

PNI NEWSLETTER

THE UNITED NATIONS CRIME PREVENTION
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME
NETWORK OF INSTITUTES (PNI)

ABU DHABI 2026 UN CONGRESS
ON CRIME PREVENTION AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
ARTICLES
UPDATES ON PNI ACTIVITIES

ISSUE 08
AUTUMN
2026



The 15th UN Congress on Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice, Abu Dhabi 2026

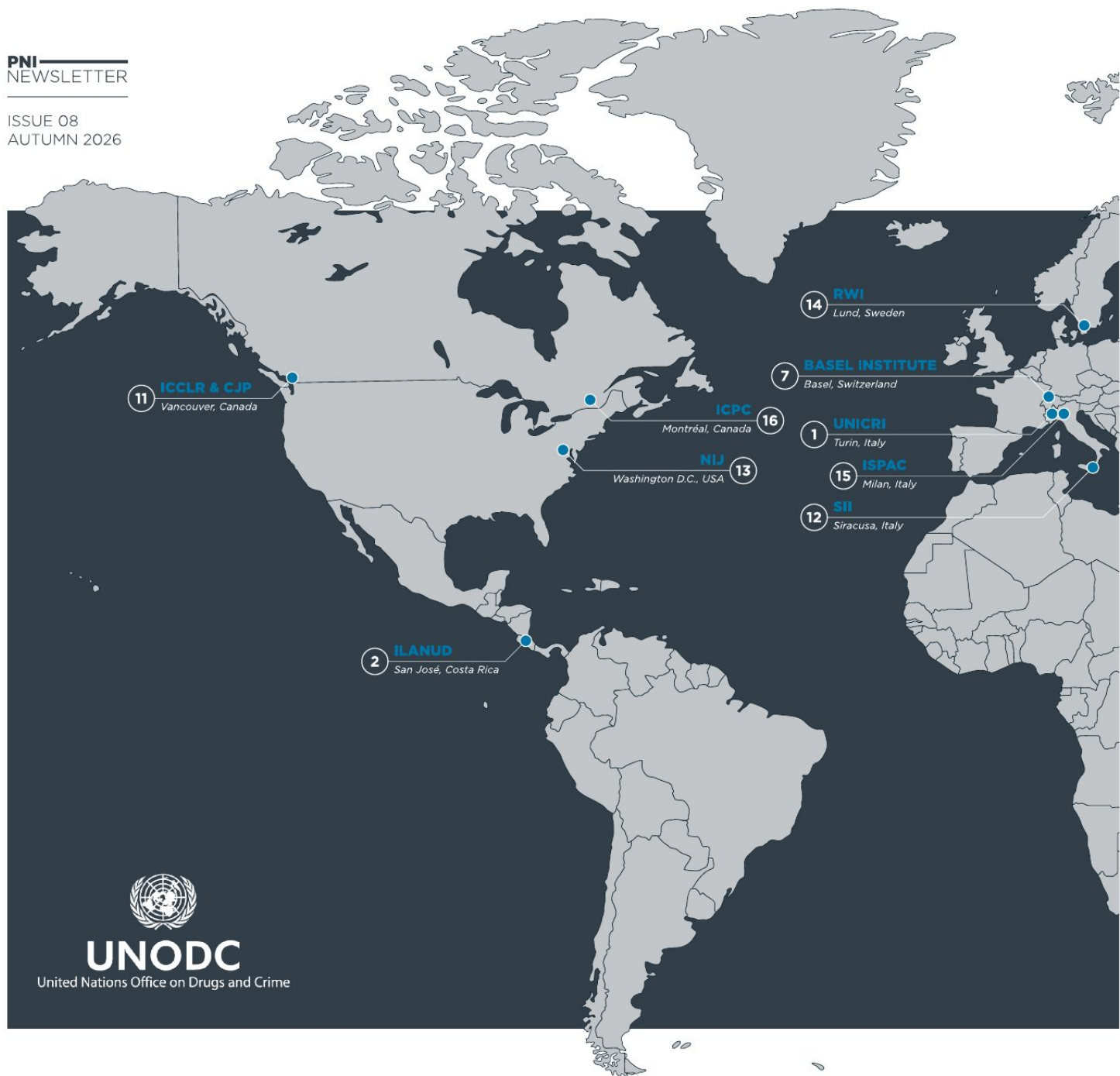






The PNI Newsletter joins the international crime prevention and criminal justice community in mourning the passing of Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha. Her unwavering commitment to justice, the rule of law and the dignity of every individual left a lasting mark on the United Nations Crime Programme.

Through her vision, leadership and dedication, Her Royal Highness made exceptional contributions to advancing international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice. As we remember her with profound gratitude and deep respect, we honour her enduring contributions to the United Nations Crime Programme and the lasting legacy she leaves within the international crime prevention and criminal justice community.



