

# ***Prisoners Abroad***

## ***Annual Report 2001***



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## ***What we do***

Prisoners Abroad is the only charity providing practical support and campaigning for the welfare of Britons imprisoned abroad. We currently support around 1,300 British prisoners in over 78 countries.

Our services include:

- providing grants for essential needs such as medicine, food and toiletries;
- providing prisoners and their families with information, advice and support;
- liaising with lawyers, Consuls and prison officials in order to monitor the well-being of prisoners
- sending a regular newsletter to prisoners and families;
- sending magazines, newspapers and books to prisoners;
- linking prisoners with pen-pals;
- a resettlement service for returning prisoners which assists them in finding emergency accommodation, applying for benefits and access to medical care.

## ***Who we work with***

Prisoners  
Prisoners' families & friends  
Prisoners who have returned to the UK  
UK Statutory & Voluntary Agencies  
UK Embassies & Consular staff  
Policy makers/Parliamentarians

Overseas Prison Administrations  
Overseas Voluntary groups  
Lawyers & social workers  
Funding Bodies  
Supporters

## ***Mission***

To provide information, advice and support to Britons detained overseas, to their families and friends, and to released prisoners trying to re-establish themselves in society.

## ***Vision***

Prisoners Abroad is working towards the day when all British nationals detained abroad are held in conditions that meet or supersede internationally recognised standards on imprisonment; do not face disadvantage as a result of language barriers, distance from home, or lack of local support both whilst in prison and upon release; and are allowed to complete their sentence as close as possible to their families.

## ***Value statement***

Prisoners Abroad makes no moral judgement about its clients: we help convicted and unconvicted, guilty or innocent, solely on the basis of need. We work positively against discrimination and are committed to the principle of user involvement.

## ***Chairman's statement***

I have now been the Chairman of Prisoners Abroad for 3 years. Each year when I come to review the year before, I am reminded of the fantastic work achieved by this unique charity. One of the many reasons I am involved with Prisoners Abroad is that its work really makes a huge difference to the lives of prisoners and their families. In some cases we have literally saved the lives of prisoners held in less than satisfactory conditions.

2001 has been a busy year for the organisation as the number of Britons arrested abroad continued to rise dramatically. In 2001, we looked after over 1700 Britons imprisoned abroad, a rise of 27% from the previous year. This had a huge impact on our staff and the workloads with which they had to deal. With this in mind, we made changes to the structure of our Service Delivery team so that they could continue to deliver a quality service to all our clients. I am grateful to them for the way they responded.

Within the context of this, we continued to work to the 3 key-objectives which are part of our three year plan.

- To safeguard and improve the welfare of our clients
- To raise awareness of the needs of our clients
- To improve and maintain an efficient infrastructure to ensure delivery of a quality service

Some of our key achievements in 2001 against these objectives were as follows.

- We provided information, advice and support to over 3000 prisoners, their families and returning prisoners
- We distributed over £60,000 to 300 prisoners in developing countries to help keep them alive, with another £5,000 sent to 140 prisoners to stave off malnutrition through vitamin supplements
- We developed our information systems so that information on justice systems and prison conditions now appears on our website
- A quarterly newsletter was sent to prisoners, families and supporters
- We matched 200 pen pals to prisoners, sent out 800 magazine subscriptions, 150 book parcels and 800 birthday cards to prisoners to alleviate their isolation. We also sent 120 Christmas cards to particularly isolated prisoners and assisted 70 prisoners with grants to buy stationery and keep in touch with their families
- We gave nearly £5,000 in carefully targeted grants to facilitate 65 family visits to loved ones that would have otherwise been impossible
- We helped 20 prisoners gain educational qualifications
- We assessed and managed the risk of returning vulnerable prisoners by working with statutory organisations including the police, social services and probation
- We gave 140 interviews to the media to raise awareness of the issues facing prisoners and their families

In 2001, we also carried out an evaluation of our services to prisoners. This provided us with information that demonstrated clearly that Prisoners Abroad is providing a "compassionate, caring, encouraging and supportive" service. Over 80% of our clients felt the service we provided was good or excellent and almost 90% felt we had helped reduce their isolation.

As a result of findings from this and other surveys, we will be implementing our Service Improvement Plan, developing services for families by holding family days, setting up an 0845 number for families to use and by producing a families newsletter. We will also be working on better preparation for release for returning clients so that we can target our services to their needs.

At a very real and a practical level we continue to work for the emotional and physical well being of our fellow citizens detained abroad. While we can't afford to rest on our laurels we know that we do make a vital difference. The difference is down to the hard work of our staff and volunteers and I thank them for another year of dedication in sometimes difficult circumstances. I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees for their support and wise counsel.

We enter 2002 with a new Director, Ian Acheson. I am confident that we can work together to improve and deliver our services to prisoners in need around the world. As I walk around our premises, I realise how far we've come since 1978. I am confident that despite the new IT, new jargon and new thinking, Prisoners Abroad has kept to its heart the passion and energy which has sustained us and our fellow citizens in need for nearly a quarter of a century.

Mike Whitlam CBE  
Chairman

## ***Director's Report***

I hope this report will give you a good sense of the important work Prisoners Abroad is doing around the world.

