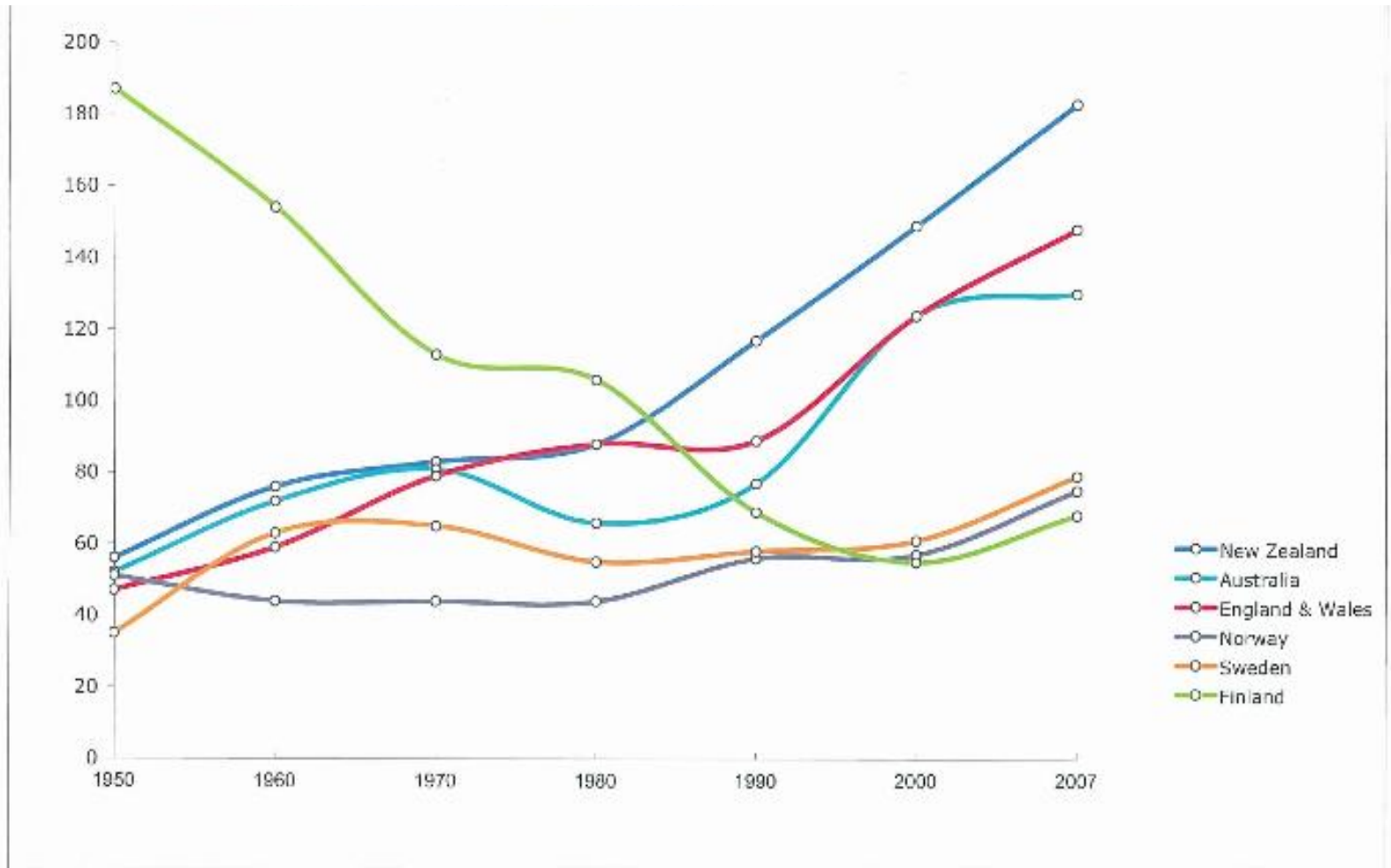


WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM SCANDINAVIA?