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

INTERREGIONAL & REGIONAL INSTITUTES



unicri
United Nations
Interregional Crime and Justice
Research Institute

- 1 UNICRI**
United Nations Interregional Crime and
Justice Research Institutes; *Turin, Italy*



ILANUD
Instituto Latinoamericano de las Naciones Unidas
para la Prevención del Delito y el Tratamiento del Delincuente

- 2 ILANUD**
Latin American Institute for the Prevention
of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;
San José, Costa Rica



- 3 HEUNI**
European Institute for Crime Prevention and
Control, affiliated with the United Nations;
Helsinki, Finland



UNAFRI

- 4 UNAFRI**
African Institute for the Prevention
of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;
Kampala, Uganda



- 5 UNAFEI**
Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention
of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;
Tokyo, Japan



- 6 NAUSS**
Naif Arab University for Security Sciences;
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

NATIONAL INSTITUTES



**BASEL INSTITUTE ON
GOVERNANCE**

- 7 BASEL INSTITUTE**
Basel Institute on Governance;
Basel, Switzerland



- 8 CCLS**
College for Criminal Law Science (CCLS);
Beijing, China



- 9 TIJ**
Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ);
Bangkok, Thailand



Australian Government
Australian Institute of Criminology

- 10 AIC**
Australian Institute of Criminology;
Canberra, Australia



- 13 NIJ**
National Institute of Justice;
Washington D.C., USA



**INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE
FOR THE
PREVENTION
OF CRIME**

- 16 ICPC**
International Centre for the Prevention of Crime;
Montréal, Canada



- 11 ICCLR & CJP**
International Centre for Criminal Law Reform
and Criminal Justice Policy; Vancouver, Canada



- 14 RWI**
Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights
and Humanitarian Law; Lund, Sweden



**Korean Institute of
Criminology and Justice**

- 17 KICJ**
Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice;
Seoul, Korea



- 12 SII**
The Siracusa International Institute for Criminal
Justice and Human Rights; Syracuse, Italy



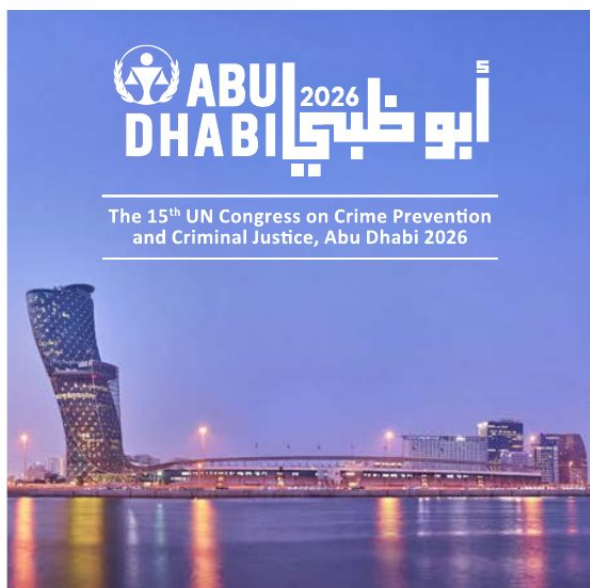
- 15 ISPAC**
International Scientific and Professional Advisory
Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention
and Criminal Justice Programme; Milan, Italy



**INSTITUTE FOR
SECURITY STUDIES**

- 18 ISS**
Institute for Security Studies;
Pretoria, South Africa

ABOUT THE PNI NEWSLETTER



The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI) consists of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and 18 institutes and entities around the world. The mission of the PNI is to assist the international community in strengthening cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice at the global, regional and sub-regional levels within the framework of the United Nations Crime Programme.

In January 2022, the members of the PNI decided to publish the PNI Newsletter as a way of sharing information on the contributions of the Network with a broad range of international, regional and national stakeholders. The Newsletter also seeks to promote cooperation within the Network and with United Nations entities and other partners through the dissemination of information, the sharing of knowledge and the exchange of experiences. The Newsletter is published twice a year, in the spring and the autumn.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTEENTH UNITED NATIONS CRIME CONGRESS

The approaching Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice provides the inspiration for this eighth edition of the PNI Newsletter. As colleagues from around the world prepare to gather in Abu Dhabi from 26 September to 1 October 2026, we have dedicated this edition to the Congress and to some of the people, ideas and conversations that will shape this important global event.

At the heart of this edition is Getting the Most Out of the Fifteenth UN Crime Congress: The Basics of Life at UN Congresses by Matti Joutsen. Drawing on decades of experience, the article offers practical reflections on life at the Congress—its traditions, its opportunities and some of the experiences that lie beyond the official programme. We are also honoured to feature a conversation with John Brandolino, whose distinguished career with the United Nations Crime Programme and long-standing involvement in the UN Crime Congresses offer a unique perspective as we look ahead to Abu Dhabi.

