



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Hearing

Advancing Human Rights through International Prison Reform

Panel I



Philipp Meissner is the Prison Reform Focal Point in the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), where he provides technical assistance on penal reform and has contributed to multiple UNODC publications regarding prison reform and prisoners' rights. He is the author of *The International Criminal Court controversy: An analysis of the United States' major objections against the Rome Statute* (Münster 2005). He holds degrees from Tufts University and Eberhard-Karls University (Tübingen, Germany).



Hilary Anderson joined the staff of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) at the Organization of American States (OAS) in 2009, where she works as a Senior Specialist on key women's rights and gender equality issues in the region. From this position she has led the development of knowledge and capacity-building tools to support closing the gap between the international legal framework on women's rights and national-level laws and policies. Since finishing her studies in gender and development at McGill University in Montreal, Hilary has worked with the Pan American Health Organization's Gender and Health Unit and with the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW, now part of UN Women).

Panel II



Craig DeRoche serves as Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Public Policy at Prison Fellowship, the nation's largest outreach to prisoners, former prisoners, and their families. He leads the organization's efforts to advance restorative criminal justice reform at the state and federal levels. A recognized subject-matter expert, he has testified before Congress and confers with lawmakers to help them design legislation that prioritizes accountability, community participation, and second chances.

DeRoche made front-page news when, at 34, he became the speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives. In 2010, he made national headlines again for two alcohol-related arrests, revealing a long-concealed addiction to alcohol. It was only after his arrests, the ensuing rehab, and a renewed focus on his Christian faith that he entered lasting recovery. He relates the story in *Highly Functional*, his 2015 memoir.

Since joining Prison Fellowship, DeRoche has brought his political acumen and personal experiences to the pursuit of restorative criminal justice. He pens op-eds for publications including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Times*, and *The Christian Post*. He served on the Charles Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections, a bipartisan body which issued a 2016 report and charged with making recommendations to Congress and the president about how to improve the federal corrections system. He is also a signatory to Right on Crime's Statement of Principles on conservative criminal justice reform. Right on Crime is a project of the Texas Public Policy Foundation in cooperation with Prison Fellowship and the American Conservative Union Foundation.



Azamat Shambilov is Regional Director of Penal Reform International (PRI) office in Central Asia, based in Astana, Kazakhstan. He graduated from Kazakh Humanitarian Law University (Almaty Law Academy) and completed his LLM degree at City University London in the United Kingdom. He has been working on various reforms, including programmes on health in prison, the abolition of the death penalty, reintegration of prisoners, issues of women prisoners, improvement of prison system and detention conditions, torture prevention, justice for children, and radicalization of prisoners in Central Asian countries.