisonment family and community relationships should be maintained, and the person should additionally develop in positive ways. This makes reintegration easier after release and reduces recidivism.
- Assist communication between prisoners, their families and others through: letters, emails, conjugal visits, video conferencing/skyping, computers in cells/common areas, phone calls etc.
- Prisoner development through training and education for jobs with agreements with employers in preparation for release. Teaching prisoners the skills of negotiation ensure successful reintegration.
- Community service orders as an alternative to imprisonment or as well as during imprisonment to facilitate reintegration into the community and to promote an attitude of 'forgiveness'/'welcoming' in the community.
- Offer therapy to prisoners: group therapy, sands therapy, music therapy, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) etc.

Release

- Support from family and the community plays a very significant role in the rehabilitation of prisoners, but ensuring prisoners' basic needs are met is the first step to resettlement. Shelter, safety, social support and positive activity are essential.
- Community organisations of ex-prisoners and support people assist as mentors and role models. It enlarges their social circles to meet people with different backgrounds. Trusted support services link to those organizations offering training and jobs.
- Prison fellowship organisations all over the world serve similar purposes. Regular gatherings and internet communication is held to coordinate and update news.

Justice Action

- Justice Action 是一个完全独立的非政府组织。我们的目标是要推动释囚重新融入社会和加强他们的参与度。
- 社会企业 Breakout Media Communication 在过去的三十年为我们提供财政上的资助。企业的主要工作包括为工会及不同的社会团体印刷及设计网页。
- 我们透过加强政府机构对社会的责任，以及给予在囚人士和弱势社群更多发声机会来维护他们的人权
- 我们亦以 Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) 来为受折磨的一群发声。
- 我们的工作范畴涉及刑事司法体系、精神健康、私隐权及社会共融。我们的会员包括囚犯、释囚、家属、学生、学术团体、法官及其他相关人士。
- 在过去的三十年，我们的工作不仅维护了在囚人士和释囚的人权利益，还让他们增加了很多与外界沟通的机会。
- 以下是我们主要的工作：
 - Just Us 是澳洲唯一发送到国内监狱的报刊
 - iExpress 是世界上第一个建立给在囚人士的邮件系统。监狱及羁留病房内的囚犯能透过该邮件系统和外界联络。
 - Computers in Cells 的主要目的是透过网上的教育平台来提高在囚人士的教育水平

修复式正义

- 我们支持以修复式正义代替监禁。这个做法令囚犯更易重新融入社会。我们相信囚犯和受害人的和解能有助社会重新接纳释囚。
- 我们知道调解是中国的社会复归政策中很常见的一种做法。调解是受害者、家属和罪之间的和解协议。其优点在于强调对于弱势社群的关怀和同理心。调解也跟儒家思想中的价值「人和」相乎。
- 修复式正义的缺点是受害者可能受到不公平对待。在家庭暴力的案件中，女性受害者很可能被不公平对待。因此修复式正义必须仔细地规划。

减少在囚人士与社会的隔膜

- 囚犯在服刑时，保持与家人和社会的联系有助他们日后融入社会，亦有助减低再犯的机会。以下是一些减低隔膜的方法。
- 透过书信、电邮、探访、视像通话及在囚室内设立电脑等方法能让囚犯与家人及朋友和其他有关团体保持联络。
- 提供教育及职业训练的机会。
- 社会服务令比监禁更有效在社会上宣扬原谅及和解的讯息。
- 音乐治疗、认知行为治疗及团体治疗等等可协助囚犯更新。

释放后的支援

- 家庭和社区的支持对囚犯改过自新的过程起重要的作用；然而，满足囚犯的基本生活所需是更为重要的，包括住房、安全、社会支持和正面的活动。
- 为释囚提供援助的社区组织和导师能扩大他们的社交圈子，也能把他们连接至不同种类的训练和工作机会。
- 世界各地的监狱组织都有类似的目的。聚会和网络上的沟通会定期举行以进行协调和资讯交流。