Another highlight of this edition is a closer look at the four Congress Workshops. Through conversations with colleagues directly involved in their preparation, readers are invited behind the scenes to discover the thinking behind each workshop, the issues likely to shape the discussions, and what participants may look forward to in Abu Dhabi.

This edition is also published at a time of profound loss following the passing of Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha. The PNI Newsletter joins colleagues across the international crime prevention and criminal justice community in honouring her life, work and enduring legacy. We are honoured to dedicate a special feature to Her Royal Highness's contributions to the UN Crime Programme and the UN Crime Congresses, together with a memorial supplement containing reflections from colleagues and friends whose lives and work she touched.

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UPDATES ON PNI ACTIVITIES

CHAPTER 1

This section presents updates from the member institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNIs) on their activities undertaken in 2025 and the first half of 2026. To provide readers with a thematic overview of the work undertaken by the Network, the updates are organized under four broad areas: (1) crime prevention; (2) criminal justice; (3) the rule of law; and (4) international cooperation and technical assistance. This structure is inspired by the thematic organization of the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(1) ADVANCING CRIME PREVENTION

Evidence-based crime prevention

The **International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC)** produced several major research reports in 2025, reinforcing evidence-based crime prevention. These include local safety audits and action plans across eastern Canada, as well as targeted thematic studies. Notable publications address crime prevention practices in small municipalities, drawing on collaborative work with 44 Quebec municipalities between 2020 and 2024, including the remote Indigenous community of Pakua Shipi. The **ICPC** also launched a pan-Canadian transportation security study involving five major cities (Montréal, Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary and Edmonton) in April and presented this project at the UIC IMPRESS conference in Paris in May, as well as at the Canadian Urban Transit Association's annual conference in Montréal in November.

The **Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)** continued to administer a series of statistical monitoring programmes in the field of criminal justice, which included the issuance of annual reports on fraud targeting the Government of Australia, homicide, sexual offending, and deaths in prison and police custody. A new statistical programme monitoring hate crime offences recorded by the police was also launched with quarterly updates on a new online dashboard.

The **Institute for Security Studies (ISS)** continued to support the South African Police Service (**SAPS**) in expanding data-driven hotspot policing, extending the initiative from 11 pilot sites in 2025 to 30 of the country's highest-contact-crime police stations. The project also focuses on strengthening the systems underpinning evidence-based policing through improved patrol-tracking tools and enhanced monitoring and reporting capacities. To further promote the institutionalisation of evidence-based policing, the ISS will host the South Africa Evidence-Based Policing Conference from 19–20 October 2026, bringing together practitioners, researchers and policymakers.



Safety and Security Directorate Managers participating in the April 2026 EBP training workshop organized by the ISS

Addressing the economic dimension of crime

To prevent business crime, the **International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC)**, in cooperation with the Catholic University of Milan, organized the second edition of the postgraduate training course on “Corporate compliance and business integrity”, intended for lawyers, legal professionals, and corporate executives and managers, with the aim of providing training in the prevention and combating of corporate crime. **ISPAC** also continued to manage a website dedicated to corporate crime, the Corporate Crime and Compliance Hub, as part of a research project on the criminal liability of entities in Italy. The website contains expert opinions on the most relevant topics in the area of corporate criminal liability. The **International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR)** organized the Canada and Australia Financial Crime Webinar Series, a five-part programme bringing together leading experts from both countries to discuss key challenges in addressing financial crime. The weekly sessions were designed for professionals working in anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT), including compliance specialists, law enforcement officials, investigators and policymakers engaged in financial crime enforcement.

In the field of corporate crime and compliance, the **College for Criminal Law Science (CCLS)** released the Research Report on Corporate Crime in China (2023-2024) on 15 June 2025, at the Launch Conference of the Annual Report on Corporate Crime. The report analyses evolving trends in corporate crime and governance needs, offering academic support for criminal risk prevention and the healthy development of private enterprises.

To combat money laundering and illicit financial flows, the **Basel Institute on Governance** upgraded its Basel LEARN online learning platform by introducing AI-supported interview functions and automated translation features. The platform hosts nine free eLearning courses, as well as instructor-led trainings on crypto and AML compliance and has reached 75,800 registered users from 249 jurisdictions. The Basel Institute also jointly organized the 9th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptoassets with the UNODC and Europol, bringing together over 250 in-person participants and more than 1,000 online. The ICCLR organized, through the Vancouver Anti-Corruption Institute (VACI), a six-part webinar series featuring leading voices in anti-money laundering investigations and enforcement, as a contribution to the Anti-Corruption Law Program. The Life Cycle of

Dirty Money is a unique series designed and coordinated by VACI expert Jeffrey Simser.

