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- Handbook on Dynamic Security and Prison Intelligence
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- Handbook on Strategies to Reduce Overcrowding in Prisons
- Handbook on Prisoner File Management
- Handbook on the International Transfer of Sentenced Persons
Over the years the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice have provided a collective vision of how criminal justice system should be structured. Despite their “soft-law” nature, the standards and norms have made a significant contribution to promoting more effective and fair criminal justice structures in three dimensions. Firstly, they can be utilized at the national level by fostering in-depth assessments leading to the adoption of necessary criminal justice reforms. Secondly, they can help countries to develop sub regional and regional strategies. Thirdly, globally and internationally, the standards and norms represent “best practices” that can be adapted by States to meet national needs.

Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.

The Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit is a standardized and cross-referenced set of tools designed to enable United Nations agencies, government officials engaged in criminal justice reform, as well as other organizations and individuals to conduct comprehensive assessments of criminal justice systems; to identify areas of technical assistance; to assist agencies in the design of interventions that integrate United Nations standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice; and to assist in training on these issues. The Tools have been grouped within criminal justice system sectors, with the first four sectors as follows: Policing; Access to Justice; Custodial and Non-Custodial Measures; and Cross-Cutting Issues.

Available in English, French, Spanish and Russian
The Guide for Practitioners on Criminal Justice Reform in Post-conflict States is intended to introduce individuals whose experience in promoting the rule of law may be limited—whether in extent or scope—to different elements of criminal justice reform and, therefore, would help them see the entire landscape of criminal justice reform. Previous studies by other organizations have explored, often in great depth, specific areas of criminal justice reform, but this Guide seeks to examine the full breadth of activity, from policing to courts to prisons, from the formal justice system to customary courts to civil society. The Guide’s chief ambition is not to offer detailed, specialized advice to specialists—to guide experts in, say, prisons through the complex terrain of prison reform. Instead, this guide aims to provide a general overview and to enable specialists in all areas to think outside the box, to see their own activity within the broad context of the criminal justice reform process.

Available in English
The focus of the current desk review relates to the potential role of sport to act as an effective tool for preventing violent extremism (PVE) and has two primary research objectives: (1) to map existing PVE through sports initiatives which target risk factors and protective factors and/or may be used as a vehicle for social development and community engagement especially for those youth most at risk of being radicalised on a path towards violent extremism; and, (2) to identify any evidence-base underpinning sports-based initiatives which substantiate claims/beliefs regarding their effectiveness and impact, notably positively influencing change in terms of youth vulnerabilities, attitudes and/or behaviours of violent extremism concern.

Available in English

The Line Up Live Up Trainer manual builds on the experience of the United Nations and other partners in developing and implementing evidence-based crime, violence and drug use prevention programmes—including designing life skills training curricula—and transfers this accumulated expertise to sport settings. The manual has been developed as a tool to assist coaches, trainers, youth workers and other professionals working with young people to deliver sports-based training exercises to males and females from 13 to 18 years of age. The 10 interactive sessions included in the manual have been carefully designed to target a specific set of life skills and increase knowledge on the risks associated with crime and drug-use. Beside a trainer manual, Line Up Live Up also includes a set of instruction cards and a logbook for the youth.

Available in English, Arabic, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese
The Global status report on violence prevention 2014 represents the progress countries have made in implementing the recommendations of the 2002 World report on violence and health. The specific aims of the report are to: • describe the state of the problem of interpersonal violence worldwide and the extent to which countries are collecting data on fatal and non-fatal violence to inform planning and action; • assess the current status of programme, policy and legislative measures to prevent violence; • evaluate the availability of health care, social and legal services for victims of violence; • identify gaps in tackling the problem of interpersonal violence and stimulate national action to address them.

