



# Prevention, Prison, and Parole in Germany, Norway, and the Netherlands

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## Germany, Norway, and the Netherlands

### Berlin, Germany

Much of what Berlin is like today is due to World War II and Berlin Wall. The Neukölln Neighborhood where I worked with Gangway e. V. has the highest percentage of immigrants in Berlin, mostly of Turkish and Arab descent. In Neukölln there is much gentrification which contributes to high housing costs, driving people out of the neighborhood.

### Halden, Norway

Norway only has 43 prisons in the country. There are 3,900 people incarcerated in Norway, which is about 7.5% of the total population. In the entirety of the Norway's modern history, there has only been 2 deaths in prisons. In Norway, punishment is the restriction of liberty only. People who are incarcerated retain all of their other rights.

### The Hague, Netherlands

The Hague is the third largest city in the Netherlands. It has a high percentage of immigrants in comparison to the rest of the country. In the Netherlands, all of their probation and parole officers must be social workers.

## Community Partners

### Leger des Heils

In the Netherlands, I worked with Leger des Heils, the Salvation Army. In addition to other work, they are 1 of 3 organizations in the Netherlands that handle probation and parole for adults. They assist individuals in preparing for their return to society.

### Gangway e. V.

In Berlin, I worked with Gangway e. V., an organization that does street social work in Berlin neighborhoods. The street social workers meet with youth in the neighborhoods and support them in achieving their goals.

### Halden Fengsel

In Norway, I had the opportunity to tour Halden Fengsel, a high security prison. This prison is often called the most humane prison in the world. I observed how the prison officers used dynamic security methods when working with those incarcerated.

## Project Information

I examined aspects of the criminal justice system in the Germany, Norway, and the Netherlands. In Germany, I learned about ways that youth are diverted from the criminal justice system through various prevention programs. In Norway, I toured a high security prison and how the prison prepares people for reentry back into the community. In the Netherlands, I learned about the probation and parole office and how social workers assist people in their transition back to society. I was able to meet with youth in the prevention programs, currently incarcerated individuals, and past people on parole to hear their perspectives on the programs.



## Skills Developed

During my global independent study, I further developed my skills in:  
Active Listening  
Cultural Humility  
and Maintaining Professional Boundaries

## Outcomes

Through my 3 week global independent study, I was able to gain information about international criminal justice systems, understand what works for the various programs and how to apply them to the US, and build connections internationally.

## Lessons Learned

Social workers can be influential within the criminal justice system. Globally, people need to change their perspective on social workers and give them more credit in the profession. Having a strong social network is important for those going through the criminal justice system.

## Advice

Attempt to learn the language of the country you will be visiting. Learn about the historical and physical surroundings of the place. Build connections with community partners before arriving.

## Classroom Connections

SW 701: Practice in International Social Work

This course taught me how different countries approach and think about social work. It showed me the difference between universal ideas and culturally specific ideas in regards to programs and social work.

SW 725: Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Justice, and Social Work

This course taught me about juvenile delinquency and juvenile justice in the United States, the theories of delinquency, and various policies and practices within juvenile justice.

## Career Connections

This project helped me gain knowledge that will help me as I hope to work in criminal justice and reentry work in my social work career.

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