On asset recovery, the **Basel Institute**, through its International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR), delivered 21 specialized training programmes on financial investigations, asset recovery and related topics, reaching 564 practitioners. Train-the-trainer programmes certified 10 local trainers in Zambia and Ukraine, while new programmes started in Romania and Moldova. ICAR experts also supported investigations and international cooperation on numerous transnational corruption and asset recovery cases. The **ICCLR**, through the Vancouver Anti-Corruption Institute, hosted a conference on asset forfeiture. The event examined key issues related to asset forfeiture as a tool to target unlawfully acquired wealth. It brought together law enforcement officials, prosecutors, asset managers, civil forfeiture practitioners, legal professionals, academics and other experts working in financial crime enforcement and asset recovery.

The **Basel Institute** has launched two regional practitioner communities to strengthen responses to crypto-related financial crime: the Crypto Community of Practice of Latin America and the Africa Crypto & Asset Recovery Network. Led through the Institute's International Centre for Asset Recovery, the initiatives bring together investigators, prosecutors and financial intelligence specialists to share practical experience, build trusted professional networks and strengthen cross-border cooperation in tracing, freezing and recovering illicit cryptoassets. Both networks are open to applications for new members from the public sector.

The **Basel Institute** also hosted the 6th International Collective Action Conference in June 2026. The conference brought together around 150 participants from the business sector, civil society, government and academia to share practical approaches to complex challenges in business integrity. Discussions covered supply chain integrity, engagement with small and medium-sized enterprises, board leadership, digitalization and the links between corruption and human rights. Two civil society organizations – Alliance for Integrity and CoST Malawi Infrastructure Transparency Initiative – won the International Collective Action Awards 2026.



The Basel Institute hosted the 6th International Collective Action Conference in June 2026

Tailor-made crime prevention strategies

The **ICPC** published a number of reports aimed at tailoring crime prevention strategies to specific contexts. These include: (i) “Crime In and Around Low-Rent Housing (HLM) in the Greater Montréal Area,” which examines the social and spatial realities of low-income settings and offers recommendations to improve safety and social cohesion; (ii) the “Statistical Report of Crime in the Greater Montréal Area,” which analyses reported offences between 2018 and 2022 using data from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR 2.2) to support strategic safety planning and targeted prevention; and (iii) the “Analysis of Crimes Related to the Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images in the Greater Montréal Area,” which uses UCR 2.2 data (2018-2022) to highlight gendered dynamics—primarily affecting young women—and recommends strengthened prevention measures, victim support and intersectoral collaboration. The **ICPC** also produced an “Overview of the Victimization of Women and Girls in the Greater Montréal Area,” providing strategic recommendations to better inform public policy and local interventions.

The **ISS** continued its work on the prevention of violence against women, children and communities through leadership development, partnership-building and policy engagement. In 2026, it successfully piloted the “Leadership for Systems Change in Addressing Gender-Based Violence” course with the University of Cape Town, strengthening cross-sector collaboration and laying the foundation for future delivery with additional partners. The **ISS** is also contributing to preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Violence Against Children in November 2026, where it will lead two satellite events highlighting the role of Global South civil society in preventing violence against children.

In October 2025, Director General of the **ICPC**, Ms. Ann Champoux delivered the opening keynote address at the first International Congress on Reintegration and Prevention in Juvenile Justice, held in Mexico.



Youth crime prevention and youth empowerment

In preventing crime and violence among underprivileged children, the **Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ)** has worked since 2020 with cross-sector partners to provide life-skills development and inter-agency support through the Rayong Child Welfare Protection Centre. In September 2025, this multidisciplinary model was formalized through a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to enable expansion to other provinces, beginning with Khon Kaen. The institute also advanced restorative justice in school settings, engaging 341 educators from 111 schools under the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.





The TIJ works in collaboration with partners at the Rayong Child Welfare Protection Centre

The **United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI)** organized and participated in various youth and community-focused events, including the Youth Training Workshop on 16 September 2025: “Become a Peace Ambassador ahead of the 2026 General Elections in Uganda,” and the Afro-Arab Youth Conference on Peace and Security. Additionally, **UNAFRI** hosted research tours for law students from Makerere University. In engaging the next generation, the TIJ Common Ground, the **TIJ’s** public learning space, welcomed university students to explore issues of justice and the rule of law through thematic seminars, exhibitions and public lectures delivered by TIJ experts. Students also learned from the Restart Academy, a social innovation laboratory providing former offenders with hands-on experience in operating businesses, highlighting rehabilitation, reintegration and inclusive justice in practice.

At the 35th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), **UNICRI**, the University for Peace (UPEACE) and the International Nuremberg Principles Academy co-organized a side event on the role of higher education in preventing atrocity crimes and strengthening international criminal justice. The discussion highlighted how academic excellence, practical learning and international cooperation can equip current and future professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to promote accountability, strengthen the rule of law and contribute to more effective crime prevention.

