



The Norway Chess and Society Prison Project

Speaker: Geir Nesheim, member of FIDE Social Commission

Online Conference & Demo Chess Tournament 11 May 2021



A project called Chess and Society?!

- Background – Magnus Carlsen and the enormous chess interest in Norway
- Support from Government to launch chess activity “everywhere”
- Method: Rolling out chess in one new area of society every half year
- Standardized approach, with necessary modifications



Chess in Prison Norway 1:2

- Agreeing project with Norwegian Correctional Service
 - Cooperating with prison librarians and priest
- 24 of 40 Norwegian prisons participate – despite Covid19
- Standard Chess and Society rollout model – with some modifications
 - chess material, online resource bank, access to other participating prisons, local support from chess clubs and volunteer organizations (e.g. visits, training seminars etc), each prison decide how project is run locally



Chess in Prison Norway 2:2

- Many spin-off activities launched
 - Charitable foundation giving financial support to extra chess sets and DVDs during Covid19
 - Seminars with e.g. Carl Portman, previous inmate, others
 - Prison Workshop help produce chess suitcases
 - Reaching out to Chicago prison and others, planning to participate in Chess For Freedom tournament in October 2021
- Financing from government, charitable foundations and others
- Reactions so far very positive



How can FIDE Social Commission utilize high CFF interest

- Together with Chess for Protection, Chess for Freedom is SOCs largest current activity
- SOC aware of Chess for Freedom projects in many countries
- SOC to approach, monitor,, support, analyse and research, report and build community for all of these and other ongoing Chess for Freedom projects, and help start even more
- Annual events to strenghten the projects