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**Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory
Meeting for the Fifteenth United Nations
Congress on Crime Prevention and
Criminal Justice**

Bangkok, 21–23 January 2025

Conference room paper

**Recommendations from the GenJust Asia-Pacific regional youth
consultation***

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Conference Room Paper – Recommendations from the GenJust Asia-Pacific regional youth consultation

About Generation Justice

The Generation Justice (GenJust) Youth Network is an initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime that aims to make the 15th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the process leading up to it, the most youth-inclusive one ever¹. Launched in 2024, the initiative amplifies the voices of young people who are passionate about crime prevention and criminal justice, and fosters their meaningful engagement in the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in preparation for the Crime Congress, the Crime Congress itself and its follow-up.

The GenJust Youth Network is composed of 10 young people from each of the five regional groups in which preparatory meetings for the 15th Crime Congress will be held – Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia.

About the GenJust Regional Youth Consultation process

An online survey was circulated in November 2024 with GenJust Network members and youths beyond the Network to collect the views of young people (aged 15 to 29) around the world on policy priorities and challenges related to the topics of the 15th UN Crime Congress agenda. The survey responses were analysed and used to inform the content and direction of a series of online regional youth consultations, including the Asia-Pacific regional youth consultation held on 15 January 2025.

The Asia-Pacific regional youth consultation was attended by members of GenJust's Asia-Pacific Regional Group, as well as members of other UNODC youth networks working on related topics. The youth participants chose two topics of the 15th UN Crime Congress agenda to prioritise (Workshop 1 and Workshop 4) and identified the key challenges and solutions for each. These discussions then informed a series of youth recommendations for

¹ Generation Justice initiative website:
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/GenJust/Index>.

the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting of the 15th Crime Congress, to be held from 21 to 23 January 2025 in Bangkok, which are presented below.

Recommendations for Workshop 1 – Building resilient societies, with a focus on protecting women, children and youth: fostering engagement, education and the culture of lawfulness

Public education and awareness-raising

- We call on Member States to provide education and awareness-raising to vulnerable groups to foster their positive engagement in crime prevention and criminal justice, including providing information on issues that particularly affect women and children, such as gender-based violence, sexual violence, and child abuse. Where possible, we encourage these initiatives to be community-led, evidence-based, and targeted at the root causes and drivers of these issues, which may include harmful gender norms, discrimination, and economic inequalities.
- In particular, we call on governments, civil society, and educational institutions to fund and deliver community legal education on the rights, protections, and support services available for women, children, and other vulnerable groups. This may also include integration into existing education curricula in schools, or publishing easily understandable and accessible information on government websites.
- The format and messaging of such initiatives should be tailored and responsive to the needs and vulnerabilities of different audiences, including being sensitive to their cultural, social, political and economic contexts as well as their literacy and digital access. Examples may include verified online resources, mobile libraries, or rural workshops.
- To enhance engagement, reach, and resource efficiency, education and awareness-raising initiatives should leverage existing local and regional communication methods that are already being used by communities for information-sharing, such as radio programs, newspapers or word-of-mouth dissemination.

Improving access to services and participation

- Recognising that women, children, and other vulnerable groups often experience barriers when reporting crimes or seeking support, we call on Member States to increase the availability and accessibility of reporting mechanisms, referral pathways, and support services for marginalised groups impacted by crime. This may include establishing multiple referral points for support services, such as a hotline number, anonymous online reporting, and in-person community liaisons, which cater to the needs and preferences of different individuals.
- To support the reporting of gender-based violence and other crimes, we recommend that governments create more gender inclusivity in law enforcement and the wider legal system, including by recruiting more female personnel or specialist liaison officers, providing sensitivity training to staff, removing gender biases in reporting mechanisms, creating safe spaces and opportunities for reporting, and supporting broader culture changes within criminal justice institutions.
- We recommend that governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, and faith-based organisations (including religious and traditional communities) collaborate

to provide a holistic, coordinated response to addressing service gaps, resource limitations, and other barriers to accessing justice.