Available in English and Chinese

The framework proposes that the use of a strategic approach to urban security should be based on an in-depth understanding of how a wider set of localised risk factors interact with illicit external flows to create conditions of insecurity, including different forms of ‘criminal governance’ that seek to subvert city and state governance. Responses, while context specific, must seek to reverse such processes, re-establishing legitimate governance, reducing inequality and promoting inclusion and individual and community resilience. The framework provides a process to guide policy makers to a better understanding of how to approach to addressing the intersection of global threats and local dynamics, including by identifying nodes or levers that could promote change; and seek out what builds resilience.

Available in English
The Introductory Handbook on Policing Urban Space addresses the crime prevention and community safety problems in the growing cities of low- and middle-income countries and how collaboration between urban planners, civil society, government officials and different types of police can help to solve those problems. It also examines a variety of crime control strategies, including community-oriented policing, problem-oriented policing, intelligence-led policing, situational crime prevention, the “broken windows” theory and the strategy on crime prevention through environmental design. It includes examples of efforts to control crime in an array of countries, including Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

Available in English, French and Portuguese

Designed to complement and build on the Handbook, the Training Manuals aim to support practitioners and policymakers in the design and implementation of effective interventions: Help justice professionals appreciate the role that the justice system can play in cooperation with other systems to protect children, and empower professionals to understand the complex nature of child recruitment and to design comprehensive strategies to prevent it.

Available in English and Spanish
The Resource Book on the use of force and firearms in law enforcement aims to support States in their efforts to develop and implement more effective, accountable and human rights-based law enforcement policies. It is intended for policy and law-makers in particular, including those involved in the drafting of policies, regulations, Standard Operating Procedures and training materials on the use of force and firearms, as well as for stakeholders exercising control and oversight functions over law enforcement agencies.

Available in English

This Introductory Handbook on State Regulation concerning Civilian Private Security Services and Their Contribution to Crime Prevention and Community Safety is designed to provide practical guidance for legislators and policymakers seeking to regulate the civilian private security industry. It focuses on the specific role of civilian private security services in crime prevention and community safety, and the measures that States can take to regulate these services effectively and set standards and norms in the best interests of all stakeholders. The Introductory Handbook provides examples of self-regulation and other international good practice and is anchored in existing internationally agreed standards concerning human rights, security, crime prevention and community safety, as well as the results of the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to date.

Available in English
The handbook aims to assist countries in their efforts to develop effective police oversight and accountability systems within their law enforcement structures. Tasks that involve law enforcement require a high degree of integrity within police agencies. The handbook provides guidance on how to deal with complaints from the public regarding policing activities, e.g. complaints on how investigations are handled and follow-up by police officers. While the handbook emphasizes that the key players in enhancing police accountability are police officers themselves, it also describes an integrated approach that involves different actors in this system, including government representatives, the parliament, the judiciary, civil society and independent oversight bodies such as national human rights institutions.

Available in English
This publication is offered in direct response to General Assembly Resolution 67/185 on “Promoting efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families.” That resolution pointed to the continuing instances of criminal acts committed against migrants, migrant workers and their families in all regions of the world, including acts of violence, and called for States to strengthen their efforts to prevent and combat violence, prosecute its perpetrators and protect its victims. The publication is offered as a tool to support States in their efforts to those ends. It offers several measures for legislators, policymakers and criminal justice practitioners and others who encounter migrants in regular and irregular situations in their work.

Available in English

Building peace requires more than simply bringing an end to armed conflict; it also requires strengthening the rule of law. The international standards and norms summarized in the present handbook can assist in this critical process. The handbook summarizes the international human rights and criminal justice principles that United Nations police personnel must know, abide by and promote when deployed in peacekeeping operations and special political missions. As such, it is designed to serve a dual purpose. Firstly, it is a code of conduct for police operating under the United Nations flag. Secondly, it is a reference source to help national authorities to improve policing.

