

Dienst Justitiële Inrichtingen Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid

Spiritual Care in Detention

Organisation of spiritual care Reinier Sepers

head government department

Values in spiritual care Sefa Bagci deputy head of the Moslim department





'Church' and State

8 religions/philosophies 10 endorsing organizations



Based on the fundamental human rights as expressed in the Dutch constitution, article 6.1

'The right for everybody to confess in freedom his/her religion or philosophy of life, individually or in community with others, taking into account everyone's responsabilities according the law'. **Ambtsgeheim**.

The punishment is the detention itself

Fundamental human rights are still valid, no extra damage or as little as possible

Separation of church and state

conditioned and organised by the state no intervening in the content



In all prisons, (youth) detention centres and forensic centres

- Employed by the state
 Endorsed by religious or
 philosophical organization
- Dual and joint organisation



Some facts & figures

80% of the inmates

240 spiritual counselors

6.100 ceremonies

7.600 group conversations

36.000 individual conversations



How to divide the staff formation

- National poll among inmates every two to four years
- Results decide about the distribution of the workforce



Islam Roman Catholic Protestant Humanism Judaism Orthodox Hinduism Buddhism

Values of spiritual care



(articulated by the various endorsing organizations)



- ✤ Counsellor
- Representative of tradition
- ✤ Liturgical leader
- Educator
- Consultant
- ✤ Co-ordinator
- Conflict mediator
- Peacemaker

Specific tasks in prison systems

- Promoting a humane detention environment
- * Supporting religious communities of inmates
- Forwarding detainees to adjacent medical or psychological care
- Maintaining networks of volunteers and their religious communities in society

- Writing and visiting inmates
- Support in religious services
- Choirs and musical bands
- Catering for religious holidays
- Participation in courses
- Sponsoring
- Donations
- Housing projects





- Expertise in non-Dutch cultural and religious worldviews, linguistic and conceptual contexts
- High appreciation of
 Spiritual Care by inmates
- High attendance rates of
 Spiritual Care (about 80%)



With our colleagues, partners and volunteers form all traditions, we strive to:Serve society, propagate humanity, Embody a living spirituality and faith,

Together bringing hope and connectedness, behind bars, and beyond

