

THE ISRAEL PRISON SERVICE WEBSITE

<http://www.ips.gov.il>

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Recently, the Israel Prison Service (IPS) took its first steps towards establishing a website, utilizing from the beginning the professional services of the Israel Government Advertising Agency. With its launching the IPS joined the global family of correctional and prison services appearing on the web.

The site has been designed in an aesthetic and interesting manner, providing a multitude of information concerning the administration and management of a modern prison service. In addition, prison regulations, directives and orders are published on the site. A brief history of the IPS along with photographs can also be found.

The site provides an up-to-date image of the service, an opportunity to supply the public with reliable and current data, a look at the organizational structure of the IPS and a glimpse at what happens behind the walls.

News of events occurring in the IPS are presented on the site, such as disturbances at Shikma and Eshel Prisons by Palestinian inmates.

Since the site has been launched,

a large number of inquiries have been sent to the site's e-mail address relating to IPS policy, living conditions of inmates, opportunities to volunteer to aid prisoners, recruitment information and matters on the public agenda.

The website affords an opportunity for various sectors of the public – citizens, relatives of prisoners, professionals, academics, related agencies and IPS staff – to receive information and answers to their questions.

The site puts a special emphasis on the following subjects:

- 1. Prisoner Care and Treatment:** a comprehensive description of the various treatment programs in the areas of drug rehabilitation, domestic violence, and medical and mental health care.
- 2. Prisoner Rights and Obligations:** information on the rights and obligations of inmates and vital information concerning visits.
- 3. IPS Industries:** outline of all areas of IPS production throughout the country, a catalogue of items manufactured by inmates

working within the framework of IPS Industries, and an order form for purchasing the finished products.

- 4. Community Projects:** details of the numerous community projects in co-operation with IPS, for example, staff volunteering to help the elderly, and co-operation with local municipalities in order to ensure continuity of treatment after inmate release.

In the future the Israel Prison Service plans to expand the databases appearing on its site, to complete the translation of the text into English, and is considering the translation into other languages such as Arabic and Russian. Also in stages of development are new sections and categories to be included in the future.

An invitation to visit the website can be found in the Statement of the Israel Prison Service Commissioner Orit Adato appearing on the site: Presenting the work done within the walls of the Israel Prison Service reflects our responsibility and commitment, and invites you to become acquainted with and be a part of this important challenge.