

UNODC – ACUNS

Webinar

**Urban Youth Crime – Can it be Prevented?
‘Thinking Ahead of the Curve’**

Presentation by

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Topics to be discussed

Some broad issues about:

- The UN Crime Prevention Guidelines and the role of the MDGs
- Cities and good governance
- What does the economic recession mean for crime prevention
- **More specific issues** on preventing urban gang violence and youth crime
- On working to promote multi-ethnic and cultural tolerance
- On preventing violence associated with large sporting events

(1) Guidelines on urban crime prevention

- **ECOSOC 1995/9** UN Guidelines on Cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention
- **ECOSOC 2002/13** UN Guidelines on the prevention of crime
- **12th UN Congress** Salvador Declaration

ECOSOC 2002/13

UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime

Basic Principles

- Government leadership
- Socio-economic development & inclusion, cooperation/partnerships
- Sustainability/accountability
- Knowledge base
- Human rights/Rule of law/culture of lawfulness
- Interdependency
- Differentiation



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CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES
**Crime prevention
assessment tool**

Criminal justice
assessment
toolkit

5



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**Handbook on the
crime prevention guidelines**
Making them work

CRIMINAL JUSTICE HANDBOOK SERIES

12th UN Congress

Salvador Declaration, April 2010 (1)

The Salvador Declaration stresses:

- the importance of preventing youth crime (para. 26)
- of accelerating efforts to implement the Guidelines on crime prevention and other relevant Conventions, standards & norms (para.32)
- States' responsibilities to develop crime prevention policies in an integrated, participatory and collaborative way...including with civil society (para. 33)...
- and through strengthening private-public partnerships (para. 34)

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Salvador Declaration, April 2010 (2)

- all States should have national and local crime prevention action plans which are comprehensive and participatory, & that crime prevention should be integral part of strategies to foster social and economic development (para. 35)
- notes a specific concern with urban crime and its unequal impacts on specific populations and places (para.45) and..
- the vulnerabilities of specific groups to urban crime, and the need to adopt and implement civic intercultural programmes to combat racism and xenophobia, and reduce the exclusion of minorities and migrants..(para.46)

(2) Millennium Development Goals & Crime Prevention

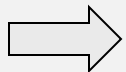
- UN and other studies in Africa, the Caribbean, Central America have shown that crime undermines the state, drives away business, and destroys social and human capital – and impedes development.
- Having safe, stable and secure societies and communities benefits everyone.
- Progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals is strongly linked to developing safe and equitable communities

Conclusions of ICPC's 2010 International Report on Crime Prevention & Community Safety

- ✦ Crime prevention strategies are more widespread than in the past, but often remain marginalized within broader public safety policies

✓ In 1999, ICPC noted 9 countries that had adopted comprehensive prevention strategies, by 2010, 24 countries had such a strategy

✓ In 2008, 37 countries had broad public safety policies and in 2010, 57 countries were identified



Greater priority must be given to crime prevention in public safety policies

(3) “21st Century is the century of the city”

Urbanization is not the issue – but the speed of the increase, and the ability of cities to adapt and provide infrastructure and supports ...

- The increasing *disparities in income* and *disparities of space*
- 62% of urban populations in sub-Saharan Africa, and over 50% in cities such as Mumbai live in ‘slum cities’





Cities and good governance

- Cities which have shown some very clear reductions in urban homicide and violence in the past few years have implemented *proactive, integrated prevention policies which are inclusive*.
- Examples include Bogota and Medellin in Colombia, and Sao Paulo and Diadema in Brazil...
- ...even in situations where armed violence has existed for generations it has been possible to achieve marked reductions in violence, and improve the quality of life of the urban population.

Conclusions of ICPC's 2010 International Report on Crime Prevention & Community Safety

- Many keys elements of successful crime prevention strategies have been identified:
 - ✓ A sense of trust between populations and institutions
 - ✓ Greater use of mediation and conflict resolution approaches
 - ✓ The active participation of citizens in prevention strategies
- In 2010, public policies on prevention go beyond reducing crime, they also aim to improve the quality of community life

(4) Economic Recession

- The **International Labour Organization's 2011 annual report** argues there may be an increase in ***social unrest***:
 - ...that it will not be possible to recover successfully from the Great Recession unless social inequalities are addressed through well-designed policies. Growing youth unemployment, income inequalities made worse as a result of rising and oil food prices, and other social inequalities undermine support for pro-growth policies.