Protecting children through technology and innovation

Through its Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, **UNICRI** continued to advance the responsible use of artificial intelligence to protect

children and strengthen digital safety. In partnership with the Ministry of Interior of the United Arab Emirates, the Institute expanded its flagship **AI for Safer Children** initiative, providing law enforcement agencies with AI-powered tools and specialized training to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse. The AI for Safer Children Global Hub now connects more than 1,500 investigators across 128 countries, offering free access to AI solutions that support victim identification, digital evidence analysis and criminal investigations. Complementing these efforts, **UNICRI** also promotes AI literacy among children, families and educators through the **AI Literacy for Parents and Children** initiative, supported by The Walt Disney Company, and the **AI Literacy for Schools: Training Teachers for a Changing World** programme, developed in collaboration with OpenAI under the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) Youth & Wellbeing Grant. Together, these initiatives strengthen child protection by combining technological innovation, capacity-building and digital literacy while promoting the safe, responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence.

Mainstreaming the gender perspective into crime prevention

The **AIC** conducted research on violence against women, which included an evaluation of the use of restorative justice in domestic, family and sexual violence cases, as well as two related studies that examined the use of restorative justice in such cases from a stakeholder and victim/survivor perspective. Other research examined the relationship between pornography consumption and sexual violence, showing a small but statistically significant relationship between viewing violent pornography and perpetration of sexual violence.

At the 35th session of the CCPCJ, **UNICRI** and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the International Organizations in Vienna presented the findings of “The Digital Frontline: Emerging Evidence on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence in Fragile and Conflict Settings.” The event highlighted emerging forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence, including online harassment, gendered disinformation, surveillance and AI-generated manipulated content, and examined their impact on women’s participation, leadership and safety. The discussion also explored policy responses and the integration of the digital dimension into the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

(2) ADVANCING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Addressing the vulnerabilities of children and youth and advancing gender-responsive criminal justice

On 18 February 2025, **UNAFRI** held a virtual meeting on protecting women's and children's rights within the criminal justice systems of Southern and Eastern Africa. Participants discussed gender-based crimes, access to justice, legal aid, rehabilitation and relevant international agreements.

In April 2025, the **CCLS** published "Protect the Most Vulnerable: Improved Justice in Child Sexual Abuse Cases in China" through Peking University Press. Based on a research project conducted by the Centre for Juvenile Prosecution Studies at the Beijing Normal University, the book provides systematic guidance on child-sensitive interviewing practices and case-handling mechanisms, contributing to improved protection of minors in criminal justice procedures.

The **ICCLR** initiated a research project examining women and bail and remand practices in Canada. The study gathered and assessed existing literature and primary data, including government statistics and case law, reviewing more than 250 sources, including comparative international research. The findings highlight the need for further primary research on how seemingly neutral bail laws and practices may disproportionately affect women, particularly in relation to intersecting factors such as race, parenthood and other social circumstances.

At the 35th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, **UNAFEI** held a side event that explored how collective efficacy and a culture of lawfulness can be fostered with a view to enhancing resilience and the protection of women, children and youth. Specifically, the event considered how challenges affecting women, children and youth can be addressed through community partnerships, social services, youth initiatives and other community-oriented initiatives and practices, thereby strengthening collective efficacy and reinforcing a culture of lawfulness.

Improving prison conditions

In efforts to strengthen the protection of human rights in prisons, the **Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI)**

supported a range of initiatives aimed at improving oversight, training and legislative frameworks in Armenia, Ethiopia and Kenya. In Armenia, the Institute supported the development and delivery of training modules for prison officers on ensuring prison conditions that respect human rights in the exercise of their duties, and assisted the Office of the Human Rights Defender in developing systems and procedures to monitor places of detention and investigate alleged cases of torture. In Ethiopia, the Institute delivered online and in-person training for staff of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission on conducting monitoring visits within prisons. In Kenya, the Institute reviewed the correctional service bill for compliance with international human rights standards and developed an associated training package. It also designed and delivered training modules for prison officers on emergency procedures and the management of high-risk offenders, while supporting the strengthening of internal inspection functions within the prison service. The **RWI** was also commissioned by the Swedish Institute for Human Rights to conduct a study on compliance of Swedish prison law and regulations with international minimum human rights standards.

In Zimbabwe, the **RWI** supported the development of a parole system based on international human rights standards, continued its cooperation with the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services to provide training on international human rights standards and internal inspection methodologies, as well as supporting the development of an entity to oversee compliance with international human rights standards, and initiated cooperation with the Zimbabwe Gender Commission regarding training on how to monitor human rights of women in detention facilities.