Available in English and French
This Handbook is intended as a practical guide for policymakers and practitioners for planning and implementing measures to ensure, monitor and constantly improve the quality of legal aid services. As many countries are still developing their national legal aid systems, it is crucial that they include quality assurance considerations and measures from the outset. Examples are provided from countries across all regions that have made progress in establishing such measures and have shared their experiences. The Handbook is designed to address some of the key issues that countries face, including by explaining the relevant provisions of the UN Principles and Guidelines and other standards; outlining approaches to quality assurance and describing relevant considerations for designing programmes; providing policymakers, civil servants and other practitioners with tools for quality assurance and monitoring/evaluating; and sharing practical and innovative examples from different jurisdictions.

Available in English and Bahasa Indonesian

This Handbook is intended as a practical guide to developing and implementing policies and programmes to ensure early access to legal aid, including by implementing the international standards set by the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems. It is designed to address some of the challenges that practitioners face in ensuring such access to legal aid, including by systematically exploring the challenges and obstacles to effective provision of early access to legal aid; providing policymakers, civil servants and practitioners (lawyers, judges, prosecutors, police officers, detention officers, civil society actors and others) with tools for capacity development to assist them in overcoming such challenges and obstacles; suggesting some practical and innovative solutions, using examples from different jurisdictions and providing training resources for legal aid providers and the police (or other investigative agencies).

Available in English, Chinese and Vietnamese
The Model Law is designed to address some of the challenges that lawmakers face in drafting legal aid legislation. In order to facilitate its adaptation to national legislation, the Model Law presents some of its provisions in the form of options. In addition, the Model Law is supplemented by the commentary, which serves to explain the legal basis for each provision and offers as much useful information as possible on each relevant issue. Similarly, each model provision is supplemented by comparative examples to present variants of legal aid legislation in different countries around the world. The Model Law adopts a broad approach to legal aid, in line with the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems. It is not limited to legal representation, but also includes the provision of legal advice, assistance and information by a wide variety of legal aid providers to the vulnerable members of society, who are the main legal aid beneficiaries.

Available in English

The UNDP/UNODC Global Study on Legal Aid examines how the right to legal aid in civil, criminal and administrative cases has been defined and addressed around the world. The Global Study is the international community’s first attempt to collect data on and present a comprehensive overview of the state of legal aid globally. It provides valuable insights on a number of common priorities faced by countries for enhancing people’s access to effective legal aid services. The Global Study on Legal Aid is comprised of three publications: (i) the Global Report, which presents data, findings and recommendations on access and provision of legal aid services around the world; (ii) Case Studies, which provide in-depth analysis of the state of legal aid delivery in 8 countries; and (iii) Country Profiles, which contain information on various aspects of legal aid delivery in 49 countries.

Available in English
The Handbook on Improving Access to Legal Aid in Africa was developed to address the need recognized in ECOSOC resolution 2007/24 on international cooperation for the improvement of access to legal aid in criminal justice systems, particularly in Africa. The Handbook provides an overview of the progress that has been made towards improving access to legal aid services in criminal justice systems in Africa in order to assist policymakers, practitioners and all stakeholders actively involved in criminal justice reform in three ways: by providing the general information needed for developing national legal aid service delivery strategies, by offering alternatives to conventional models of legal aid delivery and by outlining promising practices on the continent, some particularly suitable for post-conflict societies.

Available in English

This paper explores the legal, policy, and practical issues involved in creating and maintaining “child friendly” legal aid programs in Africa. International and regional conventions, declarations, and rules contain references to states’ obligations to provide legal assistance to children. These normative instruments, however, do not discuss the unique attributes and needs of child clients, nor the skills that legal assistance providers must have in order to effectively deliver child friendly legal aid. This paper focuses on the link between emerging research on child and adolescent development and the importance of structuring legal assistance schemes in ways that take into account children’s developmental immaturity and their evolving capacities over the span of childhood after discussing the key components of child-friendly legal aid, the paper turns to an examination of the core competencies of individual service providers. These core competencies, grounded in the psychological, social and cultural dynamics affecting children, include effective interviewing, investigation, counselling, negotiation and advocacy.

