

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ADVOCATES

S.No	Question	Response
1	Name	
2	State	
3	District	
4	Date of Enrolment	
5	Duration of Practice	
6	Area of Practice	
7	Do you think prisoners are aware of their legal rights when they enter the prison for the first time?	☐ Yes ☐ No
8	Are you/have you been providing legal representation to the poor and/or disadvantaged prisoners?	☐ Yes ☐ No
9	If yes, for how many years?	
10	Are you aware of the concept of open prisons/ open correctional institutions?	☐ Yes ☐ No
11	What do you think has potential for reformation of offenders and act as effective tool for reintegration of prisoners: Closed prisons or Open Correctional Institutions	☐ Yes ☐ No
12	What should be the mind-set of the court in deciding the punishment of an offender?	

13		Do you think that reintegration of offenders' post release should be a part of punishment itself?	☐ Yes ☐ No
14		Are you aware of the eligibility criteria in your State/ UT, for transfer of eligible prisoners from closed prisons to open correctional institutions?	☐ Yes ☐ No
15		Have you represented prisoners on issues of parole, remission, prison facilities, and premature release?	☐ Yes ☐ No
16		If yes, please provide details	
17		Have you represented, or advised any prisoners housed in closed prisons, to seek transfer to an open correctional institution?	☐ Yes ☐ No
18		Do you consider that transferring Persons with Disabilities (PwD) inmates from closed prisons to Open Correctional Institutions (OCIs) would support their rehabilitation and reintegration into society?	☐ Yes ☐ No
19		If Yes, please specify	
20		Have you represented, or advised any inmates housed in open correctional institutions?	☐ Yes ☐ No
21		Do inmates in open correctional institutions have meaningful access to legal services and legal aid facilities for their appeals in the high courts and supreme court?	☐ Yes ☐ No

22		Please provide your suggestions in respect of access to legal services for inmates housed in OCIs.	
23		Are there any legal/ other challenges faced by inmates housed in OCIs, that you are aware of? Please provide details.	
24		Have you represented or advised any persons with disabilities who were imprisoned?	☐ Yes ☐ No
25		If yes, please provide details as to any legal/ other challenges faced by prisoners with disabilities.	
26		Do you have any client, who was convicted for long term and housed in closed and open correctional institutions?	☐ Yes ☐ No
27		Do you have any clients who were released from prisons after long imprisonment?	☐ Yes ☐ No
28		If yes, are you aware of their problems with respect to reintegration and socio-economic stability?	
29		What is the nature of legal aid needs that the long-term convicts expect from their advocates who represented them? Please describe.	
30		Do you think that the criteria for premature releases and transfers to OCIs be based gravity of the crime convicted for or reformatory behaviour of the prisoners?	

31		Do you think that the eligibility criteria for transfer of prisoners from closed prisons to OCIs be relaxed as an incentive for all the prisoners?	
32		At present the OCIs are meant for only long-term prisoners usually sentenced for ten and more years. Do you think that prisoners of short-sentences less than 4 years be made eligible for OCIs, provided they agree to go skill training centres? Please provide your considered justification.	
33		How do you rate the chances of a long-term prisoner regaining his former social and economic status within 2 to 4 years?	☐ High Chance ☐ Average Chance ☐ Low Chance ☐ No Chance
34		As an practicing advocate , do you consider that life sentence without parole is a justified punishment, however grave the nature of crime the persons is convicted of?	☐ Yes ☐ No
35		Any other legal opinion on the sentencing and rehabilitation of the prisoners.	