

Agenda for Change for Torture Prevention

High risks of torture

Changes needed to reduce risk of torture

APT contributions to these changes

Environments

Culture of impunity; Lawless environment; Poor access to justice; Dysfunctional justice systems; Confession based system; Militarisation; Counter-terrorism; Weak democratic accountability; Lack of complaint mechanisms and investigation; Pressure on law enforcement; Corruption; Low political priority; Public acceptance of torture; Discrimination; Privatisation of detention and security



CHANGE 1

Rule of law, justice for all and public policies that prevent torture, are enforced and supported by strong political will and public opinion

STRATEGIES

Strengthen legal and policy frameworks

1. Strengthened legal and procedural safeguards during the first hours of police custody
2. Increased agreement on the necessity of torture prevention
3. Increased UNCAT ratification and implementation in law
4. Increased OPCAT ratification, in particular in regions with less ratifications

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Moments & circumstances

Arrest; Apprehension; Stop and search/identity checks; Interrogation; First hours of police custody; Admittance/ arrival to places of deprivation of liberty; Pre-trial detention; Transfers; Forced deportation



CHANGE 2

The risk of ill-treatment and torture at critical moments and circumstances of deprivation of liberty is mitigated

Improve detention practices

5. Reformed police practices, especially on elimination of forced confessions
6. Increased protection of detained persons in situations of vulnerability, in particular women, LGBTI, persons with disabilities, migrants
7. Increased regulation of risky detention practices, such as solitary confinement

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Practices

Forced confessions; Incommunicado detention; Enforced disappearances; Solitary confinement; Disciplinary sanctions; Threats/reprisals; Psychological pressure; Punitive acts; Corporal punishment; Capital punishment; Involuntary confinement; Use of restraints; Admission checks; Body searches



CHANGE 3

Detention practices are controlled, risky practices restricted, and where appropriate eliminated

Strengthen public oversight

8. Increased OPCAT compliance in the legal mandates and structure of NPMs
9. Increased NPM effectiveness in the reduction of the risk of torture and ill-treatment
10. Increased transparency of detention through coherency of all oversight bodies

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Persons

Pre-trial detainees; Political prisoners; Women; Children; Migrants; Marginalised/poor persons; LGBTI; Persons with disabilities; Persons with psycho-social disorders; Foreigners; Indigenous people/ethnic minorities; Elderly; Convicted law enforcement; Religious believers; Drug addicts; Terrorists; Sex offenders; Discriminated persons



CHANGE 4

All persons deprived of their liberty, especially those in situations of vulnerability are protected

Places

Secret places; Places where there is no oversight; Administrative detention; Places where there is lack of contact with outside world (relatives, lawyers, doctors...); Overseas/offshore detention; Overcrowded places; Places with strict security regimes



CHANGE 5

Transparency and accountability in detention places are guaranteed

TOGETHER,
WE CAN
PREVENT
TORTURE.