As a former prison governor, I worked with prisoners in this country for over nine years. I saw at first hand the awful consequences of loneliness, isolation and deprivation. Coming in to Prisoners Abroad, I am only too aware how the people we help struggle to survive, mentally and physically, on a daily basis.

2001 saw a huge growth in demand for our services. However, we are a strong, vibrant and independent organisation and we know that providing effective services to our clients requires focus as well as passion. We continue to work to ensure that money given to us is spent efficiently and effectively.

The future is exciting. We are developing our services to families – who are often forgotten yet have to shoulder a tremendous burden. We are also developing our resettlement service so that it will give returning prisoners the structure and support to resettlement in this country on their return.

The Government is listening to us on a range of important issues from liaising over prisoner transfer to responding to individual cases where we lobby hard behind the scenes to get essential help for prisoners in need.

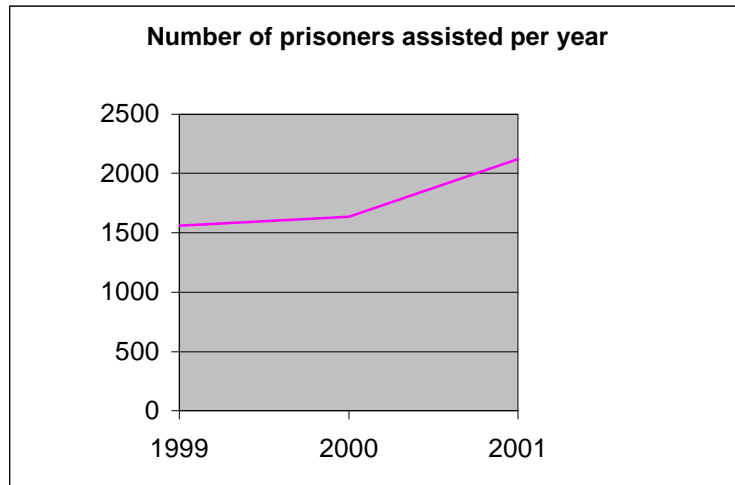
All of this work requires real effort from a great number of people. I am fortunate to have supporting me a committed group of staff and managers. The Board of Trustees also provides invaluable insight and experience. In addition, our team of volunteers is critically important stretching over gaps that scarce funding cannot cover. To all of you, many thanks, you have made my transition from 'gamekeeper to poacher' that much easier!

The future for this organisation is optimistic. We must not, however, become complacent. Much is planned for 2002 to improve and modernise our services. In the end, we must not lose sight of the fact that Prisoners Abroad exists for the man or woman in a cell hundreds and thousands of miles from home and family.

Ian Acheson  
Director

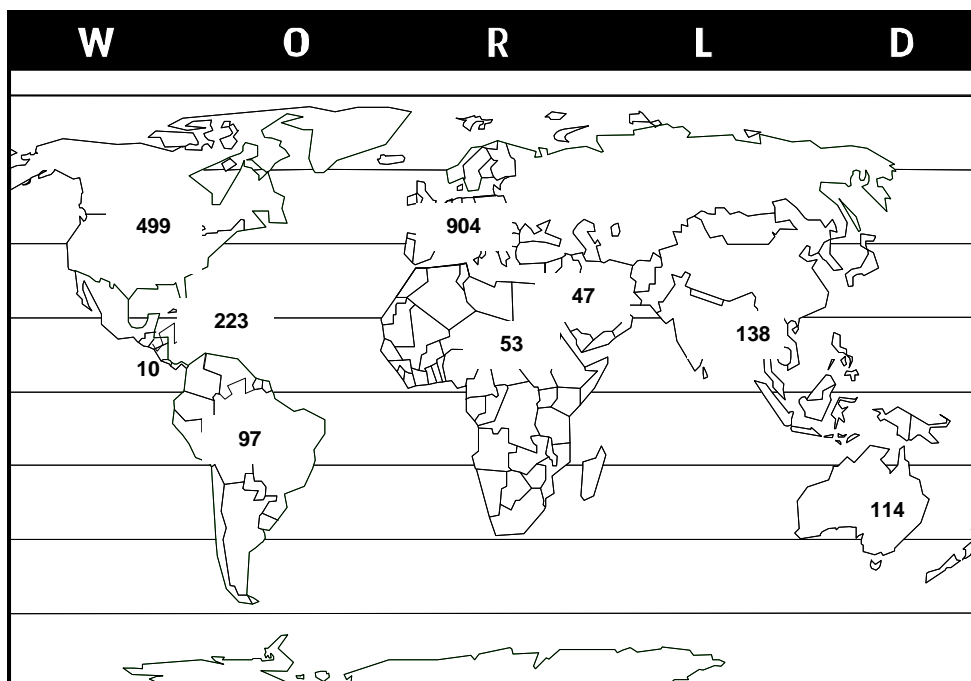
## Who we help and where they are

During 2001, we looked after over 1700 Britons in prison abroad and around 1600 relatives of prisoners. Our resettlement service also helped over 260 returning prisoners mainly with finding accommodation and claiming benefits. The number of people we help each year continues to rise year on year. In 2001, we saw a dramatic 27% increase in the numbers of prisoners we helped from the previous year. The figure below illustrates the increase since 1999.



### **Geographical distribution of prisoners**

Prisoners Abroad provided support to British prisoners in 87 different countries, with the highest proportion being held in the USA (19%), followed by France (16%) and Spain (11%).