Economic Recession

- Levels of *violent and property crime* are down in many high income countries eg. in USA and Canada they are at their lowest in several decades
- In Canada, they have been declining over the past twenty years
- In the US, since the recession in 2008 there have been continued declines in all types of crime, and especially in major cities and suburban areas
- Crime prevention is about developing planned, strategic, integrated programmes, anticipating needs, protecting vulnerable groups

(5) Urban violence and youth crime

- Years of experience have shown that tough policing and repressive responses to youth gang and gun violence are not the answer
- Key prevention projects which balance security, social control, legitimacy and include the participation of young people, have reduced homicides, youth violence and gangs – in the USA, in Brazil, in El Salvador...
- Examples range from the Boston project Operation Ceasefire in the US...to Brazilian projects with at risk youth and gang members, such as *Fica Vivo*, *Luta Pela Paz*, and the *AfroReggae* Cultural Group which teaches their arts to the police...(percussion, street theatre, graffiti arts etc.)..





(6) Increasing urban migration – how can we promote multi-ethnic safety and tolerance?

Increasing rates of migration in all regions

- Includes legal and illegal migrants, refugees..
- Migrant groups often **very vulnerable to racism, intolerance and xenophobia** – children and young people and women especially vulnerable
- **Increases in intolerance** of migrants eg. in Europe, Southern Africa...
- **Criminalization** of migration evident, and social and economic exclusion
- **Racial profiling** of migrant, minority and ethnic groups, especially young people

Increasing urban migration – how can we promote multi-ethnic safety and tolerance?

- Yet in the USA, large cities are now much more mixed ethnically and culturally... and
- Migrant groups *not* are associated with higher crime rates – similar findings in other countries
- **Policies to promote inclusion**: national action plans and legislation against racism and discrimination; projects which support migrant groups eg. community mediation projects in multi-ethnic neighbourhoods, eg. *Femmes Relais* run by immigrant women in France; or projects with young people to provide skills and employment eg. through sports etc.

(7) Preventing violence associated with large sports events

- International sporting events - football, soccer, rugby... present countries and cities with many challenges
- Different cultural contexts mean different issues
- British history of hooliganism and violence associated with football – preventive responses have gradually evolved – now using strategic and intelligence and problem-oriented policing approaches, and involving families, changing stadiums..
- European responses include integrated planning and collaboration between police local governments, clubs, development of Steward system supporters clubs, legislation against racism...

Some Recent Tools & Resources

- 2011 - **ICPC & UNODC** *Practical Approaches to Urban Crime Prevention* - Proceedings of the 12th UN Congress crime prevention workshop
- 2010 - **UNODC** *Handbook on the UN Crime Prevention Guidelines: Making them work*
- 2010 & 2008 - **ICPC** *International Report on Crime Prevention & Community Safety*
- 2010 - **UN-HABITAT & ICPC** *Youth Resource Guide*
- 2009 - **UNODC** *Crime Prevention Assessment Tool* – Part 5 of the Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit
- 2007 - **UN-HABITAT** *Safer Cities Programme – Toolkit for Municipalities*
- 2007 - **EFUS** *Safety Audit Compendium*



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Practical Approaches to Urban Crime Prevention

Proceeding of the Workshop
held at the 12th UN Congress
on Crime Prevention and
Criminal Justice, Salvador,
Brazil, April 12-19, 2010

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and Vivien Carli

Montreal 2011



Youth

RESOURCE GUIDE



PARTICIPATE IN SAFER CITIES!

