



The President
Le Président

Mr Irakli Giviashvili
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Georgia
to the Council of Europe
6, rue Jean Hermann
67000 Strasbourg

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Strasbourg, 6 April 2020

Dear Ambassador,

The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has created extraordinary challenges for the authorities of all member States of the Council of Europe, including specific and particularly intense ones for the management and staff working in various places of deprivation of liberty such as police detention facilities, penitentiary institutions, immigration detention centres, psychiatric hospitals and social care homes, as well as in various newly-established facilities/zones where persons are placed in quarantine.

The CPT has recently published the attached Statement of Principles in which it acknowledges the clear imperative to take firm action to combat COVID-19 but also encourages all member States to take decisive steps to protect persons deprived of their liberty from any form of inhuman and/or degrading treatment.

I would appreciate it if you could transmit the Statement of Principles to all Ministers concerned, as well as to any other authority (including the Judiciary and the Parliament) responsible for the situation of persons deprived of their liberty, in your country.

Further, I would be grateful if the CPT could be provided by 30 April 2020 with an account of the concrete measures taken by the relevant authorities in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic with respect to the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty in prisons as well as in other types of establishment, in particular, health and social welfare institutions and immigration detention centres.

Yours sincerely,

Mykola Gnatovskyy

Copy: Ketevan Sarajishvili, Liaison Officer, Ministry of Justice, CPT's liaison officer