**Trends**

The most dramatic increase we saw during 2001 was the number of prisoners we assisted in the Caribbean, which increased by 260% from the previous year. There were significant increases in numbers of prisoners in Australia and North America where numbers of prisoners increased by 46% and 58% respectively.

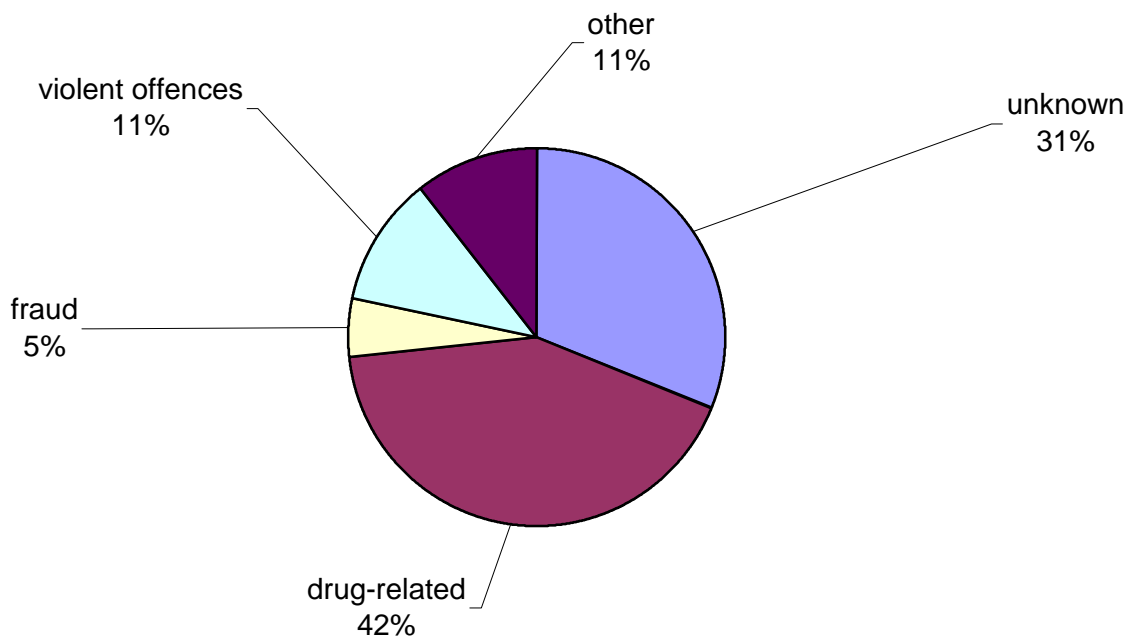
The number of female clients continued to rise and increased by 21% during 2001. Again, these increases have been in Australasia, North America and the Caribbean.

We also saw an increase in the number of young people being arrested, notably women caught trafficking drugs. During the year, there was a 38% increase in clients under the age of 25 and a 10% increase in clients aged between 35-44.

Due to new arrests, we took on cases in Dominica, Egypt, Ethiopia, French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Israel, Mexico, Slovak Republic, St Kitts and Surinam.

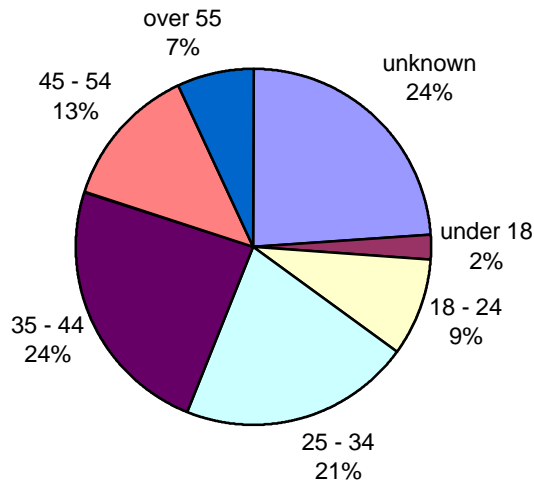
**Offences**

The chart below shows the categories of offences our clients were charged with and/or convicted of during 2001. Of the 42% detained on drug related charges, the majority are detained for drug trafficking offences. The category for violent offences includes murder and manslaughter.