Available in English and French
Violence against women is a major public health problem rooted in gender inequality, and is a gross violation of women’s human rights affecting the lives and health of millions of women and girls. Aiming to end violence against women, a package/framework with infographics on prevention of violence against women - RESPECT – Preventing violence against women: A framework for policymakers, was developed, based on the UN framework for action to prevent violence against women from 2015 and updated new evidence.

Available in English

Globally, women face barriers to obtaining justice in their capacities as claimants, victims, witnesses, or offenders, often driven by institutional, policy, and legislative failure to remove discrimination, gender bias, stereotyping, stigma, indifference, corruption, and impunity. The Toolkit presents practitioners with a menu of options for preventing and addressing the obstacles that women face prior to, during and after contact within the justice system. It is informed by the recommendations of two interrelated mapping exercises undertaken by the United Nations to assess its operational activities in relation to women’s access to justice in conflict and non-conflict settings, respectively.

Available in English and Spanish
The United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, a partnership by UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP and UNODC, aims to provide greater access to a coordinated set of essential and quality multi-sectoral services for all women and girls who have experienced gender based violence. The Programme identifies the essential services to be provided by the health, social services, police and justice sectors as well as guidelines for the coordination of essential services and the governance of coordination processes and mechanisms. Service delivery guidelines for the core elements of each essential service have been identified to ensure the delivery of high-quality services, particularly for low- and middle-income countries, for women and girls experiencing violence. Taken together, these elements comprise the “Essential services package”.

Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish


Available in English
This Handbook is designed to assist police officers by familiarizing them with relevant international laws, norms and standards relating to violence against women and informing them about some promising practical approaches to effective police response to acts of violence against women. It is hoped that police first-responders, investigators, supervisors and managers will benefit from the descriptions they will find in this Handbook of good strategies, procedures and practices that have helped police forces to enhance the safety and security of women in their communities.

Available in English, French and Spanish

The present training curriculum is designed to help develop within local and national police the knowledge and skills required to respond in an effective and appropriate manner to violence against women—specifically violence within intimate relationships. This includes measures to prevent violence against women, ways to respond to and investigate acts of violence, and resources to meet the needs of victims during and after an incident.

Available in English, French and Spanish
Drawing upon the recommendations and guidance contained in the updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UN Women, in cooperation with Thailand Institute of Justice, have drafted the Handbook on Effective Prosecution Responses to Violence against Women and Girls with a view to assist prosecutors in their duty to uphold the rule of law, firmly protect human rights and serve their community with impartiality and fairness in cases involving violence against women and girls. Recognizing that prosecutors work in different legal systems, this Handbook is meant to be a resource to build on for individual prosecutors and prosecution services.

*Available in English*

This *Resource Book* is intended to be a tool for planning and conducting interactive adult learning-centred training sessions for prosecutors on effective responses when prosecuting crimes involving violence against women. Given that this is a global tool, it has been designed to be purposefully broad to serve as a reference document. It sets out templates of training modules that can be adapted and modified by national prosecution agencies to develop their own curriculum based on their national training needs, local context and legal system.

*Available in English and Ukrainian*
This study, the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region, seeks to analyze how the varying criminal justice systems in Thailand and Viet Nam respond to reported cases of rape and sexual assault, and to identify the key institutional factors associated with the disposition of cases in these countries. In doing so, the study aims to understand where and how attrition of sexual violence cases occurs and identify strategic entry points for strengthening the administration of justice in this area. The study finds, consistent with other global attrition studies, that cases can filter out at every stage of the justice process. There are four major points of attrition; 1) Initial reporting stage; 2) Investigative stage; 3) Pre-trial stage; and 4) Trial stage.