In addressing the condition of female offenders, the **TIJ** co-organized the international conference "From Vision to Action: 15 Years of the Bangkok Rules and the Future of Gender-Responsive Justice" on 12 December 2025. The conference highlighted both progress achieved and persistent gaps in the implementation of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders. The conference also marked the launch of the Bangkok Rules Accelerator, a joint initiative of the UNODC and the Thailand Institute of Justice, designed as an international mechanism to support implementation through peer learning, capacity-building and evidence-based guidance.



The international conference "From Vision to Action: 15 Years of the Bangkok Rules and the Future of Gender-Responsive Justice"

The **AIC** funded and published a number of research studies related to prisons and correctional policy as part of its criminology research grants programme. These included an evaluation of a support programme for mothers in prison, an assessment of the validity of a violence risk scale used in prisons, a study examining violence following a diagnosis of psychosis, and research exploring the views of victims and survivors of sexual abuse regarding treatment options for sexual offenders released from prison.

Consistent with its policy dialogue role, the **Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD)** prepared an institutional report reviewing prison systems from a United Nations perspective and continued its training activities on international standards for persons deprived of liberty in Costa Rica. In addition, **ILANUD** participated in high-level international forums, including "UNODC and Beijing +30: Women, Justice, and Security in a Changing World" and the General Assembly high-level debate on "A Second Chance: Addressing the Global Prison Challenge", marking the tenth anniversary of the Nelson Mandela Rules. **ILANUD** also organized the International Seminar "New Challenges of the Adult Prison System in Peru",

in collaboration with the National Penitentiary Institute, bringing together more than 360 officials. In 2025, **ILANUD** continued to support the International Congress on Restorative Justice organized by the Judiciary of Costa Rica and launched the fourth edition of the Diploma on Juvenile Justice, jointly organized with the Judicial Training Centre of Buenos Aires, with annual participation of more than 100 professionals from up to 14 countries in the region.

Rehabilitation and reducing reoffending

In supporting offender rehabilitation and efforts to reduce reoffending, the **Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)** organized a number of training activities for criminal justice practitioners. A training programme for Kenyan probation officers on community-based offender rehabilitation was held in Tokyo from 14 to 25 April 2025, followed by seminars held in Siaya and Nairobi, Kenya, on 11 and 13 November 2025. In addition, seminars on community-based treatment for offenders in Cambodia were held from 17 to 21 March 2025 in Tokyo and from 23 to 24 October 2025 in Phnom Penh. These activities focused on strengthening community-based approaches to offender rehabilitation and supporting effective reintegration practices.

The **ICCLR** continued a multi-year project aimed at mitigating the negative impact of parental incarceration on children, including through the promotion of community-based alternatives. The project seeks to support systemic and cultural change in how the best interests of children are considered by defence counsel, prosecutors and criminal courts. The current phase focuses on mobilizing support for the use of child impact statements by lawyers and courts, based on a template developed by the project team.

On 27 May 2025, **UNAFRI** organized a virtual Zoom conference on "Reducing Re-offending through Rehabilitation and Re-integration: Regional Experiences in Eastern and Southern Africa." The Anglophone session examined rehabilitation and reintegration programmes across the region, drawing on country case studies from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Seychelles, as well as expert input from **UNAFEI**.

UNICRI continued to support Member States in strengthening prison systems through research, technical assistance and capacity-building, promoting approaches that combine security, rehabilitation and respect for human rights. Building on its research on

digital rehabilitation in prisons, the Institute advanced pilot initiatives in Namibia and Thailand, in partnership with **UNAFEI** and with the support of the Government of Japan, exploring the responsible use of virtual reality and other emerging technologies to enhance rehabilitation and social reintegration. **UNICRI** also expanded international cooperation to strengthen prison governance and address organized crime within correctional systems. In Mexico, with funding from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) and in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Justice, **UNICRI** launched a three-year programme to reinforce penitentiary management, prison intelligence and social reintegration, complemented by a specialized training programme for senior prison officials in Italy. A new cooperation initiative with Guatemala will further support penitentiary reform, institutional capacity-building and the prevention of organized crime in line with international standards. These efforts were further showcased through **UNICRI**'s contribution to the PNI Experts' Meeting in Kyoto, where the Institute highlighted the role of innovation and digital technologies in advancing the implementation of the Kyoto Model Strategies on reducing reoffending.

Improving criminal investigation processes

The **European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI)** worked on the E-ViVi - Enhancing Videorecorded Interviews and Virtual Hearings in Europe project, an EU-funded initiative aimed at establishing best practices for video-recorded interviews and remote hearings in criminal proceedings. The project has generated significant interest among court practitioners and seeks to strengthen procedural safeguards for complainants and defendants alike. Best practice recommendations for both adult and child participants (including victims, defendants and witnesses) using video-recorded pretrial interviews and remote hearings in criminal court proceedings are expected to be published in 2026. **HEUNI** also developed an adapted version of the National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD) protocol tailored specifically for cases of online child sexual abuse involving strong technical evidence. The protocol supports trained interviewers in conducting investigative interviews in an ethical and effective manner in situations where physical or digital evidence may already exist.

