UNODC & YOUTH
CRIME PREVENTION

The promotion of United Nations Standards and Norms for the prevention of crime, including the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the prevention of recidivism, is done by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section of UNODC. The Section provides normative support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, offers technical support and training to Member States, and engages in global advocacy for more evidence-based prevention.

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.

UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime

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There is evidence from all regions of the world that most of those who become involved in crime, whether organized, gang-related or street crime, are young and male. In many countries and communities with high crime rates, children and young people seem to offer a continuous source of recruitment for gangs, drug dealers, violent extremist groups, or traffickers. At UNODC, we therefore promote carefully designed policies and programmes which target root causes of youth crime with a focus on those living in marginalized communities.

The aim of these interventions is to reduce vulnerabilities and risks of victimization; to support youth in their development; and encourage their participation in society. Through tailored, community-based interventions that complement problem-oriented policing with initiatives that promote education and learning, leadership and life skills training, entrepreneurship- and job creation, as well as sport-based initiatives, UNODC helps States to prevent youth and gang crime and build resilience of young people by providing them with opportunities for a life away from violence and crime. UNODC initiatives recognize that young people, by virtue of their age, energies and learning abilities, offer great potential for change and if supported properly, can advocate for themselves and their communities. The initiatives contribute to reducing violence and crime and accelerating progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 16 and violence-related targets under Goals 5 and 11.