

National Standard

Country	Detention Issues	Key provision	Legal Instrument	NPM Recommendation	NPM Recommendation year	NPM report URL
Finland	Time out of cell	Prisoners and those in police custody must be provided with the opportunity to spend at least an hour per day outdoors unless there is especially cogent reason against this based on a prisoner's health condition or maintaining prison order or security. Activities in prisons may include work, studies on different levels, substance abuse work and leisurely activities.	Imprisonment Act (Vankeuslaki/Fängelselag)	<p>The NPM noted concerning police detention that only a few prisons have facilities for activities outside the cells. As a rule, the outdoor exercise yards at police prisons are small. Some of them are so enclosed and secure that there is no view outside and, for instance, tobacco smoke remains in the space for a long time. It is questionable whether being in such areas can be called outdoor recreation at all. Renovations are not considered unexpected exceptional circumstances that would justify limiting the right of persons deprived of their liberty to outdoor exercise.</p> <p>Cells do not usually get natural light and do not often have TV and electrical sockets. Concerning prisons, the NPM noted that in certain prisons, many units have been designated as substance-free units. To be accommodated in these units, prisoners must agree to give a urine sample whenever requested. In practice, this commitment is a prerequisite for being allowed to participate in an activity or live in an open unit. The NPM emphasised that prisoners who do not wish to commit to a substance-free life should also have the opportunity to participate in activities or be placed in an open unit.</p> <p>Accommodation cells had no night lights or reading lights.</p> <p>There were not enough facilities for children's visits or they were otherwise inappropriate for the purpose.</p> <p>The outdoor exercise area had no rain shelters or benches. The area was also too small considering the number of prisoners outside at the same time. A prison's ability to take in prisoners with mobility impairments seemed very problematic even though the prison should have a cell for persons with disabilities.</p>	2016	http://www.oikeusasiamies.fi/documents/20184/76480/NPM+report+2016/6492da79-50eb-4037-b66c-0887cdaeca8a

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