



What is the CPT?

Promoting human rights in prison



What is the CPT?

The CPT is short for:

European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

That's a very long name! It just means a group of people who:

- ✓ Visit prisons
- ✓ Talk to people inside
- ✓ Check if people are being treated in ways that protect their rights



Why do the CPT visit?

They want to make sure people in prison are:

- Living in good conditions
- Receiving healthcare
- Treated in line with their human rights

It is good to be aware that the CPT do not deal with individual complaints. The CPT focuses on big picture issues in the prison. The CPT is trying to make prisons better for all people in prison all over Europe, now and in the future.



Who is in the CPT?

The CPT is:

- Independent (not part of the government or the prison)
- Made up of people from all over Europe
- Includes doctors, lawyers, human rights experts, and interpreters (language helpers)



What Does the CPT Do on a Visit?

Visits happen every 4–5 years (or sooner if needed)

During a visit, they can:

- 🔍 Check all areas of the prison
- 📁 Read records kept about people and their treatment
- 🗣️ Speak to any prisoner in private
- 👮 Talk to staff
- ✉️ Read private letters sent to them
- 👋 You don't have to talk to them
- ✓ But if you do, it is confidential (the CPT can't tell anyone else what you told them unless you allow them to).





Why Should You Know About the CPT?

Research shows most people in prison:

- Have never heard of the CPT
- Don't know what it does
- Don't know if it is okay to talk to them

When people learn more, they feel:

-  Better informed about the CPT
-  Glad that someone checks on prison conditions

How Can You Contact the CPT?

You can send them a private letter.

 Address:

CPT Secretariat
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France

 Phone:

+33 388 412772


 Website:


www.coe.int/en/web/cpt/home

After the Visit

The CPT will:

- Write a report (no names are used)
- Share the report with the government
- The government writes back with a plan to fix problems



 Sometimes the CPT writes a Public Statement if things are really bad.

 The CPT also makes yearly reports about prisons across Europe.

Where to Read CPT Reports?

If you have internet access:

Visit: www.coe.int/en/web/cpt/home

-  Ask for the report in the prison library
-  Or ask if the library can get a copy

Remember:

If you are worried about your treatment or your conditions, talk to someone you trust, like a staff member or your lawyer.

You have a voice — and it matters

Created by researchers from the POIRE Project at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.

They are independent from the CPT and from prison staff.

The POIRE project has received funding under the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101069413.