The **ISS** deepened its role in the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Business Against Crime South Africa (BACSA) initiative, aimed at modernising police

stations and improving technology use and adoption. The **ISS** has become a key driver of this initiative through producing analytical reports, offering expert advice, developing management and monitoring systems, and hosting meetings.



Hotspots Project Management team held in Bellville on 13 May 2026

(3) PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW

Rule of law, access to justice and promoting human rights

As an effort to promote the rule of law, the **TIJ** organized the conference "Institutional Readiness for Thailand's Competitiveness" on 8 October 2025. The conference highlighted the rule of law as a national priority to enhance economic growth. The **TIJ** and the World Justice Project also hosted "Thailand's Rule of Law Landscape" on 17 December 2025, drawing on the 2025 Rule of Law Index to identify actionable reform pathways. To strengthen access to justice, **TIJ** organized from 20-22 October 2025 the Regional Workshop on Enhancing Equal Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, in collaboration with the UNODC and the Ministry of Justice of Thailand, providing a platform for exchange among 40 experts from across the region. From 26-27 August 2025, the **ICPC** hosted the Second ICPC Summer School, in Montréal, on Trust in Institutions, gathering researchers, students and practitioners. On 29 July 2025 **UNAFRI** held a virtual workshop on "Ensuring Equal Access to Justice for All" as part of preparations for the 15th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The session gathered African regional perspectives on access to justice for submission to the UN Congress.



The Regional Workshop on Enhancing Equal Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems

PNIs also contributed to advancing human rights through academic exchange, public engagement and dialogue on contemporary legal challenges. In this regard, the **Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights (Siracusa Institute)** organized the eighteenth edition of AGÒN – From Classical Drama to Mock Trial, an annual initiative that combines theatre, legal reasoning and public engagement. Held in cooperation with Fondazione INDIA at the Greek Theatre of Siracusa, the 2026 edition reinterpreted Sophocles' *Antigone* through a mock trial format, encouraging reflection on the enduring tensions between state authority, individual conscience and the rule of law. The **Siracusa Institute** also held the fifth edition of its Doctoral Seminar on International Criminal Justice and Human Rights, bringing together doctoral researchers from around the world to engage with senior scholars and practitioners on emerging issues in international criminal law, human rights and humanitarian law, including environmental protection, cultural property, racial discrimination and other cross-cutting challenges facing contemporary international justice.

Anti-corruption

The **Basel Institute on Governance** published more than 28 publications during the reporting period. Among these was the open-access book "Collective Action in Practice: A Game-Changer for Business Integrity," which examines the evolution of anti-corruption collective action and its growing prominence. In parallel, the Institute provided compliance advisory services across a range of mandates, from anti-corruption support at a multilateral development bank to projects in the water and healthcare sectors in the Middle East.

The **Basel Institute** launched two postgraduate programmes, Mastering Today's Anti-Corruption Challenges, and Combating Financial Crime Through Asset Recovery, leading to Certificates of Advanced Studies awarded by the University of Basel. The Gretta Fenner Scholarship Fund was established to support candidates from low-income backgrounds. The institute also participated in interdisciplinary research consortia focused on, inter alia, corruption risks in Malawi's health system and organized crime in the EU. Research and political economy insights, including behavioural science approaches, informed corruption prevention interventions for around 10 international development projects in seven countries.

In addressing environmental corruption, the **Basel Institute** expanded its activities through prevention and enforcement programmes in eight countries across four continents. As part of these efforts, more than 200 officials from Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia completed an instructor-led course on managing corruption risks in the timber value chain. The Countering Environmental Corruption Practitioners Forum also continued to grow, reaching over 800 members and launching a new working group on corruption in the minerals sector. The **Siracusa Institute** launched ENCORE (Environmental Corruption Response), a two-year European Union-funded project addressing corruption-related environmental crimes, particularly pollution offences. As consortium lead, the Institute coordinates research, criminal intelligence and capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening responses to environmental corruption across Europe. During the reporting period, the Institute convened meetings of the project's High-Level Advisory Board and Law Enforcement Advisory Group, contributed to research and stakeholder consultations, and supported the development of specialized training activities for law enforcement practitioners on identifying, investigating and addressing corruption-related environmental crimes.

