**TV Presentation Script**

**Slide 1:**

The purpose of this presentation is to explain what the CPT is and what they do. This presentation was created by researchers from the Prison Oversight: Improving Rights in Europe (POIRE) Project at Trinity College Dublin – they are independent from the CPT and from prison staff.

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**Slide 2:**

The CPT is short for The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

**Slide 3:**

The CPT is an independent organisation that visits prisons and other places where people are detained to make sure that people are being treated well and live in good conditions. Being independent means that the CPT does not work for the government or for the prison administration.

**Slide 4:**

The CPT visit prisons all over Europe. The visits happen every 4 or 5 years in prisons across Europe, or sometimes more often if they have a particular concern. A small team of 5 or 6 people usually come to visit a prison. These people have different skills – they might be doctors, lawyers, psychologists, human rights experts, or prison governors. The CPT also brings interpreters to help them speak to people in different languages.

When they visit, the CPT looks at how people are treated and what the prison conditions are like. They check things like whether the food is alright, if people are treated with respect, and how punishments are handled.

During a visit, the CPT can check all areas of the prison, read records such as health files, speak to any prisoner in private, and talk to staff.

The CPT does not handle or resolve complaints from individual people. The CPT can’t fix individual complaints, but tries to help improve conditions in prison all over Europe over time.

**Slide 5:**

Research shows most people in prison have not heard of the CPT, don’t know what it does, and don’t know that it is okay to talk to them. Once people learn more, they feel better informed about the CPT and often feel glad that someone checks on prison conditions.

If the CPT visits the prison you’re in, they might ask to talk to you. You don’t have to talk to them if you don’t want to. But you can also ask to talk to them if you want. What you tell the CPT is private. That means they won’t tell anyone else what you said, unless you say it’s okay. They might want to talk to you because you are in a part of the prison they are checking, like special cells. They might also talk to you because something happened to you that they want to understand better. Or they might just choose people at random to talk to.

**Slide 6:**

After each visit, the CPT talks with the government and writes a full report. They may include information based on what you have told them, but they don’t use any names of people in prison in the report.

The government then replies with:

• More information, and

• A plan to fix the problems the CPT found.

These reports are shared on the CPT website, but you might not be able to go online. Some reports are shared right away, and others only if the government says yes. The CPT’s ideas help the government make prisons better. Other human rights groups can also use the reports to ask for change.

**Slide 7:**

If you would like to see a CPT report, you can go to the website on the screen if you have access to the internet. You can ask if the report is in the prison library, or ask for the library to get a copy.

If you are worried about your treatment or your conditions, talk to someone you trust, like a staff member or your lawyer.

You can contact the CPT if you are worried about how you are being treated in prison by sending them a private letter. Remember that you still have rights while in prison. The CPT helps to protect those rights. You have a voice – and it matters.