Available in English, Thai and Vietnamese

This handbook aims to assist legislators, policymakers, prison managers, staff and non-governmental organizations in addressing the gender-specific needs of women prisoners. It is intended to increase awareness about the profile of female offenders and suggests ways in which to reduce their unnecessary imprisonment, including by rationalizing legislation and criminal justice policies and by providing a wide range of alternatives to imprisonment at all stages of the criminal justice process. In its 2nd edition, the Handbook now includes comprehensive reference to the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

Available in Arabic, English Russian, Spanish and Turkish
This training curriculum has been designed to develop knowledge and skills amongst criminal justice officials and policymakers to implement the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). The curriculum is to be used in conjunction with the UNODC Handbook on Women and Imprisonment, which provides further information, examples and good practices. The training curriculum contains 12 modules that focus on the different subject areas of the Bangkok Rules as well as a number of supplementary materials (such as handouts and test questions/answers).

Available in Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian, English, Macedonian, Montenegrin and Serbian
This Handbook was developed with a view to providing coherent and consistent guidance to national authorities on the treatment of children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups, with emphasis on the role of the justice system. The elaboration of the Handbook was informed by three key objectives: (a) preventing the recruitment of children by terrorist and violent extremist groups; (b) identifying effective justice responses to children recruited and exploited by such groups, whether they are in contact with the justice system as victims, witnesses or alleged offenders; and (c) promoting the rehabilitation and reintegration of those children.

Available in Arabic, English, French and Russian

Designed to complement and build on the Handbook, the Training Manuals aim to support practitioners and policymakers in the design and implementation of effective interventions: Help justice professionals appreciate the role that the justice system can play in cooperation with other systems to protect children, and empower professionals to understand the complex nature of child recruitment and to design comprehensive strategies to prevent it.

Available in English
Designed to complement and build on the Handbook, the Training Manuals aim to support practitioners and policy-makers in the design and implementation of effective interventions: Offer practical guidance to justice professionals on how to deal with children who are alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having committed terrorism-related offences, and sets out strategies and tools that are in accordance with international law.

Available in English
INSPIRE is an evidence-based resource for everyone committed to preventing and responding to violence against children and adolescents – from government to grassroots, and from civil society to the private sector. It represents a select group of strategies based on the best available evidence to help countries and communities intensify their focus on the prevention programmes and services with the greatest potential to reduce violence against children. The seven strategies are: Implementation and enforcement of laws; Norms and values; Safe environments; Parent and caregiver support; Income and economic strengthening; Response and support services; and Education and life skills. Additionally, INSPIRE includes two cross-cutting activities that together help connect and strengthen and assess progress towards – the seven strategies.

Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish

The INSPIRE handbook: Action for implementing the seven strategies for ending violence against children explains in detail how to choose and implement interventions that will fit your needs and context. The seven strategy-specific chapters address the Implementation and enforcement of laws; Norms and values; Safe environments; Parent and caregiver support; Income and economic strengthening; Response and support services; and Education and life skills. The handbook concludes with a summary of INSPIRE’s implementation and impact indicators, drawn from the companion INSPIRE indicator guidance and results framework.

Available in English, Spanish and Ukrainian
The INSPIRE Indicator Guidance and Results Framework is designed to help governments and non-governmental organizations monitor progress and track change over time as they implement INSPIRE strategies to prevent and respond to violence against children. It includes a set of core indicators and detailed guidance about how to define and measure these indicators to monitor changes across sites and over time, and a results framework. The indicators are intended to be used side-by-side with detailed programming guidance for each strategy included in the INSPIRE implementation handbook.

Available in English

The Training Programme on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime is intended to be a tool for planning and conducting training of law enforcement officials on the treatment of child victims and witnesses. The design of the training programme is based on a ‘training of trainers’ format and adopts a multidisciplinary approach. The curriculum consists of an intensive and interactive two-day training programme covering five modules: (1) Introduction on treatment of child victims and witnesses of crime; (2) Dignity of child victims and witnesses of crime; (3) non-discrimination of child victims and witnesses of crime (4); best interests of child victims and witnesses of crime; and (5) right to participation of child victims and witnesses of crime.

