WELCOME TO HALDEN PRISON
Who am I? – Are Høidal

2009 - : Prison governor (warden), Halden prison

2008 – 2009: Assistant regional director, Eastern Region

1997 – 2008: Prison governor (warden), Oslo prison


1995 - : Office manager at the Ministry of Justice


1987 – 1988: Consultant at the Ministry of Justice
The Correctional Services in Norway

Introduction
The Correctional Services in Norway
1997-98 – White paper:
A paradigm shift
A new prison officer role

"From guard to also be a social worker “

From the White Paper on probation (1997-98):

“IT will be a development of the traditional prison officer role. They shall contribute to efforts to help the inmates to live a life without crime. “
CONSEQUENCES FOR THE PRISON OFFICER

Must be able to discuss crime and measures with the inmates

Must be able to plan and monitor the execution of sentences

Must have good knowledge about the opportunity in the system

Must be able to connect opportunities and individuals

Must be able to contribute in general to the professional development of The correctional service
The Correctional Services in Norway

2007 – 08 : A new White Paper

More focus on reintegration

- return to society
- cooperation between the authorities responsible for the prisoners
The new white paper presented by:
4 ministers: Justice, culture, education and local government
The normality principle is an important part of the basic values of Correctional Services.

Both in international conventions and recommendations and in Norwegian law it is stipulated that inmates have the same rights as other citizens.
The punishment is the restriction of liberty; no other rights have been removed by the sentencing court. Therefore the sentenced offender has all the same rights as all other who live in Norway.

No-one shall serve their sentence under stricter circumstances than necessary for the security in the community. Therefore offenders shall be placed in the lowest possible security regime.

During the serving of a sentence, life inside will resemble life outside as much as possible.
Life under sentences shall be as far as possible similar to life in the community. The punishment is to take freedom from people. Imprisonment shall be no more burdensome than necessary, no one shall be subject to measures that feels like additional punishment.
Halden prison’s facilities and operations, reflects the principles and ambitions of the Correctional Services in Norway. Halden prison is the newest and the most modern prison in Norway.
Halden prison is designed to be experienced by both inmates and staff in a friendly, not authoritarian manner. Therefore, the emphasis is on good relationships, good design, quality of materials and strength into forms.
SENTENCE PROGRESSION

UNIT A

UNIT B AND C

HALFWAY HOUSE

BASTØY PRISON
ART IN THE PRISON

"An overall strategy is that the art in Halden Prison should be in a humanistic tradition, and to represent care without being preachy. Art should be in dialogue with the inmates and staff."
THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT AND FACILITIES
Some figures – Halden prison

- Operational 2010
- Building cost and inventory; 1.4 billion NOK, approx. 250 million USD
- Inmates
  - total of 251 – Norway’s second largest prison
  - males only
- Staff – correctional services – 290
- The “import model” – additional staff – approx. 50
- Surrounded by a 1.4 km long ring wall. The wall is 6 m high.
- 150,000 m2 plot area inside the walls.
- 27,000 m2 in buildings inside and outside wall
UNIT A - the strictest prison unit

- 56 Inmates
- Reception unit
- Custody
- Restrictions

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
UNIT B AND C

- 84 Inmates in each unit
- Primarily convicts
- "Living unit"
THE LIVING UNITS
CELL
12 SQM, PRIVATE TOILET/SHOWER, NO BARS
PRIVATE TOILET/SHOWERS

FLAT SCREEN TV AND REFRIGERATOR
CULTURE BUILDING
GYMNASIUM/CONCERTS

HOLY ROOM
VISITING HOUSE for inmates who have children. Here they have overnight visits.
VISITING HOUSE
HALF WAY HOUSE

24 inmates
Import model

Crucial services for reintegration are delivered to the prison by local and municipal service providers. Prisons do not have their own staff delivering medical, educational, employment, clerical or library services. These are imported from the community.
THE ACTIVITY CENTRE
THE ACTIVITY CENTRE

• Activities for all inmates
• First prison in Norway to integrate:
  • Work
  • Education
  • Programme activities
  • Labour & welfare services
  • Library
  • Service centre

in the same building, giving opportunities for new and improved cooperation
WORK SHOPS IN HALDEN PRISON

- Woodworking shop
- Assembly workshop
- Technique and Industrial Production
- Car care
- Building trades
- Graphic media workshop
- Visual arts and crafts
- Main kitchen
- Laundry
- Cleaning department
- Shop for inmates
We can not achieve our goals alone...

The Norwegian import model

- Landlord services (Public construction and property management Agency), 4-5 employees
- Educational services (Østfold county), 20-25 employees
- Health services (Halden municipality), 13 employees
- Dental services (Østfold county), 2 employees
- Library services (Halden municipality), 2 employees
- Religious services (Church of Norway), 2 employees
- Labour and welfare services (The norwegian labour and welfare administration), 1 employee
- Substance abuse services (Østfold county hospital), 2 employees
- Psychiatric services (Østfold county hospital), 1,2 employees
EDUCATIONAL SUBJECTS:

- Building and construction
- Design and craftswork
- Service and transportation
- Technical and Industrial production
- Restaurant and cooking
- Information technology
- (Sale & service)
- Paint
- Wood work/carpenter
- Training management
- Music
- Communication and media
- Graphics and photo
- Visuell art subjects
- Math
- Physics
- Chemistry
The service centre in Halden prison is an acrossfunctional centre that compiles the different services the inmate is in need of, related to his sentence in prison, upon his release and in his reintegration into society.

