



Prisoners Week Charter – Information Sheet

Thank you for your interest in signing-up to the Prisoners Week Charter. We are delighted to sign this Charter with you and journey together with you to explore ways you can practically support those affected by imprisonment. By signing up to the Charter we also hope to help raise awareness of the impact of the justice system on individuals, families and communities, including faith communities.

A. HOW IT WORKS

A congregation/organisation expresses an interest in signing the Charter (see Annex 1). This may be followed up with a presentation or discussion around what signing the Charter means.

A congregation/organisation makes the decision to sign the Charter.

The congregation/organisation commits to an annual gift to Prisoners Week Trust. A voluntary donation of £75 is suggested.

The Charter is signed in a short ceremony ideally as part of a service of worship.

The congregation/organisations name will appear on the Charter page of the Prisoners Week website

Prisoners Week helps the congregation/organisation explore ways in which it can support people affected by crime and imprisonment

B. HOW DONATIONS ARE USED

We are very grateful for your donation to assist the work of Prisoners Week Trust in Scotland. Whilst any amount is most welcome (small or large), we suggest a voluntary donation of £75 per annum. This can be sent via bank transfer to our Charity bank account (see details below).

Prisoners Week Trust (PWT) is a registered charity in Scotland (SC043431), which is separate from the Scottish Prison Service and other agencies of the Justice system. As such, PWT is able to operate independently of these civil services and be more flexible in how we allocate your donation.

The vision of PWT is for a just and peaceful society where all people are cared for and supported by their prisoners, the families of prisoners, those released from prison or the victims of crime. Through Prisoners Week we want to encourage action and support, particularly among communities of faith, for all those affected by imprisonment including families and the victims of the crime.

Our approach is to raise awareness among communities, especially communities of faith in Scotland. The Prisoners Week Charter is an important part of this approach, which we hope will help to increase understanding and support for the individual needs of prisoners and their families, raising awareness, and providing administrative support for PWT to continue this work.

C. PRISONERS NEEDS

Our 'Dignity Fund' provides support for the needs of individual prisoners and/or their families on a one-off basis. These needs can be wide and varied. Some examples of how the Dignity Fund is used include:

- providing appropriate clothing for a prisoner to attend a court appearance or family funeral;
- providing toiletries or financial help to those who have no support from elsewhere
- responding to requests for books and educational or art materials
- supporting family visitor centres

A request is submitted and quick decisions can be made by a quorum of PWT Trustees (minimum two) as responsively as possible. We do not wish to be too restrictive or overly-prescriptive in the way the Dignity Fund is used and all applications will be considered.

D. AWARENESS RAISING

Some funds may be allocated to facilitate our annual national PW Launch Event and local PW related activities, especially in local communities. These typically include PW dramas, church events / services, local Family visitor centres activities etc. and are an important aspect of increasing awareness.

E. ADMINISTRATION

A small part of the funds will be allocated to cover the administrative costs of running the PW Website and social media, along with the production, printing, and distribution costs of PW publicity material. Again, these activities are vital to the success of Prisoners Week and the subsequent interest that individuals and congregations show in supporting people affected by imprisonment.

If you would like to donate to the work of the Prisoners Week Trust, you can do that here:

www.prisonersweek.org.uk/donate

Annex 1

Prisoners Week Charter

Prisoners Week Scotland will:

- Provide publicity and resources for use in worship including multi-media resources
- Share information, a calendar of events, details of organisations that offer help and advice, on social media platforms.
- Support events in partnership with prison Chaplains and others, in communities and in prisons.
- Organise national events such as the ecumenical launch Service, debates and other public events.
- Provide Speakers to inform your community

Our Congregation will:

- Support the Activities of Prisoners Week Scotland
- Pray for all those affected by the Criminal Justice System
- Annually engage with Prisoners Week
- Inform our congregation of events
- Explore the effects of the Criminal Justice System in our local community (Victims, Offenders, Families)
- Display this Charter and review it annually

Hebrews 13:3 "Remember those who are in prison as though you were in prison with them"

PWT Trustees