

Dirk van Zyl Smit, United Kingdom

Speaker, Round Table: Abolition & Alternative sanctions



Dirk van Zyl Smit is Professor of Comparative and International Penal Law at the University of Nottingham. Until the end of 2005 he was Professor of Criminology at the University of Cape Town. He is also an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa. In recent years he has also been a visiting professor at the Humboldt University in Berlin, the Paul Cezanne University in Aix en Provence and the Catholic University of Leuven, as well as a Senior Fulbright Research Fellow at the New York University School of Law. In 2008 he was awarded an honorary doctorate in law by the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University of Greifswald in Germany. His books include *Principles of European Prison Law and Policy* (with Sonja Snacken 2009), *Taking Life Imprisonment Seriously in National and International Law* (2002) and *South African Prison Law and Practice* (1992), as well as *Prison Labour: Salvation or Slavery? International Perspectives* (1999), *Imprisonment Today and Tomorrow - International Perspectives on Prisoners' Rights and Prison Conditions* (1991, 2nd ed. 2001), both edited together with Frieder Dünkel. He is co-editor of *Punishment and Society* and the author of many articles on criminological theory and on sentencing and imprisonment. In South Africa Dirk van Zyl Smit was actively involved in law reform as the primary consultant for the Correctional Services Act 1998 and a member of the National Council on Correctional Services from 1995 to 2004. He was also project leader of the committee of the South African Law Commission investigating sentencing and author of its report and draft legislation: a *New Sentencing Framework* (2000). He has advised the government of Malawi on new prison legislation and was expert adviser to the Council of Europe on the new European Prison Rules and the European Rules on Juvenile Offenders subject to Sanctions or Measures, and to the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime on its *Handbook on Alternatives to Imprisonment*. Research expertise Dirk van Zyl Smit researches in all aspects of sentencing and punishment including their international and comparative applications. He is particularly interested in the legal rules governing imprisonment and the implementation of community sanctions.