



No other prison in Norway has as much green space or woodland as Halden.

Halden Prison:

PUNISHMENT THAT WORKS - CHANGE THAT LASTS!

Halden Prison represented a new way of designing and operating prisons when it was commissioned in 2010, with a clear focus on facilitating an existence free from criminality following release.

Planning for a new high security prison in Østfold began in 1999. Construction began in July 2007, and the prison was completed in April 2010. The reason for the construction project was a lack of prison capacity in Norway, as well as the fact that many prisons were old and not fit for purpose, which meant they were due to be phased out.

The intention is that prison should facilitate the two mutually dependent contradictions of a sentence: 'Hard and soft', where the hard represents the sentence and deprivation of freedom, while the soft relates to the concept of rehabilitation. Building a relationship between inmates and employees is an important part of both the rehabilitation process and ensuring security.



“Nobody should be in any doubt about the government’s high level ambitions for its correctional services. We are building new prisons and overhauling the nature of prison sentences. Halden Prison will be at the cutting edge of modernity, with a flexible offering that will provide inmates with better opportunities to select a future without crime.”

Knut Storberget, then Minister of Justice, as he laid the foundation stone.

Humanistic principles

Both in terms of the design of regulations and in its practical work, the Norwegian Correctional Service should strive to ensure that these objectives are not just on paper but also fully characterise the execution of criminal justice in practice. The Norwegian criminal justice system is based on humanistic principles and on individual arrangements for convicts and inmates.

The aim of protecting society from criminal acts must be balanced against the aim of ensuring that the individual inmate has the opportunity to return to society as a future law-abiding citizen.

The import model

Norwegian prisons are run using the so-called import model. This means that different public bodies deliver services to inmates in prisons, in the same way they also deliver these services to people in the community outside of prison.

Examples include health services, schooling/education, NAV (Norwegian Work and Welfare Services), library services, etc.

Norway’s most modern

Halden Prison was Norway’s newest and most modern prison when it opened. It is tailored in terms of design, architecture and content to provide incarceration that complies with the principles that Norwegian criminal justice should be based upon.

Inmates are sentenced to punishment, but they are

not deprived of their rights as citizens in relation to education, health, work, religion and social services.

The prison has a wide range of activities and services on offer that aim to help inmates to master daily life following their release.

Inside the walls, there are three living quarters, an activity centre, a cultural centre, a visitor centre and a building that houses the prison administration, community services and various security functions.

Outside of the walls is Halden Halfway House.

High-level security

The prison has a high level of security, with secure capacity for 228 and capacity for 24 in the halfway house. There are a total of around 350 full-time equivalent employees working on behalf of the Norwegian Correctional Service and its collaborative partners in the prison.

The wall around the 300 km² site is 1.3 kilometres long and six metres tall. The prison is situated on a hill in Torpum, in the northwest of the town of Halden. The road leading to it has been called Justisveien - the Norwegian for Justice Road.

Welcome to Halden Prison!

Halden Prison has become a showcase, with a design and practice that comply with the principles that Norwegian criminal justice should be based on.

5 PRINCIPLES

The Norwegian Correctional Service’s activities, set out in Storting (Norwegian Congress) report 37, are based on five pillars:

1. What legislators have said is the purpose of punishment
2. A humanistic view of humanity
3. The principle of due process and equal treatment
4. The principle that a convict has repaid their debt to society once their sentence has been served
5. The principle of normality