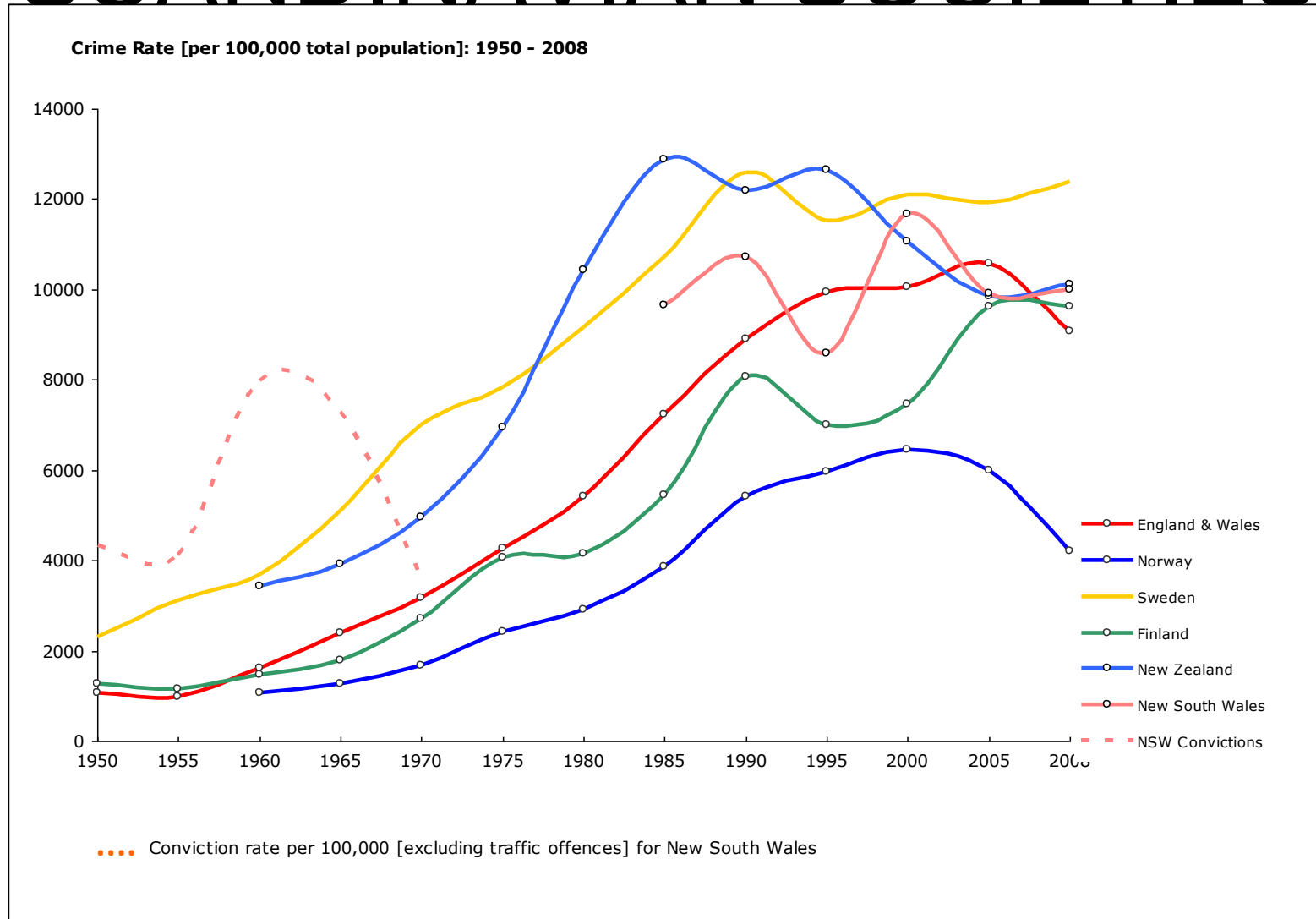
Professor John Pratt

Institute of Criminology, Victoria
University, Wellington

Prison rate per 100 000 population: 1950 - 2007

