



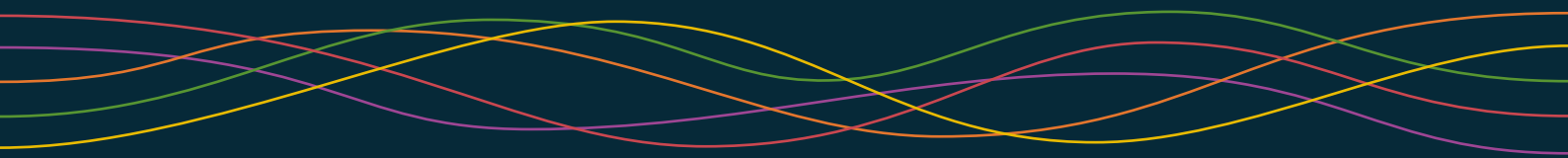
UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

GLOBAL PROGRAMME:

PEOPLE-CENTRED CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Strengthening access
to accountable, fair and
humane justice for all



Background

Crime prevention and criminal justice strategies must be gender-responsive, human rights-compliant and respect the rule of law. As the guardian of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, which promote and protect human rights in the administration of justice, UNODC through its Global Programme on People-centred Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform aims to help reduce crime, to ensure the operation of fair, effective, inclusive, transparent and accountable criminal justice institutions, and to promote equal access to justice for all.

The Global Programme constitutes the main vehicle to support Member States to prevent crime and strengthen capacities of criminal justice systems in alignment with international standards and human rights; to operate more effectively within the framework of the rule of law while applying a gender perspective and paying particular attention to groups facing structural impediments.

HOLISTIC APPROACH:

The Global Programme recognizes that people in contact with criminal justice systems are often in vulnerable situations, or belong to groups that have specific rights and needs in the criminal justice system, and seeks to promote people-centred and human rights-based responses to crime, that are effective in securing public safety. It supports efforts to achieve targets under several of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 16.

For more information on UNODC's work on crime prevention and criminal justice, please consult UNODC website: www.unodc.org.



FIVE THEMATIC AREAS

- Access to Justice
- Crime Prevention
- Gender-responsive Justice
- Ending Violence Against Children and Justice For Children
- Prison and Penal Reform

INNOVATIVE TRAINING TOOLS

- eLearning

AREAS OF INTERVENTION:

1. Specialized advice to policymakers and practitioners
2. Crime prevention and criminal justice system assessments
3. Justice reform support, including to countries in transition and peace operations
4. Capacity-building for national authorities
5. Training for policymakers and practitioners
6. Assistance to victims and witnesses



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Access to Justice

Access to justice is a human right and an essential element of the rule of law, and as such, must be available to all persons without discrimination. UNODC supports Member States in meeting their commitments under the 2030 Agenda and, in particular, under Goals 5, 10 and 16 to ensure that those affected by crime are able to seek redress by, inter alia, strengthening access to legal aid and supporting police reform and modernization, increasing the efficiency, accountability, and integrity of criminal justice institutions, widening the use of restorative justice and protecting, assisting and supporting victims of crime.

KEY AREAS OF INTERVENTION:

1. Promoting cross-sectoral knowledge development and exchange, capacity-building, and tailored legal and technical advisory services;
2. Enhancing access to legal aid by strengthening capacities of criminal justice actors in particular legal aid providers to organize, coordinate and deliver quality legal aid services;
3. Supporting police institutions in implementing human rights based and gender-sensitive policing, in line with international standards;
4. Boosting research and data to develop evidence-based and human rights-based strategies and interventions that strengthen equal access to justice for all.

“Legal aid is an essential element of a fair, humane and efficient criminal justice system that is based on the rule of law and that it is a foundation for the enjoyment of other rights, including the right to a fair trial, as a precondition to exercising such rights and an important safeguard that ensures fundamental fairness and public trust in the criminal justice process.”

United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems



Crime Prevention

Peaceful, safe, non-violent and inclusive societies based on respect for human rights are a cornerstone of, and indeed a primary outcome of, sustainable development. Therefore, it is crucial to plan crime prevention strategies that reduce the risk and costs of crimes occurring, and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society.