UN-Habitat
International Centre for the Prevention of Crime

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INTERNATIONAL REPORT
**CRIME PREVENTION AND
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TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES



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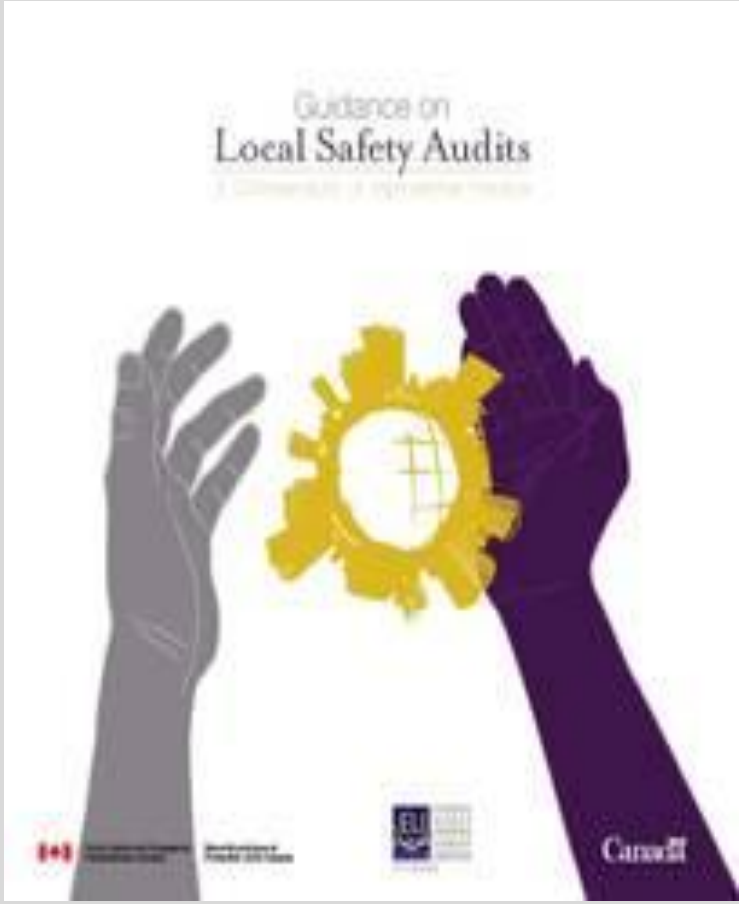
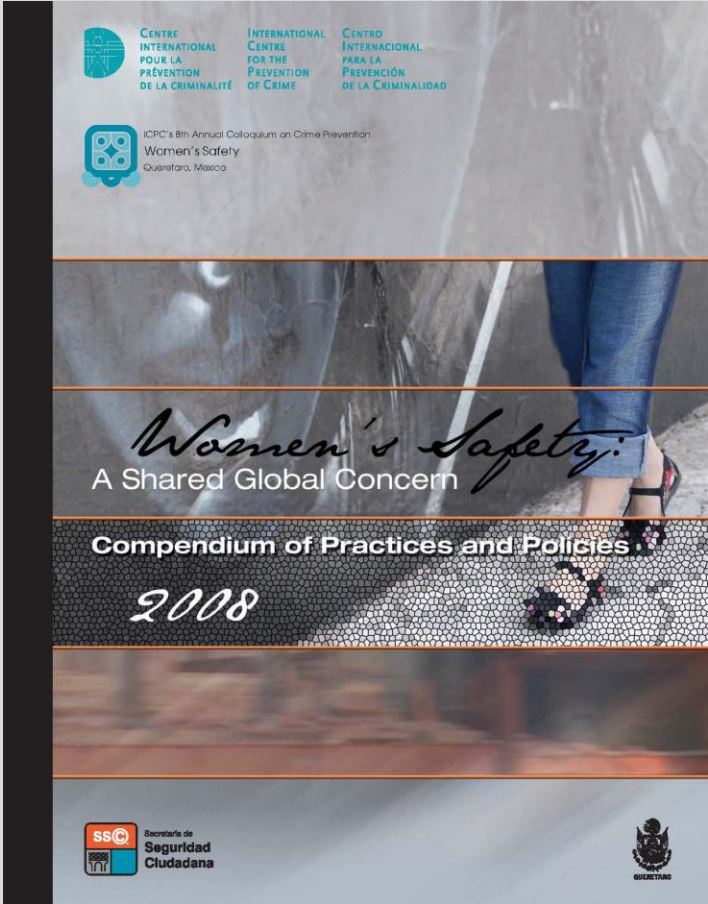
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Merci - Thank you

International Centre for the Prevention of Crime -ICPC:
www.crime-prevention-intl.org

European Forum for Urban Security - EFUS:
www.efus.eu