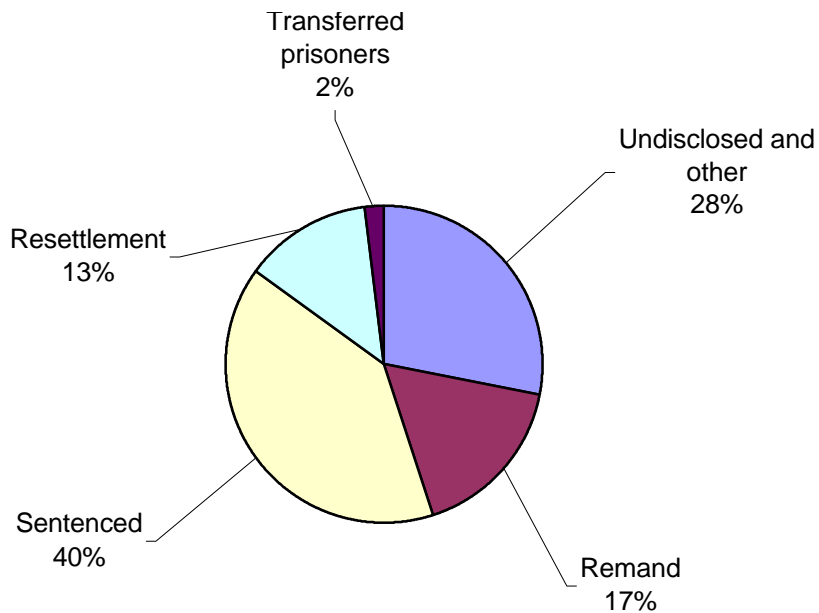
**Profile**

In 2001, 85% of the people we helped were men, 15% were women and the majority of prisoners overseas were aged between 25-44. Please see the chart below for detailed breakdown of ages.



**Status**

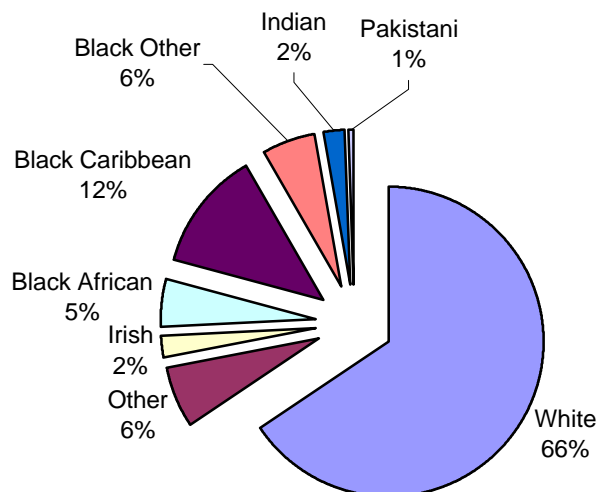
During 2001, 17% of prisoners abroad were on remand, 40% had been sentenced and 13% had returned to the UK and been supported by our Resettlement service.



### ***Ethnic origin***

As we have only recently started collecting information on prisoners' ethnic origin, we currently hold this information for newly registered prisoners only. As a result, in 2001, we had recorded information on ethnic origin for just 40% of our clients. We have started work on gathering this and other information for all our clients on a regular basis. This will allow us to identify significant trends which may impact on the services we deliver and will enable us to provide more precise information to our funders.

The chart below shows the breakdown of the ethnic origin of prisoners for whom we had this information.



### ***Families***

During 2001, we helped over 1600 relatives of prisoners, an increase of 13% from the previous year. Almost a third were living in London and the South East, followed by 18% in the Midlands or the North.

### ***Returning Prisoners***

During the year, our Resettlement service helped 262 returning prisoners with issues such as securing accommodation and benefits. Nearly half of the returning prisoners were deported from North America with a further 16% from France, Spain or Germany. Of the total number of returning prisoners, 15% were women.

The highest proportion of clients receiving Resettlement services had served sentences for drugs offences (32%) whilst a further 8% had served sentences for violent offences, 7% for fraud, 5% for property offences (e.g. theft) and 5% for sexual offences.

**NB Please note that all figures relate only to prisoners and families supported by Prisoners Abroad.**

## ***Prisoners Abroad services around the world***

Prisoners Abroad offers an advice, information and support service to:

- British nationals imprisoned abroad
- their families in the UK
- prisoners returning to the UK after serving a prison sentence abroad

### ***Services to prisoners***

Being in prison is always a difficult experience. Being in prison abroad, where conditions may be very harsh and where language and culture are often totally unfamiliar, is even worse. Our services address the deprivation, isolation and boredom which ensue.

Each prisoner who contacts Prisoners Abroad is allocated a named caseworker who monitors their health and treatment and will advocate on their behalf with other agencies. Their caseworker will provide information on prison and criminal justice systems in jargon-free English and ensure that prisoners who are particularly isolated are offered a pen-pal and sent books and magazines.

Prisoners Abroad also provides grants to prisoners in developing countries who suffer some of the worst aspects of deprivation. These grants allow prisoners to supplement meagre diets and obtain medication, which in some cases can actually keep prisoners alive. As one prisoner told us

*"If I didn't receive the Prisoners Abroad's fund I think I would be dead by now".*

### ***Overseas developments***

During the year, Prisoners Abroad was delighted to receive a grant from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office which enabled staff to visit clients in Venezuela and the USA. During these visits, we met with British prisoners, prison staff, lawyers and consular staff. The visits were extremely valuable as they allowed staff to see the conditions under which prisoners are held and enabled caseworkers to speak to prisoners personally about the problems that they face. Both visits produced recommendations that have been fed into our 2002 business plan.

### ***Services to families***

We provide grants to prisoners' families towards the cost of visiting their loved one and assistance with arranging these visits - our caseworkers are bilingual and this can make a big difference to families who struggle with making arrangements in a foreign language. We also offer emotional support to families, both through our casework team and through linking families with each other for mutual support.

### ***Plans for services for prisoners and families***

Following on from feedback received from prisoners and their families, we will be restructuring our Service Delivery team in order to deliver a more efficient and effective service to prisoners and their families. We have developed a Service Improvement Plan which will introduce a more proactive service to prisoners and families, particularly in terms of monitoring and following up prisoners with serious health problems. Additionally, in order to develop the support we give to families, we will be setting up an 0845 information line for families, running more family days and producing a family newsletter.