Available in English
This training programme is based on the premise that well-trained law enforcement officials are an indispensable part of the response to crimes against children and the consequent requirement of protection of child victims and witnesses at all stages of the justice delivery process. Yet the responsibilities of criminal justice systems do not lie exclusively in punishing offenders, but above all and primarily in respecting and restoring the human rights and needs of child victims and child witnesses. The objectives of the training programme will be accomplished through enhancement of practical and legal knowledge, upgrading of investigation skills and developing an appropriate attitudinal orientation towards treatment of child victims and child witnesses with specific focus on cases involving child sexual exploitation.

Available in English

The Introductory Booklet introduces the "United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice" by describing 17 broad strategies in connection to the difficult challenges faced by every society and community trying to implement them effectively. In order to do so, the Booklet targets specifically policy-makers and practitioners, aiming to help them to become familiar with the Model Strategies and to give guidance on how to make use of them daily to bring significant and lasting improvements to the national justice system. In particular, this tool is meant to help the people working with and for children, to address the huge and persistent problem of violence in a more strategic and effective manner and identify their own reform and capacity-building agenda.

Available in English and French
The Checklist has been designed to facilitate the initial phase of the implementation of the "United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice", which consists of carrying out an in depth needs assessment and identifying crucial priorities for action. The objective of this tool is to assist agencies and actors that can contribute to the implementation of the Model Strategies, to systematically review the current situation, assess the present capacity of the justice system to respond to incidents of violence against children, develop a comprehensive strategy, and drafting a clear plan of action for the implementation.

Available in English and French

This Model Law and the related Commentary are designed to provide legal guidance to States in the process of juvenile justice reform and assist them in drafting juvenile justice legislation. It translates compelling international juvenile justice standards and norms into a national context and aims at harmonizing national legislation with international requirements. International standards and norms in the area of juvenile justice are detailed.

Available in English, French, Russian and Tajik
The main objective of the present publication is to provide a conceptual framework for the design of juvenile justice reform programmes and a general approach for evaluating the impact of those programmes on children and their rights and on crime and public safety. This involves, initially, identifying the general criteria upon which to base such evaluations. The evaluations should make it possible to identify good practices that can be replicated at the national, regional or international level. The criteria must reflect the dual roles of juvenile justice reforms: to protect children and their rights and to protect society by preventing crime and repeat offending.

Available in English, French, Russian and Spanish

To assist States in adapting their national legislation to the provisions contained in the UN Guidelines and in other relevant international instruments, the present Model Law on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime is intended as a tool for drafting legal provisions concerning assistance to and the protection of child victims and witnesses of crime, particularly within the justice process. To further assist States in interpreting and implementing its provisions, the Model Law is accompanied by a commentary that is intended to serve as guidelines for interpretation and implementation.

Available in English, French and Spanish
In order to assist countries in implementing, at the national level, the provisions contained in the Guidelines and in other relevant international instruments, UNODC, in cooperation with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and the International Bureau for Children’s Rights, has developed the present Handbook for Professionals and Policymakers on the Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime. The Handbook is based on international best practices in the treatment of child victims and witnesses of crime by the criminal justice system. It is intended to serve as guidance for policymakers and professionals dealing with child victims and witnesses of crime, such as judges, medical and support staff, law enforcement officials, prosecutors, social workers, staff of non-governmental organizations and teachers.

Available in Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, English, French, Russian and Spanish

These guidelines were created to translate the UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime into child-friendly language for children to know their rights.

Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish
The purpose of this manual is to introduce the fifteen juvenile justice indicators and to make clear their utility. It explains how measuring the indicators can contribute to the protection of the child in conflict with the law through actions at both the local and the central level. It offers practical guidance, strategies and tools for information collection, information collation and calculation of the indicators.