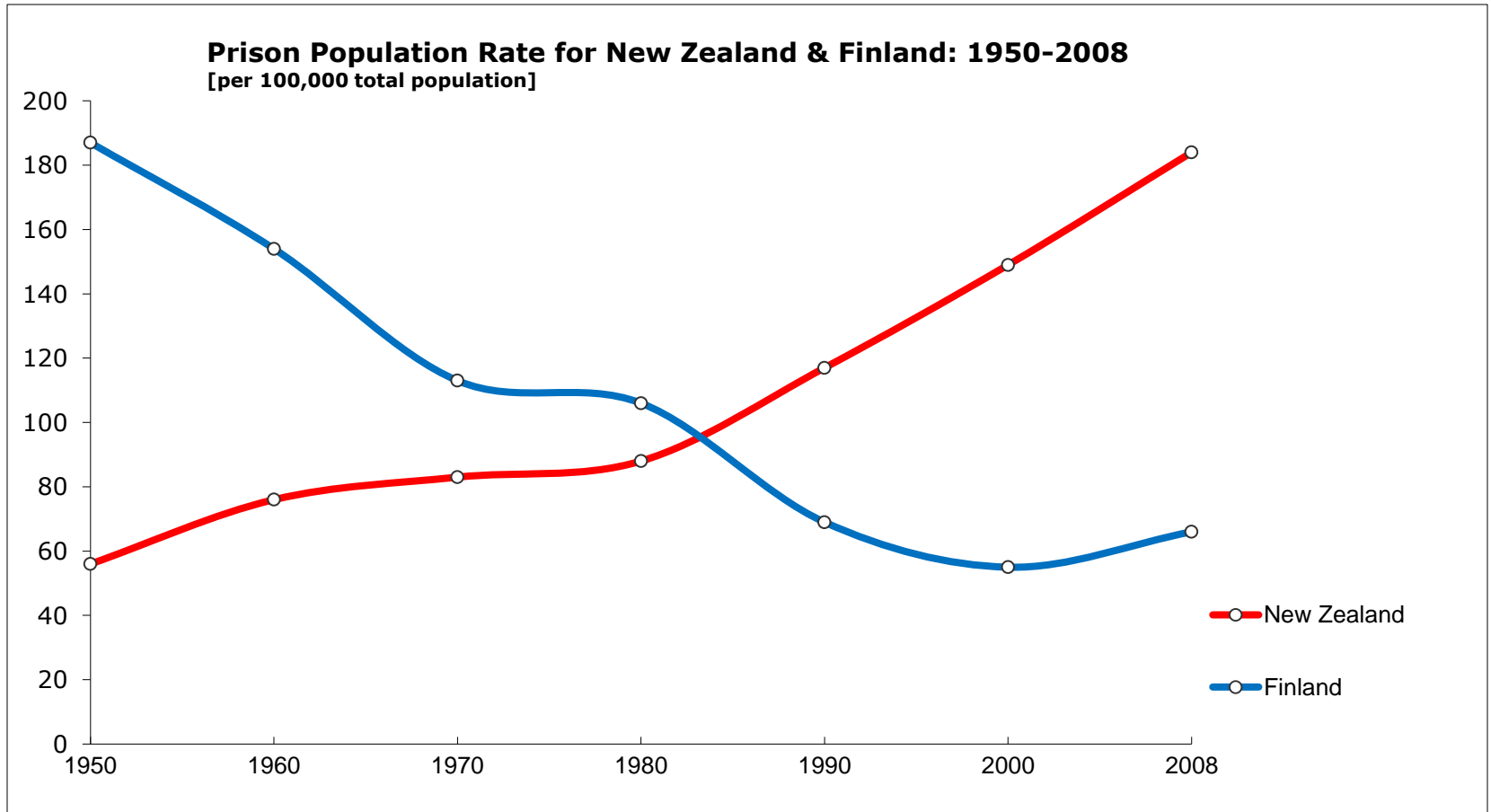


CRIME RATES – ANGLO AND SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETIES

