



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Handbook on Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism

The Handbook on Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism is a specialized tool developed by the Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) of UNODC, which aims to provide law enforcement and criminal justice officials with an accessible guide to dealing with some of the key issues that they face in their efforts to respond to terrorism and related crimes. In particular, it emphasizes that an effective and prevention-focused response to terrorism should include a strong criminal justice response element; one that is guided by a normative legal framework and steeped in the core principles of the rule of law and respect for human rights. The Handbook is available to all United Nations Member States in all six UN official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

The *Handbook* will also be of use to policy makers and political leaders in the shaping of new or enhanced counter-terrorism laws, policies and practices. It reviews the many challenges encountered by the various components of the criminal justice system in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and detention of alleged or convicted perpetrators of terrorist crimes. Furthermore, the handbook offers guidance based on international standards and generally accepted good practices.

As a practical tool, the *Handbook* can be used to facilitate the implementation of the universal legal instruments against terrorism within the context of accepted criminal justice and rule-of-law principles and practices. It can also support capacity building activities for the criminal justice system of a particular country, guide policy development or support training initiatives.

The *Handbook* forms part of a set of technical assistance tools that have been developed by UNODC. Other tools specifically related to the ratification and implementation of the universal legal instruments against terrorism are also available from UNODC, including the Digest of Terrorist Cases; the updated Legislative Guide to the Universal Legal Regime against Terrorism; the Guide for the Legislative Incorporation and Implementation of the Universal Anti-Terrorism Instruments; Preventing Terrorist Acts: a Criminal Justice Strategy Integrating Rule of Law Standards in Implementation of United Nations Anti-Terrorism Instruments; and the electronic legal resources on international terrorism.

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/technical-assistance-tools.html>