### ***Services to returning prisoners***

Prisoners Abroad provides a resettlement service to ex-prisoners returning to the UK. Many have lived abroad since childhood and have little or no knowledge of life in the UK. Many also return with both physical and mental health problems due to their imprisonment. We are able to help them with finding accommodation, claiming benefits and by putting them in touch with

medical assistance and other specialist sources of help. Returning prisoners also have access to a computer and telephone, which allow them to apply for jobs and make important phone calls. We also have shower and bag storage facilities for those who are living in temporary accommodation.

During 2001, we saw an increase in the number of prisoners returning after a period in prison abroad. Many of these had high levels of need and some had been imprisoned for very serious crimes. There is no statutory support for prisoners released from prisons overseas and Prisoners Abroad is the only agency working with this group of vulnerable people.

In order to address this situation, Prisoners Abroad hosted a series of seminars, which were attended by the Home Office, London Probation, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Benefits Agency among others. As a result of raising the issues in this way, London Probation is now working with Prisoners Abroad to assess and manage the risk posed by potentially dangerous people returning from prison abroad. However, we still have much more work to do in this particular area, especially around the lack of accommodation and identity.

Preparing clients for release can be especially difficult. Our throughcare worker helps to provide a more coordinated service between overseas casework and resettlement. Experience tells us that having relevant information on a returning prisoner prior to their arrival in the UK helps to increase the effectiveness of our resettlement work. This is why preparing for release will be one of our main areas of focus in the coming year.

## ***Personal stories***

### ***Robin - in prison in South Africa***

Robin was arrested in 1998 in South Africa and is currently serving a nine-year prison sentence. Prisoners Abroad sends him a monthly survival grant so that he can supplement the very poor prison diet and buy the basic items he needs, such as soap and toothpaste. We also send him the Readers Digest regularly as there is no English reading material available in the prison.

Recently Robin's father, Jack called Prisoners Abroad as he wanted visit Robin in prison. Jack is a pensioner, and was going to find it very difficult to pay for his travel and accommodation so Prisoners Abroad gave him a travel grant of £80 to help towards his costs. We also sent him information about cheap accommodation near the prison and car-hire. Prisoners Abroad liaised with the British Consul who met Jack and helped ensure that he got to see his son as much as possible during his stay.

Everything went well during Jack's trip and he and Robin had an emotional reunion. It was great for them to catch up with each other for the first time in years and afterwards both parted in very high spirits.

### ***Maureen - arriving back in the UK***

Maureen, a 50-year-old woman, was deported from the USA after serving a one-year prison sentence. She had not lived in Britain for 47 years, having left as a young child, and arrived back with only one change of clothes and very little money. She was very disorientated and also distressed at having to leave her 3 children and sick partner behind. In addition, she had to cope with suffering from arthritis, glaucoma and mental health problems. When she first came to Prisoners Abroad's office, she was staying in cheap bed and breakfast accommodation, which she was paying for from the little money she had brought with her.

It was quickly apparent to Prisoners Abroad's Resettlement team that Maureen needed supported accommodation and that bed and breakfast accommodation where she had to share a room with three strangers was completely unsuitable for her. We supported an application to the local Council for appropriate housing for Maureen and she was given temporary accommodation while her longer-term needs were assessed.

With the assistance of Prisoners Abroad and the Homelessness team in the Benefit Agency, Maureen made a claim for Income Support and was put in touch with a doctor from the local Primary Health Care Team, which provides services to homeless people in the borough. We also put her in touch with a day centre who have gave her some much needed clothes.

This was only the very beginning of a long process as Maureen still has to come to terms with the trauma of leaving her family behind and re-building a life for herself in what is essentially a foreign country.

### ***Terrence - arriving back in the UK***

Terrence is a 38-year-old who was deported from Australia, having served a prison sentence of 8 years for a violent offence. Since emigrating with his family to Australia 30 years ago, Terrence had spent a total of 19 years in prison. He was originally from Wales, but had not returned to the UK since leaving as a child.

When he arrived back in this country, Terrence had no family or friends to support him. He had not wanted to return to the UK, and because of this was extremely angry towards Prisoners Abroad and other agencies that were trying to assist him on his arrival. In addition, he suffered from epilepsy and had ligament damage to one of his feet. The

Resettlement team referred Terrence to a doctor as he had run out of medication. However, Terrence is unable to deal with stressful situations and he became angry with the doctor when he could not be seen straight away and surgery staff asked him to come back the next day for his medication.

Fortunately, Terrence was befriended by some other Prisoners Abroad resettlement clients who had also been deported from Australia, and they had a calming effect on him. At Prisoners Abroad, we have to find a balance between the needs of our clients, and those of public safety. We will only work with people like Terrence who have committed serious offences, if they agree to us disclosing information about them to the police. On the advice of his friends, Terrence agreed to meet with the police. This proved to be a positive development as the police made a recommendation to the local authority that he should be housed by them, rather than having to sleep rough or in emergency night shelters.

