Prison, health and the respect of human rights

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Prisons are the places where human rights are at risk. Since 1989, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) visits all 47 member states of the Council of Europe on a regular basis. The work aims the prevention of ill treatment and aims generally to improve the conditions of detention. Health care plays an important role either for the identification and reporting of ill treatment but generally also in regards to public health as almost all prisoners come back to the society and represent a vulnerable, underserved population which is highly affected by illness.

Prof. Wolff will present the work of the CPT and his experiences related to imprisonment, migrant detention and the difficult respect of human rights in this particular environment.

Prof. Hans Wolff

Prof. Wolff is member of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) of the Council of Europe in the name of Switzerland. He has gathered an extensive experience in the field and visited more than 100 prisons on 3 continents. He is head of the Division of Prison Health at the Geneva University Hospitals and member of the Central Ethics Committee of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences. His main research and educational interests include access to health care for vulnerable populations, in particular addiction and infectious diseases, medical ethics, mental health and human rights in custody.