- When designing, implementing and evaluating specific interventions, we encourage stakeholders to ensure the meaningful participation and representation of diverse groups, including giving a voice to the perspectives of indigenous, rural, and other marginalised populations.

Structural changes and cooperation

- To address resource limitations and promote the sharing and development of good practices, we call on Member States to engage in bilateral and multilateral cooperation, specifically to provide capacity-building and technical assistance on reforming laws and policies, enhancing the efficiency and transparency of criminal justice systems, and improving access to justice and legal protections for vulnerable groups. In response to the socioeconomic inequalities prevalent in each region, we also recommend that governments and the international community develop regional support systems to ensure women, young people and other vulnerable groups can access the resources and support that they need.
- We encourage governments, the private sector, and educational institutions to fund research and projects related to peace studies, gender-based violence, at-risk communities, and criminal justice, with particular attention given to grassroots and community-driven initiatives.
- We recommend that governments strengthen and make effective use of existing youth councils, youth-led organisations, and youth participation structures to ensure young people can contribute meaningfully to policy decisions related to crime prevention and criminal justice.

Recommendations for Workshop 4 – Turning the digital age into an opportunity: promoting the responsible use of technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice

The digital divide

- Recognising that the digital divide can perpetuate social inequalities in the context of criminal justice, we call on governments, businesses, civil society, and educational institutions to improve equitable access to digital knowledge and technologies, particularly where such technologies are used for engaging with law enforcement, reporting crimes, accessing support services, or participating in investigative, legal and judicial processes.
- To ensure that disadvantaged groups are not negatively impacted by or excluded from the benefits of digitisation, we recommend that all stakeholders cooperate to provide skills training, resources and affordable access to digital technologies for less digitally literate groups, including women and girls, older people, minority groups, people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, and people in rural and remote areas.

Public education and awareness-raising

- Noting that the public's use of technology often outpaces their knowledge of online safety, we call on Member States to provide education, training, and resources for the general public on how to identify, report, and safeguard against online criminal activities, with a focus on building skills and knowledge around online safety, privacy protection, information and media literacy, critical thinking, fact-checking, and other related skills.
- In particular, we recommend that governments (with the support and cooperation of the private sector) deliver public awareness-raising campaigns on the potential risks of existing and emerging technologies, including misinformation and disinformation, cyber crimes, and online radicalisation.
- In the course of disseminating information and awareness campaigns, we encourage stakeholders to consider engaging with reputable and credible online youth voices, such as social media influencers, content creators, and streaming gamers, in order to reach broader audiences, maximise impact, and ensure the relevance and effectiveness of messaging used while countering violent rhetoric online.

Transparency and accountability

- Recognising that digital technologies can also be a positive force for transparency and engagement, we encourage Member States to utilise online platforms to engage with youth and ensure government initiatives are more youth-inclusive, with the aim of expanding the topics of discussion and allowing young people a safe, online space for communicating with governments, policy-makers, and other decision-makers who may otherwise be inaccessible.
- We recommend that Member States take greater action to protect the general public from harmful online behaviours, including:
 - Legislating to make social media companies legally accountable for violations on their platform, including violations related to age, hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation.
 - Tracking the digital footprint of suspicious accounts that incite harmful, triggering or otherwise offensive content against any ethnic group, religion, race or culture. Measures should be implemented to ensure transparency and unbiased conduct, for example, through public reviews of posts or comments that have been flagged.
 - Updating laws, policies and regulations in response to new and developing technologies, such as AI, in relation to ethical online data use, management, and protection. We also encourage Member States to research and safeguard against the unintended negative impacts of new technologies, such as discriminatory biases and profiling in AI-powered decision-making systems, or undue weight being given to digital or AI-generated evidence in criminal trials.
- We recommend that governments collaborate with private sector stakeholders and allocate funding for the development and adoption of reliable, high-quality technology for investigating and preventing crime (for example, improved usage of CCTV) as well as achieving justice (for example, more advanced technologies for law enforcement). As part of this process, resources should be dedicated to identifying and removing bias and discrimination where possible.