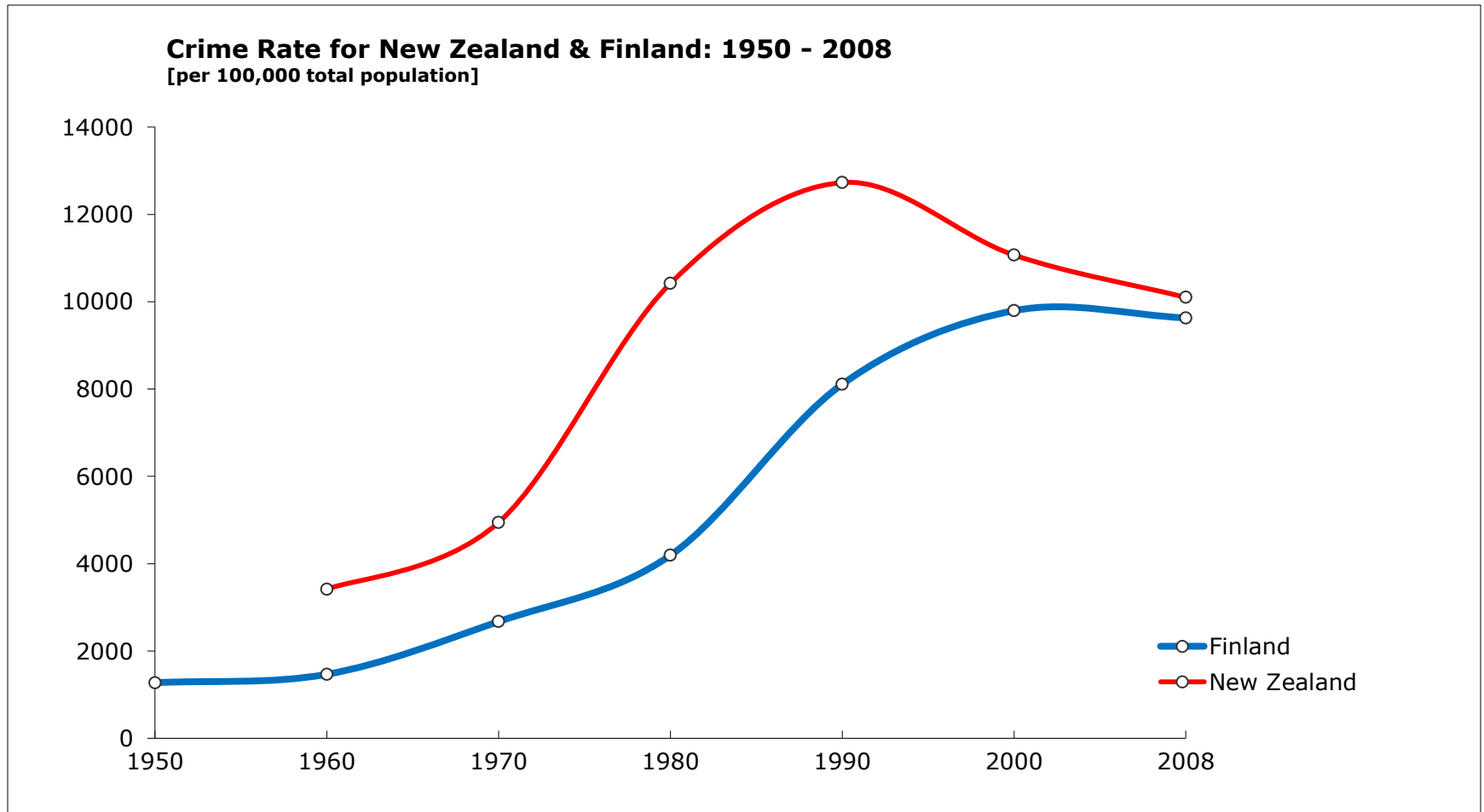


Prison Population Rate for New Zealand and Finland: 1950-2008

(per 100,000 total population)



Crime Rate for New Zealand and Finland: 1950 – 2008 (per 100,000 total population)



Cell (living room) in closed prison



Common room – closed prison



Kitchen – closed prison



Picture from a treatment programme – ‘when one is in prison, one participates in either work, education or treatment (Kriminalvårdens website, 2010)



