

## “Tool kit” for World Hospice & Palliative Care Day addresses end-of-life care in the prison environment

Key messages for the 9 October 2021 event identified by the Humane Prison Hospice Project include:

Governments that provide palliative care (PC) to prisoners are fulfilling their obligation to respect their right to health, setting a precedent of acknowledging and responding to our shared humanity.

Prison populations in many counties are rapidly aging; by 2030, older prisoners, many of whom have PC needs, are expected to account for one-third of the incarcerated population in the U.S.

Incarceration shortens life expectancy and hastens physiological aging, compounding existing health issues and heightening the risk that prisoners will develop PC needs.

Considering how prisoners die “inside” is imperative and requires appropriate investments and training.

Prison PC, when compassionate release is unavailable, allows prisoners to “die at home,” cared for by other prisoners with whom the patient has formed a familial bond. These trained prisoner volunteers can provide cost-effective and transformative PC while working with compassionate clinical staff.



Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance:

<https://bit.ly/3lmKhMM>



Humane Prison Hospice Project:

<http://bit.ly/2VLRkTK>

**Footnote on the illustration:** “Lenny” is one of the ‘Brother’s Keepers’ at San Quentin State Prison in the U.S. who participated in the Humane Prison Hospice Project training program to become peer support counselors and compassionate end-of-life caregivers. His words were captured by graphic journalist Wendy MacNaughton and was originally published in *The California Sunday Magazine* (see <https://bit.ly/2WXBgjb>).



## European Association for Palliative Care Task Force on End-of-Life Care in Prisons

The Task Force’s two main aims are to undertake scoping work in at least five countries to map the current provision of palliative care (PC) for prisoners,<sup>1</sup> and to develop an international network of professionals interested in PC for prisoners from as many European countries as possible, as well as other countries outside of Europe. **Task Force website:** <https://bit.ly/2WLZSLv>

1. ‘Mapping palliative care provision in European prisons...’ *BMJ Supportive Palliative Care*, published online 22 April 2021. [Noted in *Media Watch* 26 April 2021 (#714, p.7)] **Abstract:** <https://bit.ly/2QPihnz>



## Prison Hospice: Backgrounder Updated 1 August 2021

End-of-life care in the prison system has been highlighted on a regular basis in *Media Watch*. A compilation of selected articles, reports, etc., noted in past issues of the weekly report can be downloaded at the Palliative Care Network website: <http://bit.ly/2RdegnL>

Photo: Lori Waselchuk, Philadelphia, PA