To enhance the capacity of key crime prevention actors and systems to operate more effectively to reduce crime, violence and victimization, it is necessary to move from punitive measures to evidence-based prevention that addresses the root causes and risk factors of crime and violence, strengthen community and youth resilience and offer alternatives to detention to those in conflict with the law where possible in order to lower rates of recidivism.

The Global Programme on People-centred Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform develops comprehensive and effective crime prevention strategies, policies and programmes to assist Member States, based on four key components: Multi-sectoral coordination within government to make sure all actors, including those working in criminal justice, social services and education, are working together; Evidence-informed and prevention/social development measures that make young people more resilient to crime; Strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation; Engaging communities, civil society, and the private sector to work with government actors to design and implement crime prevention projects and initiatives.

KEY AREAS OF INTERVENTION:

1. Raising awareness of UN standards and norms in crime prevention and evidence-based practices;
2. Enhancing crime and violence data collection and analysis including to inform policy and programming;
3. Ensuring policy development and providing advice on preventing children and youth from becoming victims and perpetrators of crime and violence and preventing violence against women and girls;
4. Building of institutional capacities at the national and local levels to address crime and violence including through youth empowerment and (sport-based) life skills training and education; and
5. Fostering partnerships and national/local consensus on priorities for violence prevention, youth resilience to crime, including gang violence, and community renewal.

“Crime Prevention comprises strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring, and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence their multiple causes.”

*The Prevention of Crime
ECOSOC Resolution 2002/13*



Gender-responsive Justice

Gender-based discrimination and violence in the criminal justice system creates significant obstacles to achieve access to justice for all. It affects women and girls disproportionately whether they are victims, witnesses, alleged offenders or prisoners. Criminal justice systems are male dominated and do not address women's specific needs, despite the disproportionate growth of female imprisonment. Survivors often face significant obstacles due to gaps in criminal law and procedure, gender stereotypes, victim blaming and inadequate responses of criminal justice institutions and professionals, leading to secondary victimization.

The Global Programme on People-centred Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform pursues a people-centred approach to empower women in the criminal justice system, stop gender-based discrimination and enhance crime prevention and criminal justice responses to end all forms of gender-based violence against women, in line with the SDGs.

KEY AREAS OF INTERVENTION:

1. Developing the evidence base on criminal justice responses to violence against women through global research and national data collection and analysis;
2. Supporting alignment of national criminal legislation and policy frameworks with international standards on violence against women and women in conflict with the law;
3. Enhancing the capacity of criminal justice systems response to violence against women and providing services to victims and survivors;
4. Addressing the obstacles women face throughout the criminal justice chain including by promoting gender-responsive non-custodial measures; strengthening inclusive access to legal aid; supporting prison administrations; promoting the equal representation of women in criminal justice institutions.

“Violence against women exists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development and peace.”

Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of VAW in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 2010





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Ending Violence Against Children and Justice For Children

Violence against children (VAC) affects millions of children all over the world. Children are at risk of violence in online as well as physical spaces; from recruitment by organized criminal and armed groups including terrorist groups; and in relation to extreme climate events which cause forced displacement. The consequences of violence against children include long-lasting physical and mental harm as well as high social and economic costs (equivalent to 8 per cent of world GDP) for families, communities, and society as a whole.

International law obliges States to protect children from violence and to uphold their rights in order that they can become law-abiding citizens. In 2014, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice which bestowed upon UNODC a new mandate to support Member States in preventing and responding to violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Adopting a systemic approach to tackling crime and serious forms of violence against children – and stressing the role of the justice system in cooperation with other sectors – the Global Programme on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform aims also to support efforts aimed at ending violence against children and promoting justice for children. This specific area has four thematic focus areas on: I. Prevention of Child Involvement with Crime and Violence; II. Child Victims and Witnesses; III. Child/Juvenile Justice; and IV. Children Recruited and Exploited by Criminal and Armed Groups, including Terrorist Groups.

