

CCPCJ Thematic Discussions on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration
10-12 November 2021

12 November: Mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention; addressing the needs and protect the rights of children and youth in crime prevention; and empowering youth for crime prevention

Introductory Presentation					
Org/MS	Presenter	Bio	Pic	Time Zone	Email
UNODC/RAB	Fabrizio Sarrica, Research Officer:				
UNODC/JS	Alexandra Souza Martins: Drug Control and Crime Prevention Officer: Prevention of Violence against Women and Children				

*Statement for Ms. Alexandra Souza Martins
Justice Section, Division for Operations*

Violence against women:

- As for violence against children, UNODC has recognized the special need to prevent crime and violence against women and, more specifically, their secondary victimization when they come into contact with the justice system.
- To achieve this, UNODC aims to enable women who experience violence to rely on available, accessible and quality crime prevention and criminal justice responses in line with international standards and norms.
- In 2019, eleven UN, bilateral and multilateral agencies joined forces to launch RESPECT, a framework to facilitate scaling up of 7 evidence-informed strategies to prevent violence against women.
- Common elements of more promising interventions focus on: women’s safety; addressing unequal gender power relations; using participatory approaches that stimulate critical reflection on power and strengthen voice and agency; and also facilitate partnerships across organizations and sectors.
- The seven strategies should not be seen as silos. Successful programmes often have implemented interventions that fall across more than one of the seven strategies.
- One of the 7 strategies aim to meet the needs of survivors of violence against women (VAW) and seek to prevent further violence through provision of essential services, including police, legal, health and social services.
- UNODC is working together with other UN agencies to support the implementation of this strategy, including through the joint UN Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls subject to Violence and the Spotlight Initiative and also focuses on supporting the delivery of police and legal services, which is critical to ensure that laws against VAW are enforced and can signal to societies that such violence is unacceptable.
- Indeed, crime prevention aspects are a key component of UNODC’s Blueprint for Action: an Implementation Plan for Criminal Justice Systems to Prevent and Respond to Violence against Women, a core tool for UNODC technical support in countries around the world that focuses

on 5 key preventive actions that criminal justice agencies should undertake and be involved with:

1. Challenging attitudes and behaviours within their own agencies as well in their communities.
2. Increase personal safety of women, both in private and public spaces.
3. Gender mainstreaming policies, regulations, protocols and guidelines, to ensure that criminal justice agencies promote equality and do not perpetuate tolerance of gender stereotyping and inequality.
4. Codes of conduct for personnel in criminal justice agencies, as a means enforce a zero-tolerance policy.
5. Criminal justice communications strategies that are free from stereotyping, empower survivors and encourage reporting of violence against women.

Violence against Children:

- Preventing child involvement in crime and violence and responding effectively to serious forms of violence against children are pre-requirements for upholding child rights and the achievement of sustainable development: most notably Target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- One of the key challenges faced by many countries in protecting children from crime and violence is the lack of capacity of criminal justice systems in effectively preventing and responding to serious forms of violence against children. The recruitment and exploitation of children by criminal and armed groups, including those designated as terrorist groups is an example of a worrying trend that can only be tackled through the intervention of effective justice systems in close cooperation with other systems such as child protection, health and education sector.
- Based on the recognition that violence against children is not only a crime problem, but is first and foremost a developmental issue, and it is a complex phenomenon that requires concerted and multidisciplinary efforts, in its efforts to support Member States in eliminating violence against children, UNODC places a strong emphasis on prevention by enhancing the protective environment framework for all children, and ensuring that justice systems are well equipped to prevent and respond to serious forms of violence against children.
- Indeed, the justice systems are not only essential for ending impunity and ensuring accountability mechanisms but also instrumental in promoting preventive measures against violence aimed at children.
- It is particularly important to ensure that all preventive measures are integrated into broader developmental and rule of law reform efforts. Focus should be placed on ensuring better access to justice for children, reducing recourse to deprivation of liberty and promoting child-sensitive investigation and court procedures, non-custodial sanctions, restorative justice and diversion, recovery and reintegration of children and prevention of abuse and exploitation.
- Through its Global Programme to End Violence Against Children, UNODC is continuously working to assist Member States to adopt knowledge-based, comprehensive and multisectoral prevention strategies and policies, for instance through providing legal advisory services and technical assistance to review laws and policies to effectively criminalize and prosecute violence against children, in order to address the factors that give rise to violence against children and that expose them to the risk of violence when they come into contact with the justice system, thereby aiming to empower them as agents of change to prevent their involvement in crime and violence.