



Terms of Engagement – Generation Justice (GenJust) Youth Network

Background

To make long-term and sustainable progress against crime and violence around the globe, the meaningful engagement of youth is not just desirable but necessary. Young people between the ages of 15- and 24-years old account for the largest generation in history, with close to 90 per cent of the youth living in developing countries. It is essential for youth to provide feedback into policies affecting all futures considering the impact that crime and violence have on younger generations and because today's youth will lead, and live in, tomorrow's societies.

Young people have the capacity for innovation not yet influenced by experiences with traditional processes, and they are exceptionally adept at speaking simple powerful truths. Around the world, youth-led and youth-focused organizations are providing invaluable services to prevent violence and crime, empower and ultimately protect vulnerable youth from recruitment and exploitation by criminal networks. Their contribution is immense, particularly in highlighting the root causes of crime and violence, injecting new urgency in strengthening prevention, and calling for accountability in criminal justice systems.

Youth must be treated as partners in international discussions on crime prevention and criminal justice. They must be given the chance not just to speak but to be heard, and to impact the outcomes of the discussions. The empowerment of young people is essential to tackle challenges faced by Member States and the international community to reduce crime and violence, including causal factors linked to delinquent behaviour and victimization. Moreover, empowering young people is key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. the SDGs.

The 15th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Crime Congress), to be held in the United Arab Emirates in 2026, will set the normative agenda on the topic for the years to follow. It will be a golden opportunity to include the voices of younger generations more than ever before as we look for new solutions to long-standing and emerging challenges and strive to leave no one behind.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is aiming to make the 15th Crime Congress, and the process leading up to it, the most youth-inclusive one ever, by creating the space for young people and amplifying their voice as well as facilitating their contribution. UNODC's **Generation Justice (GenJust)** initiative will look to harness the energy of younger generations and foster their engagement in the 1) work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in preparation for the Crime Congress, and 2) the Crime Congress itself and its follow-up.

Objectives

Generation Justice (GenJust) has the following key objectives:

- To introduce youth participants to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and Crime Congress processes, including timelines and opportunities to provide substantive input for consideration by Member States during negotiations of the CCPCJ resolutions and the Congress Declaration;



- To increase their substantive knowledge on UNODC mandates on crime prevention and criminal justice issues related to the work of the CCPCJ and the Crime Congress, including UN Standards and Norms in the above areas and the overall theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the 15th Crime Congress;
- To facilitate and support their participation during CCPCJ sessions (e.g., high-level youth-focused side-event to kick-start the Generation Justice initiative in 2024);
- To enhance their communication and leadership skills and facilitate their meaningful participation in the intergovernmental processes.

Responsibilities of Network Members

UNODC is looking to engage 10 youth representatives per region as per the 5 regional groups in which preparatory meetings for the 15th Crime Congress will be held (Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Asia, Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Europe), to form a network known as the “GenJust Youth Network”. The Network provides members with the opportunity to enhance negotiation and policy-making skills, increase youth visibility in the international arena, and strengthen peer connections.

Members of the GenJust Youth Network (the Network) should:

- Be available to actively participate in the Network activities from Spring 2024 to Fall 2026, including the 15th Crime Congress in Abu Dhabi in 2026;
- Contribute to and co-lead regional youth consultations in the margins of the five regional preparatory meetings to be held in 2025;
- Speak on behalf of the Network in UNODC events;
- Be available to participate in quarterly virtual meetings;
- Contribute to side events and other promotional events in the lead up to the 15th Crime Congress;
- Demonstrate commitment to the UN values and participate with integrity in all activities.

UNODC Engagement

- Meaningfully engage the Network in the planning of youth activities related to the 15th Crime Congress and its regional meetings as well as the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;
- Coordinate and manage communication of the Network;
- Organise and deliver training and capacity building in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, advocacy, and decision and policy-making processes and procedures to enable network members to fully and effectively fulfil their responsibilities, as outlined above;
- Provide an enabling environment for the Network to liaise and collaborate with UNODC colleagues in HQ and the field and relevant focal points on substantive themes;
- Promote synergies and linkages between the Network and relevant UNODC’s programmes and initiatives;
- Members of the Network will not receive any remuneration. Engagement will mainly happen virtually and, should dedicated funding become available. UNODC might be in a position to fund travel expenses of some nominated Network members to related in-person meetings.



Eligibility

The following criteria shall be applied when selecting the 50 members of the Network. To apply, you will need to fill out the form (<https://forms.office.com/e/qBwGdVdHBH>) by 23:59 CET on 17 March 2024:

- Members should be between the ages of 18 and 29 years old at the time of the application (born between 1 January 1995 and 31 December 2006).
- Knowledge of crime prevention and/or criminal justice and, where possible, experience such as professional or vocational experience;
- Professional and academic affiliation or an affiliation with civil society organizations will also be considered in the selection process;
- Focus will be given to diversity and inclusiveness, geographical and gender representation of youth from diverse backgrounds, including youth with disabilities;
- Members should write a Motivation Statement of up to 500 words explaining why they want to participate in the Network;
- Members should be able to communicate well in English, both orally and in writing.

Changes to the Terms of Engagement

Changes to these terms of engagement can only be made by UNODC, in consultation with the Network.

NOTE: This is a draft document that will be finalized in consultation with the selected GenJust Youth Network Members.