KEY SPECIALIZED SERVICES:

1. Awareness raising and advocacy efforts on effective prevention of and responses to VAC;
2. Research on trends and emerging risks and threats to children's rights as well as data collection and analysis for integrated information management systems;
3. Development and strengthening of international standards and norms;
4. Legal and policy advisory services to align national legal, regulatory and policy frameworks with international standards and norms;
5. Capacity development of multi-sectoral institutions and actors including security and social protection;
6. Enhancement of coordination and collaboration mechanisms to allow for a multi-sectoral response and the participation of children, families and communities;
7. Strengthening a participatory approach, providing an open and cooperative platform for the voices of stakeholders, and investing in children as agents of change for their own protection.





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Prison and Penal Reform

The purposes of imprisonment are to protect society from crime and to reduce recidivism. For this to be the case, prison systems must provide safe, secure and humane custody, and invest in a rehabilitative approach to prison and offender management. Imprisonment must not aggravate the suffering inherent in a situation in which people are deprived of their liberty. Well-managed prisons, corrections and probation services are a vital, yet often overlooked, part of the criminal justice chain.

Yet Member States across the globe continue to face severe challenges in their prison systems for number of reasons, including an excessive reliance on incarceration, prison overcrowding, poor prison conditions, resource constraints and systemic neglect. These deficiencies come at an immense cost to public safety, health, and fundamental human rights, and gravely affect progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The Global Programme on People-centred Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform commits to addressing global prison challenges through comprehensive and gender-responsive penal and prison reform by focusing on three lines of support (see “Key areas of intervention”). This approach mirrors the United Nations System Common Position on Incarceration and its commitment to leave no-one behind. It is also a direct reflection of UNODC’s mandate as the custodian of the United Nations standards and norms related to prison management and the treatment of offenders, which provide an important and universally recognized benchmark:

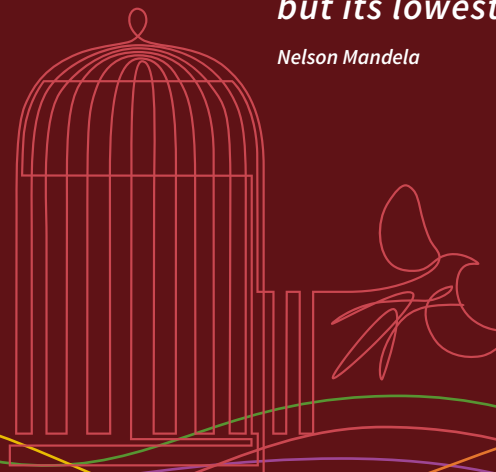
- The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).
- The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).
- The United Nations Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules).

KEY AREAS OF INTERVENTION:

1. Addressing the overuse of pre-trial detention and imprisonment, including by strengthening national capacities to ensure proportionate sentencing, effective case management, and an enhanced use of non-custodial measures;
2. Strengthening the compliance of prison and corrections services with international minimum prison standards, and their responses to persisting and emerging challenges, including the risk of radicalization to violence in prisons;
3. Fostering rehabilitative environments in both prison settings and the community in order to break the cycle of re-offending and to facilitate the social reintegration of prisoners and offenders.

“No one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens but its lowest ones.”

Nelson Mandela



 Innovative
training tools

eLearning

The UNODC Global eLearning Programme delivers trainings to a community of over 100,000 Member State officials on international security threats such as transnational organized crime, terrorism, illicit drugs, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, wildlife and forest crime, cybercrime, human rights, etc.

These courses, developed in collaboration with leading international experts, enable criminal justice practitioners and other professionals to expand their knowledge and stay up to date with the international community's fight against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

KEY ASPECTS:

1. Development of online and digital training in line with United Nations standards and norms and other relevant international instruments;
2. Delivery of training 24/7 across the world through the UNODC eLearning Platform;
3. Pedagogical support in creating efficient comprehensive training packages;
4. Establishment of eLearning centres/deployment of mobile training units;
5. Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence.

“Learning is not optional; it is a sine qua non condition for the organizations and their staff to be able to adapt in a highly competitive and dynamic environment (...). For the United Nations system, learning can be also a transformative force that can break down silos, stimulate inter-agency cooperation, create synergies and increase efficiency in the use of resources.”

Policies and platforms in support of learning: towards more coherence, coordination and convergence, Report of the UN Joint Inspection Unit, 2020