Available in English, French, Russian and Spanish

This publication provides programme and advocacy experiences in juvenile justice reform representing the diversity of approaches of the member organisations on the Inter-Agency Coordination Panel on Juvenile Justice. This set of programme and advocacy experiences span five categories of reform efforts: Legal Support, Alternative Sanctions, Capacity Building/Training, Public Awareness and Advocacy and Monitoring and Reporting. They are presented here to raise awareness of promising tactics for improving the protection for children in conflict with the law and to stimulate ideas and action for future reforms.

Available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish
This handbook is one of a series of practical tools developed by UNODC to support countries in the implementation of the rule of law and the development of criminal justice reform. It can be used in a variety of contexts, including as part of UNODC technical assistance and capacity building projects. It introduces the reader to restorative justice programmes and processes. The present handbook offers, in a quick reference format, an overview of key considerations in the implementation of participatory responses to crime based on a restorative justice approach. Its focus is on a range of measures and programmes, inspired by restorative justice values, that are flexible in their adaptation to criminal justice systems and that complement them while taking into account varying legal, social and cultural circumstances.

Available in English, French, Farsi and Turkish

Training Curriculum on Restorative Justice Programmes – Coming Soon

Available in English
This Handbook is one of a series of practical tools developed by UNODC to support countries in the implementation of the rule of law and the development of criminal justice reform. It can be used in a variety of contexts, including as part of UNODC technical assistance and capacity building projects. The handbook introduces the reader to the basic principles central to understanding alternatives to imprisonment as well as descriptions of promising practices implemented throughout the world. A companion Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes is also available from UNODC.

*Available in English, French, Spanish and Turkish*
This handbook covers the special needs of eight groups of prisoners, which have a particularly vulnerable status in prisons. They are: Prisoners with mental health care needs; Prisoners with disabilities; Ethnic and racial minorities and indigenous peoples; Foreign national prisoners; Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) prisoners; Older prisoners; Prisoners with terminal illness and Prisoners under sentence of death.

Available in Arabic, English, Spanish and Turkish

The Handbook covers the basic principles of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime and explores the range of approaches to crime prevention that now exist, and the main recommendations on organizing a crime prevention strategy or programme based on these principles. It includes information on the kinds of methods and tools that can be utilized and are becoming increasingly available.

Available in Arabic, English, French, German, Russian, Spanish and Thai
The Handbook introduces readers to promising practices and programmes for reducing recidivism by addressing the social reintegration challenges faced by all offenders, in particular by those who are or have been incarcerated. The tool can be used in a variety of contexts, including as part of technical assistance and capacity-building projects. It is meant, however, to be particularly helpful in supporting reforms and programme development in low- and middle-income countries. The target audience of the Handbook is anyone involved in the criminal justice process, including policymakers, legislators, judges, law enforcement officials, prison managers and staff, probation and parole officers, service providers, members of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders interested in crime prevention and the treatment of offenders.

Available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish

While rehabilitation covers a wide variety of activities – including medical and psychological treatment, counselling and cognitive-behavioural programmes - this roadmap focuses on the three core areas of education, vocational training and work in prisons. There are several reasons for expanding activity in these areas. Not least of these is the fact that learning and working are an exercise of fundamental human rights which should, apart from the constraints inherent in imprisonment, be also enjoyed by people deprived of their liberty.

Available in English, French and Spanish
This Handbook constitutes the first technical guidance tool which addresses the manifestation of radicalization to violence and violent extremism in prison settings at the level of the United Nations. It provides practical guidance on the management of violent extremist prisoners (prisoners who have embraced violent extremism); on preventing the progression to violent extremism in prisons (prisoners who may be vulnerable to radicalization to violence); and on interventions aimed at disengaging violent extremist prisoners from violence and at facilitating their social reintegration upon release. Key prison management policies and mechanisms are covered.