Terrence was very fortunate in that he was offered temporary accommodation by the local authority shortly afterwards. He has found that by having a stable home base he has been able to develop a network of friends, and this has helped him with his resettlement. We believe he also poses less of a threat to the general public now than he would have if he had been denied access to housing. Terrence has now begun applying for work.

### ***James - in prison in Thailand***

James was arrested in Northern Thailand in August 2000. He came to our attention through a newspaper article about his trial. We sent him information about the services of Prisoners Abroad and we have been in contact with him and with his family in the UK ever since. James has told us in detail about the horrendous conditions in the prison where he is being held.

Prisoners Abroad has been sending James a £30 per month survival grant from our Craig Feehan Fund to enable him to buy food and basic necessities, and we have also sent money to the Consular staff to buy James multi-vitamins and treatment for scabies. Being the only British prisoner in the prison where he is held means that James is very isolated, and we have sent him parcels of books, educational materials and a magazine subscription to help him cope.

### ***David - in prison in Germany***

David had been in prison in Germany for 3 months before his girlfriend Susan found out about Prisoners Abroad. David had written to her asking her to send money, but being on benefits she was not in a position to be able to support him and felt bad about this. Susan got in touch with Prisoners Abroad seeking general information and we wrote to David and provided him with a one-off grant to buy himself some basic essentials such as soap and toothpaste and a phonecard so he could phone Susan. Susan is now thinking of going to visit David, and we are advising her on how to arrange a visit and have offered her a travel grant towards the costs of her trip. After receiving information from Prisoners Abroad on prisoner transfers, David applied to transfer back to the UK to serve the remainder of his sentence in this country, knowing Susan will then be able to visit him. Prisoners Abroad is supporting his application for transfer.

## **Prisoners Abroad Projects**

### **Family Development Project**

This project, which began in January 2000 with funding from the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and Lloyds TSB, came to its close in March 2001. The project enabled Prisoners Abroad to research the needs of the families we work with and explore new services to meet their needs.

Having carried out some research to establish what new services families wanted us to develop, we proceeded to run pilot schemes for a number of these new services:

The most popular request from families was for one-day issue-based workshops with a particular focus on "Preparing for the release from prison of a family member and general resettlement issues". We therefore organised two Family Days on this theme in different locations and with different agencies and Prisoners Abroad staff running workshops. For many of the families, they were emotional days, but days that they found useful, interesting and helpful. They found both friendship and understanding and, importantly, that they discovered that they were not alone. Many commented on how they enjoyed meeting other people going through similar problems and experiences to themselves. As one person wrote:

*"It was really good to meet other people in a similar situation. You realise that lots of other people understand exactly what you are going through and you realise that there is much to be hopeful about".*

Families were also interested in receiving more information. We therefore developed a system that meant all new family members referred to Prisoners Abroad would receive details of the help and information they could obtain. We have developed various specific fact-sheets for families in response to the needs that had emerged in the research and we produced a user-friendly and attractive folder which is now used for enclosing all our family information.

We also piloted a newsletter specifically for families which we sent out twice during the project. We received positive feedback from families on its usefulness and accessibility and it is now included in the services provided to families. Finally, we developed the information on our website so a section now gives information specifically for families on how Prisoners Abroad can help and also links other useful organisations. It also includes a section with personal stories from families.

The project also allowed us to provide more training for our caseworkers in working with families and more opportunity for liaison with other organisations that provide support to prisoners' families in the UK.

By the end of the project, families clearly felt that they had received more support from Prisoners Abroad. Over half those questioned were more satisfied with Prisoners Abroad's family services compared to previous years. As the wife of a prisoner told us

*"I found speaking to your organisation comforting and the only people who seemed to understand our predicament without being judgmental".*

### **Legal Initiative**

The work of this project, run by two volunteer lawyers, continued throughout 2001 with our Pro Bono panel of lawyers providing advice on a range of issues. We asked our lawyers to help us look into the Schengen Treaty and its implications for our clients and were then able to provide a fact-sheet on this issue. We also asked the European Commission to look into the legality of the different types of expulsions and bans that are issued to prisoners in EU countries. As a result, it was established that in Spain and Belgium, prisoners were being issued with bans

from the whole Schengen area which is illegal and both countries have now changed their processes to comply with Community law.

We also asked our lawyers to provide assistance in the case of the Briton, David Chell, who was held on death row in Malaysia. They were able to provide an *Amicus Brief*, which his lawyer used in court to argue for his acquittal. This, combined with other actions, ultimately resulted in David being released and able to return to the UK to his family and friends.

Finally, we also asked our lawyers to look at *The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, 1974* and its implications for our clients. This was important because many prisoners were under the impression that they were not covered by this Act as their offences were committed overseas. However, we are now able to advise them that the Act specifically refers to convictions by foreign courts and that the same conditions apply to them as to any UK prisoner.

### ***Prisoner Transfer***

Throughout 2001, we continued to host a forum to look at issues around transfer back to the UK. This transfer forum brings together key officials from the Prison Service and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to discuss prisoner transfer issues and ways of resolving them. In 2001, we finally saw progress in two agreements which have been in the pipe-line for several years; the Bi-lateral Treaty with Brazil and the Bi-lateral Treaty with Morocco. This is very good news for Britons in prison in those two countries where conditions can be exceptionally poor.