Visitation room – Oslo prison



Hamar prison, Norway, 56 places



nzherald.co.nz

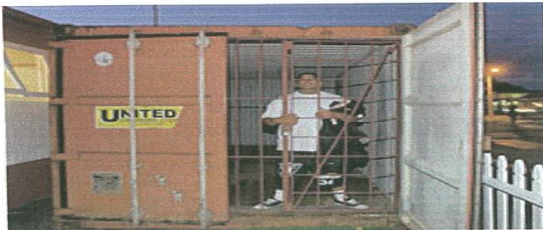
Sunday July 18, 2010
10:38AM NZT

National

Inmates get shipping containers for cells

By [Claire Trevett](#)

4:00 AM Tuesday Jun 23, 2009



Shipping containers and double bunking will be needed to house prisoners, the PM says. Photo / Kenny Rodger

A stalemate over privatising prisons has put the government's plans to double-bunk more prisoners in jeopardy, forcing it to resort to other measures such as using shipping containers as cells instead.

National had planned to introduce double bunking of up to 1000 more prisoners to cater for the growth in prisoner numbers until a new prison was built. However, the prison officers' union has withheld its permission for the plan, saying it wants the government to provide an assurance it will not privatise prisons first.

Corrections Minister Judith Collins said that meant the Government had to look at alternatives, such as adding on converted shipping containers or prefabricated "concrete pods" to existing prisons.

"Obviously it's not our first choice, but we've got to be able to house these prisoners."

Ms Collins said allowing double-bunking to go ahead would have delayed the need to call on such alternatives. She said the union had initially agreed to provide a "virtual plan" of a prison using double bunking, but had not done so and was now deriding it as a "terrible idea".

Beven Hanlon, head of the Corrections Association of New Zealand, said the union would not agree unless the Government backed away from its plans to privatise prisons. He said the two main concerns were officers' safety and job security – which would be at risk under privatisation.

"Getting our permission might be easier if they could ensure we didn't then get made redundant because prisons were sold off to McDonald's or the like. If they can give that assurance, we will talk with them to make this double-bunking work."

He said he would prefer the use of shipping containers as cells to the double-bunking option, although it would cost more.

Visitor Area



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In Norway, prisoners take part in TV debates

A pre-election TV debate in Norway was held in a jail, in front of an audience of prisoners and guards. Gwladys Fouché asks if this could ever happen in the UK



Gwladys Fouché in Oslo
guardian.co.uk, Thursday 10 September 2009 10.00 BST



Celebrities and politicians appear on the BBC's Question Time, so why not broadcast from a jail with prisoners taking part? Photograph: Zak Hussein/PA

It was a stunning political debate that would be hard to imagine in Britain. But it was not so shocking in Norway, where a general election is taking place on Monday.

The topic was crime policy and – so far so normal – it featured a panel of politicians discussing the best ways to reduce crime. But the live TV show was set inside a high security prison, the audience consisted exclusively of guards and prisoners, with one inmate, Bjørnar Dahl, taking part in the panel alongside the justice minister and the deputy leader of the main opposition party.

"It was high time the politicians came here to talk about crime policy," explains Dahl, 43, a few days after the event. "This is about us, what happens in prisons and how we can return to society in a way that is beneficial to everyone."

Dahl, who is serving a five-year sentence for complicity in smuggling amphetamines, stole the show. When the representative from the populist Progress party, Per Sandberg, argued that there was an increase in criminality in Norway caused by gangs of Eastern Europeans organising beggars in the streets of Oslo, Dahl dismissed him as talking "crap" and asked him whether he had any knowledge of the situations the beggars were coming from.

When Sandberg tried to argue that the solution to reduce drug abuse in prisons was to increase the level of control on inmates, Dahl shot back: "We're controlled from the moment we wake up to the moment we go to sleep. I get strip-searched every time I have a visit and all my phone calls are monitored. You can't have more control than we

Norway: Prisoners take part in TV debates

Governing through welfare rather than through crime in Scandinavia. Norwegian Labour Party's Crime Policy (2006):
"With good welfare services for everyone crime can be prevented and many of the initial incentives for a life of crime can be removed. Given that 60 percent of violent crime is committed under the influence of alcohol, it is important to adhere to a restrictive drug and alcohol policy. Good psychiatric health care services and an active labour market policy are important for comprehensive crime fighting."