Available in Arabic, English, French, German and Russian

The focus of this Handbook is the management of prisoners who are assessed as posing a significant risk to security (i.e. risk of escape), stability (i.e. risk risk to the order of the prison) and/or to society (i.e. risk of conducting criminal activity outside the prison). Tasked with the responsibility of managing such prisoners, prison administrations have to ensure that a proper balance is maintained between care and control, between their obligations to respect the human dignity and rights of these prisoners and their duty to protect society from crime. They also have a duty to work towards these prisoners’ social reintegration, as far as possible, whatever offences they may have committed. This is perhaps one of the most challenging tasks with which any prison administration is faced, and a test of their professionalism. This Handbook provides commentary on how prisoners assessed as high risk can be managed securely and safely while at the same time meeting their right to opportunities for communication, social interaction and rehabilitation.

Available in Arabic and English
Through this handbook, UNODC seeks to formally acknowledge and articulate a problem endured by all jurisdictions and to underline the international commitment to addressing it. The aim of this handbook is not simply to address corruption once it occurs but also to help Member States prevent corruption and protect prisoners, staff and communities from its insidious consequences. This is without prejudice to the fact that the management of prisons is one of the most difficult and demanding tasks that societies require, and many prison leaders and staff work with great professionalism and commitment to provide safe, decent and just conditions in prisons.

Available in English

Maintaining a proper balance between security measures and international standards and norms relevant to the treatment of prisoners can be a challenge for prison administrators. The theme of this Handbook is prison security, i.e. the means by which escapes and other crimes are prevented. It focusses on the contribution of dynamic security, which rests on an alert staff who interact with, and know the prisoners under their control, and highlights prison intelligence as one particular element of dynamic security. Prison intelligence provides important information for use within the prison to prevent escapes and maintain order and control, and can also be used more widely to prevent prisoners from directing criminal activity taking place outside the prison.

Available in Arabic, English and French
This Handbook focuses on an overview of key issues which should be of concern to prison managers and the reforms they must often engage in and promote as prison leaders. It is meant to support a basic five-day training workshop for prison officials responsible for leading and managing prisons in developing or post-conflict countries.

Available in Arabic, English and French

The causes of prison overcrowding are not confined to the limits of criminal justice, but extend to other spheres of State responsibility, such as social welfare policies, access to health services, education and employment, among others. It would not be feasible to cover such a vast topic in a comprehensive and useful manner in one publication, the primary aim of which is to provide practical guidance to its readers, rather than offering an in-depth discussion of the diverse political, social and economic factors relating to the topic of overcrowding in prisons around the world. As such, this Handbook’s scope is limited to offering an overview of some key criminal justice centered aspects of overcrowding. Within the framework of criminal justice policies and programmes, it aims to provide some guidance for strategy and policy development, illustrate good practice examples and encourage further thinking and research.

Available in Arabic, English, French, Indonesian and Spanish
The purpose of this Handbook is three-fold: to demonstrate the importance of effective prisoner file management, illustrating the consequences of poor or non-existent management; to outline the key international human rights standards that apply to prisoner and detainee file management; to summarize the key requirements of prison systems in relation to prisoner and detainee file management in order to meet international human rights standards, illustrating how these might be met.

*Available in Arabic, English and French*

With the increase in international travel and migration, it has become progressively more common for countries around the world to convict and sentence foreign citizens to terms of imprisonment or other forms of deprivation of liberty. This has raised the issue of how best to deal with such sentenced persons. The Handbook on the International Transfer of Sentenced Persons explains how transferring such persons to another State to serve their sentences can contribute to dealing with them fairly and effectively. The Handbook is designed to be used by all actors involved in the criminal justice system, including policymakers, legislators, prison managers, prison staff, prosecutors, police, members of nongovernmental organizations and other individuals interested or active in the field of criminal justice and prison reform.

*Available in English*