In addition, Prisoners Abroad was represented at two Council of Europe meetings along with representatives from other European partner agencies to lobby the Council of Europe to pass recommendations which would improve the operation of the Convention for the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. This is a long process which we hope to be able to report on in the next annual review.

Finally, Prisoners Abroad began a piece of research that was funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office into Prisoner Transfer issues. This involved contacting foreign governments for information on the way they operate prisoner transfers as well as interviewing prisoners who had transferred back from prison overseas. The report is due to be published in 2002.

### ***Service Evaluations***

In 2001, Prisoners Abroad was funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to carry out an evaluation of the services provided to overseas prisoners by both Prisoners Abroad and the FCO. An extremely positive view of Prisoners Abroad's services emerged from the research. The most significant results were as follows:

Almost 90% of prisoners felt we had helped reduce their isolation. As one prisoner wrote

*"Prisoners Abroad provides a lifeline, especially for the lonely, those like myself without friends or family support"*

Over 80% assessed the quality of our service as 'good' or 'excellent'. One person simply wrote

*"Everything Prisoners Abroad has done for me has been excellent"*

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office also felt they had received very positive feedback from the survey and were pleased with the report's conclusion that Consular officials had emerged from the examination "with great credit". They also accepted that prisoners had identified some areas where the service could be improved and are also now looking at ways where they might be more effective.

## **The National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad**

### **Summary Statement of Financial Activities**

For the year ended 31 December 2001

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Public body grants	571	451
Trust grants	276	270
Donations	138	139
	<b>985</b>	<b>860</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>		
Fundraising	151	138
Grants to prisoners and families	115	91
Other charitable activities	511	436
Support costs	127	95
Administration	32	23
	<b>936</b>	<b>783</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>77</b>
Opening funds	161	84
<b>Closing funds</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>161</b>

### **Summary balance sheet**

At 31 December 2001

Fixed Assets	86	100
Current Assets	192	107
Current liabilities	68	46
Net current assets	124	61
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>161</b>
Unrestricted Funds	86	22
Restricted Funds	124	139
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>161</b>

### **Statement by Trustees**

These summary financial statements are a summary of information extracted from the annual accounts, which were approved by the trustees on 21 May 2002. The annual report and accounts have been submitted to the Charity Commission. The auditors' report on the full annual accounts for the period ended 31 December 2001 is unqualified.

The summary financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information the full annual accounts, the auditors' report and the Trustees Annual Report should be consulted; copies of these can be obtained from Prisoners Abroad, 89-93 Fonthill Road, London, N4 3JH.

Approved by the trustees on 13 June 2002 and signed on their behalf by

Mike Whitlam CBE

### **Independent Auditors statement to the Trustees of The National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad**

We have examined the summary financial statements set out above.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors**

You are responsible as trustees for the preparation of the summary financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised statements' consistency with the full financial statements, on which we reported to you on 21 May 2002.

### **Basis of Opinion**

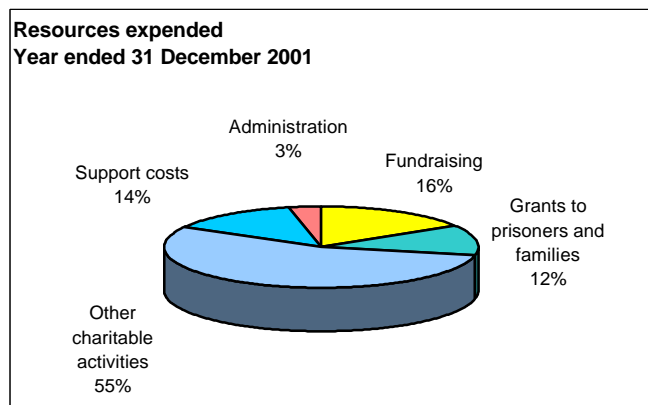
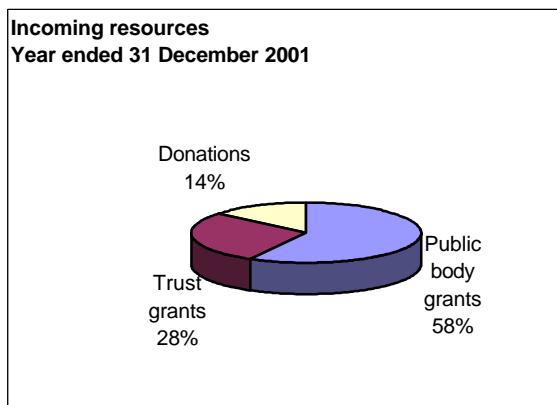
We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summary financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion the summary financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2001.

### **Olivo & Co**

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors  
PURLEY 13 June 2002



Prisoners Abroad has also taken on board other comments from prisoners which will help us to improve our services.

### **Survival Guides**

This project, made possible thanks to funding and assistance from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has allowed Prisoners Abroad to design and compile "Survival Guides" for prisoners in three countries (Morocco, Thailand and Venezuela). These guides are intended to help prisoners from arrest onwards with information on health issues, legal issues and general information on how to survive in the prison. By the end of 2001, we had produced pilot versions of these three guides which were sent out to prisoners and British consuls in these countries to check that the guides were as accurate and useful as possible. The feedback on the guides was excellent. As one prisoner told us

*"I think what you have come up with will be very helpful. This is the first bit of information about my rights and how things work, I have seen. I wish I had had a copy of this when I was arrested. Hopefully, the Embassy will have copies to give out when they first come to see you. The faster you get this guide, the better".*

The guides will be finally published and distributed to prisoners in 2002.