The available services in the centre include - among others - labour, social and housing.

The centre secures that the inmate receives the services he is entitled to.
REINTEGRATION WORK

- convict/pre-trial inmate
- housing
- health
- substance abuse
- debt counselling
- education
- work/social support
- victim
- social network
Volunteers in Halden prison (visitors and social network)

- Red Cross
- The Salvation Army
- Prison Fellowship
- The Church City Mission
- Church's social services
- Pentecostal Evangelical Centre
- Offenders organization in Norway (RIO)
- Way Back (Offender organization)
- For relatives of prisoners (FFP)
Thank you for your attention !!!
Halden prison choir
OSLO PRISON – Prison governor 1997 - 2008

Unit A

Unit B

Unit C
The Norwegian Correctional Services traveled to Canada many times in the 90's to learn how to operate a good probation with new principles. And we met among others:

Ole Ingstrup  
Commissioner of the Correctional Service of Canada  
1988 - 2000

Frank Porporino  
Criminal Justice Consultant  
Ottawa

Elizabeth Fabiano  
Criminologist  
Ottawa
This summer attended six inmates on a 14-day retreat in Halden prison. The aim of the retreat was that the prisoners should have the opportunity to confront themselves, help to live responsibly and cope with life in a better way after release.
Restorative justice

in Halden prison

In partnership with The Norwegian Mediation Service
BASTØY PRISON (and farm)
The regional offices of the Service for Victims of Crime (RKK) will be a supplement to government agencies and support services, and are politically and religiously neutral. The service is free, and operations financed from the State budget.
For relatives of prisoners (FFP) (For Fangers Pårørende)

FFP offers family support and advice through telephone and e-mail. Offer is nationwide.

In our offices in Oslo and Trondheim, we also offer individual consultations, family conversations and activities for families. We host regular themed evenings with current topics, invites to cultural events such as theater and organizes holidays and weekend breaks. FFP has a special offer for children and young people through FFP Young. All services for FFP is free and you are welcome to bring a friend.
DOES THE NORWEGIAN PUBLIC SUPPORT THE PRISON?
In 2008, the Government presented The White Paper no. 37 for 2007-2008;
“Punishment that works - lesser crime - safer society.”

The White Paper pointed out the direction of the Correctional Services, with a focus on change processes, rehabilitation and reintegration of the convicted to a life without crime after serving time. The message was very well received, especially in the Correctional Services, but also in society at large. The White Paper was also subject of a thorough political assessment and debate in the Parliament.
Halden prison’s facilities and operations, reflects the principles and ambitions in the White Paper of 2008, of which there was a bipartisan consensus in parliament and strong public support.
HOW DO PRISONERS RESPOND TO THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT?

DOES THE ENVIRONMENT CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOR?
Inmate behaviour in Halden prison:

• Aggression and physical violence between inmates are rare

• Aggression from inmates towards staff are rare

• Physical violence from inmates towards staff is so far non-existing
It's difficult to prove whether the above is caused by environment, the level of activity (work, education, cognitive programmes, training, etc.), or a combination of these elements.
• We believe that the level of activity and reintegration efforts is the main reason for the low level of aggression and violence, and the overall good compliance with prison regulations – however, based on statements from inmates, they do appreciate the facilities, the surroundings and the reduced feeling of being in a high security prison.
Recidivism in Norway

An independent Nordic study study published in 2010 showed that the number of people who were released from a Norwegian prison and reoffended within two years was at 20 %. 
DO THE PRISON OFFICERS APPROACH THEIR WORK DIFFERENTLY THAN IN OTHER PRISONS?
Prison officers in Norway go through a two-year education at the Staff Academy, where they receive full pay and are taught various subjects like psychology, criminology, law, human rights and ethics.
What does a prison officer do?

A varied and challenging career

By Christian Grenvold · Thursday, October 15, 2009

Day to day is varied and challenging to meet you if you choose to become a prison officer. A prison is a small community inside the community where you are assigned a special role. As a prison officer you will be responsible for the safety of inmates and staff in the prison, while you also maintain the safety of those outside the prison. That’s why you have the responsibility for a Safe Society.
A prison officer have a dual role

Security work

Social learning & skills work
All inmates in Norway are assigned a contact-officer who assists in contacts with third parties like public service providers (housing, work, etc.) or officials within the correctional system. The contact-officer helps the inmate finding the most appropriate way to serve their sentence and fill out applications.

Prison staff in Norway are unarmed and consists of about 40% female officers.
There is more social learning & skills work in Halden prison, than in other high security prisons.

Halden prison’s facilities are built for this kind of work approach.

Through daily contact and follow-up by the prison officers, they play an important part of the inmate’s life - both as a conversation partner, a role model and a guide.
Reintegration guarantee

The Norwegian government has decided to establish a reintegration guarantee for those who have served their sentence. They shall – if relevant – have an offer of employment, education, suitable housing accommodation, some type of income, medical services, addiction treatment services and debt counseling.