COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RESOLUTION (73) 24

ON GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK WITH THE OFFENDERS

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 26 September 1973 at the 224th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

The Committee of Ministers,

Having regard to the need to promote methods of treating offenders both in institutions and at liberty;

Considering that developments in contemporary society affect human relations and increase the complex issues of management and treatment existing in penal institutions, particularly tensions affecting both staff and inmates;

Considering that group and community methods provide appropriate means of handling these problems;

Considering that it is in the interests of member States to establish the broad lines of a common policy for crime prevention and the treatment of offenders,

I. Recommends that the governments of member States :

1. Examine the possibility of introducing or developing in their penal establishments various forms of group and community methods, the choice depending on the aims, resources, size and structure of those establishments;

2. Provide favourable conditions for the application of these methods by taking appropriate steps, in particular :

(i) ensuring that penal authorities are advised on the use of these methods by qualified specialists;

(ii) ensuring that staff of all ranks acquire as part of their normal training an understanding of group and institution processes;

(iii) ensuring that staff involved in the application of group methods receive special training;

(iv) ensuring that the application of these methods is :

- supervised by competent staff;
- frequently assessed as to its effects;

3. Examine also the possibility of introducing group work :

- as part of semi-custodial treatment (hostels, half-way houses);

- as part of non-custodial treatment (probation and similar measures including after-care);

4. Secure wide dissemination of the Council of Europe report on group and community work with the offenders in their appropriate services;

II. Invites the governments of member States to report to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe every five years informing him of the action being taken by them on the recommendations contained in this resolution.