## **Thanks**

There are many individuals and organisations that support Prisoners Abroad on a regular basis. In this report we would like to formally thank those who supported us in 2001. In many cases, that support has been financial but there have also been donations in kind from individuals and companies, people who have given their time voluntarily and others who have given us moral support and advice. To all our supporters, thank you very much - Prisoners Abroad would not be able to fulfil its mission without your help.

### ***Our key funders***

29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	Beatrice Laing Trust
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## **Volunteers**

There are many ways of volunteering for a charity like Prisoners Abroad and we would like to thank the following groups of people:

- prison visitors around the world who make our job easier by helping to pass on funds, information and by visiting individual prisoners at our request
- a dedicated group of translators who help to translate various documents which is a huge help to prisoners and their families
- pen-pals - prison can be a very lonely place and we know from the hundreds of letters we receive from prisoners what a difference a letter or a card can make. So a huge thank you to the 150 or so pen-pals for the time they take to write to prisoners all over the world and to the 240 Prisoners Abroad supporters who took part in the annual Christmas card scheme
- volunteers who come into the office and help out in the different departments. We are very grateful to them for their time and support which is invaluable. Volunteers who helped in 2001 are listed on page 21
- during the year, Prisoners Abroad and its clients have received pro bono legal assistance and advice from individual lawyers and law firms (mainly via its Pro Bono Legal Panel). In particular, we would like to thank Janaki Allen; Mildred Curr; Stephen Ferguson QC; David Hood; Mel James; Kirsty Oliver and colleagues at Ashurst Morris Crisp, Carla Potok; Christian Tuddenham; Yasmin Waljee and colleagues at Lovells; and Irwin Mitchells. We would also like to thank all other individuals and firms who contribute to our Pro Bono Lawyers Panel. Thank you also to Richard Vogler for providing information on the criminal justice systems of France, Spain and many Latin American countries

We would also thank all those who donate in other ways, including donations of magazine subscriptions, birthday cards and education courses to many of our clients all over the world to alleviate the isolation and boredom they suffer.

Art Monthly	New Internationalist	Renewal
BBC On Air	New Statesman	Road Haulage Association
Blackfriars	News International	Spectator
Blues & Soul	New Musical Express	Spurgeons Theological
Camden Graphics	Nexus	College
Economist	Open Theological College	Stand
Inside Time (New Bridge	Plain Truth	Wanderlust
Society)	Prison Phoenix Trust	Watchtower
NME	Private Eye	When Saturday Comes
National Extensions	Prospect	World Today
College	Reader's Digest	

Finally, we would like to thank the following individuals for their special roles at Prisoners Abroad. Pauline Crowe for stepping in as Interim Director towards the end of the year and for successfully leading the organisation until Ian Acheson was in post.

We were also absolutely delighted when Sir Martin Berthoud, previously Director of Wates Foundation kindly offered his services to us and we thank him for the excellent work he has done as part of our fundraising team. We are equally delighted that he has accepted our invitation to become a Patron.

## ***Who's who at Prisoners Abroad***

### ***Trustees***

Mike Whitlam (Chairman)  
Gill Astarita (left Sept 2001)  
Stuart Benson  
David Bernstein  
Mark Bitel (left Sept 2001)  
Liz Connolly (left July 2001)  
Jeremy Cooper  
Andrew Coyle  
Newton Grant (left Sept 2001)

Brian Hindson (joined Nov 2001)  
Roshan Horabin  
Dee Humphries (joined Feb 2001)  
Julia Kaufmann  
Teresa Norman (joined Nov 2001)  
Mary Piper (joined Nov 2001)  
Peter Quinn (joined Nov 2001)  
Chris Tew  
John Walters (joined April 2001)

### ***Staff***

Candi Bain  
Kate Brown  
Zeta Cottrell  
Theo Cresser  
Catherine Dohey  
Christina Georgiou  
George Georgiou  
Theresa Gilson  
Anthony Gordon  
Ginny Greenlaw  
Stephen Harrod (left March 2001)  
Alan Hooker  
Joseph Jeffers  
Christine Joseph  
Deborah Knight  
Carlo Laurenzi (left October 2001)

Ruth Lloyd (left August 2001)  
Anna Ludvigsen (left June 2001)  
Charlotte Morris (left June 2001)  
Terri-Anne Morris  
Ben Newbery (left March 2001)  
Dionne Norman (left 2001)  
Gideon Okungu  
Kate O'Reilly  
Jennifer Owens  
Diana Parkinson  
Tara Povey (left August 2001)  
Deborah Sevitt  
Naomi Sharp  
Steve Szumski  
Avan Wadia

### ***Volunteers***

Janaki Allen  
Sir Martin Berthoud  
Hannah Clayton  
Mildred Curr  
Catherine Dohey  
James Flear  
Ruth French  
Carmen Gleadow

Sue Lawrence  
Anna Ludvigsen  
Michael Rowland  
Katerina Rudiger  
Shanty Steffen  
William Soans  
Catherine Teller  
Caroline Upton