The **Siracusa Institute** also engaged in the project Fighting Corruption through Institutional Capacity Strengthening - Improving Security in Egypt and Jordan, supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The initiative aims to enhance the capacity of anti-corruption authorities in both countries. As part of the project, national assessments were conducted, laying the groundwork for training activities scheduled to be implemented in 2026. The **RWI** engaged in a cooperative project involving legal professionals in Ukraine and Moldova aimed at strengthening their contribution to anti-corruption initiatives. The project included joint training, mentoring and action-planning activities. On 10 June 2025, **UNAFRI** held a Francophone Zoom session on the role of national anti-corruption institutions in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The meeting focused on reviewing anti-corruption frameworks, asset recovery and the implementation of international instruments, highlighting the need for ethical governance and institutional accountability.

UNAFEI organized the 27th United Nations Convention against Corruption training programme in Tokyo from 23 October to 19 November 2025. The programme brought together 27 participants to discuss successful methods, practices and techniques for detecting corruption.

(4) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS ALL FORMS OF CRIME

International cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building

On 21 October 2025, **UNAFRI** held a high-level meeting with the International Criminal Court (ICC), led by ICC President Tomoko Akane and Vice President Reine Alapini-Gansou. The focus was on improving information sharing, collaboration, and strategic partnerships to boost the ICC's involvement in Africa. This meeting marked an important step toward closer cooperation, capacity building and promoting justice across the continent.

UNAFEI contributed to international cooperation through technical assistance activities in several areas. From 20 February to 4 March 2025, the Francophone African Criminal Justice Seminar was held in Tokyo, bringing together 24 criminal justice practitioners to discuss the proper collection and preservation of

forensic evidence. In addition, seminars on community-based treatment for offenders in Cambodia were held from 17 to 21 March 2025 in Tokyo and from 23 to 24 October 2025 in Phnom Penh.

In enhancing evidence-based policing, the **ISS** provided technical support to the secretariats of regional police chiefs' organizations in East, Central, Southern and West Africa. ISS also provided technical assistance to the South African Police Service on scaling up a successful evidence-based hotspot policing methodology, enhancing police station modernization, technology adoption, support for women in operations, and employee health and wellness.

To enhance the capacity of justice practitioners, the **TIJ** organized the second Training on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for Southeast Asia (T4SEA), held in May 2026, engaging 41 participants from 12 countries in Southeast and South Asia. At the national level, the third Training Programme on International Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (ICPCJ), held in January 2026, involved 44 participants from government agencies and Bangkok-based international organizations.

The **RWI** continued cooperation with the National Prosecuting Authority of Zimbabwe regarding training on fair trial rights, partnered with the law faculties in Zimbabwe to develop clinical legal education programmes, contributing to increased access to justice through university-based law clinics, and contributed to developing the capacity of and cooperation between the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, the Zimbabwe Gender Commission and the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission on the nexus between corruption and human rights, including through the development of a training manual. Regionally in Africa, **RWI** engaged in establishment of a regional forum for Chiefs of Correctional Services on human rights in prisons, with the focus on development of parole systems, alleviation of overcrowding and development of an online training programme for prison officers.

In collaboration with INTERPOL, the **Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS)** organized the second INTERPOL Conference on the Future of Policing, held in Riyadh from 13 to 14 October 2025 under the patronage of HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and President of the Supreme Council. The conference brought together 157 participants from 39 countries to discuss future developments and challenges in policing.

In collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and Fordham University, **NAUSS** also organized a seminar on the role of community policing in migration management, held in New York from 9 to 11 September 2025, with 45 experts from 12 countries, focusing on strengthening trust between law enforcement bodies and migrant communities;

Under the Regional Atrocity Crimes Training Platform (REACT), the **Siracusa Institute** delivered two capacity-building workshops in Guinea aimed at equipping magistrates and investigators with practical tools for the prosecution of atrocity crimes. The training focused on evidence collection, inter-agency coordination and mutual legal assistance. With the support of the Italian Ministry of Justice, the **Siracusa Institute** also implemented two advanced training programmes addressing emerging challenges in international criminal justice. The first focused on universal jurisdiction, international crimes and mechanisms for cross-border investigations and prosecutions, including cooperation with the International Criminal Court and foreign judicial authorities. The second examined the implications of artificial intelligence and technological innovation for criminal justice systems and human rights, covering issues such as algorithmic transparency, human rights safeguards, cross-border cooperation, financial crime and data protection. Both programmes combined expert lectures, case studies and practical exercises to strengthen the capacity of criminal justice practitioners in responding to complex transnational challenges.

The **Siracusa Institute** also organized the twenty-fifth edition of its Specialization Course in International Criminal Law for Young Penalists, one of the Institute's flagship academic programmes. Held in a hybrid format under the academic direction of Professor William A. Schabas, the course brought together graduate students, early-career researchers and young professionals from around the world for advanced training on international criminal justice. The 2026 edition focused on crimes against humanity and transitional justice, providing participants with the opportunity to engage with leading judges, prosecutors, academics and practitioners through lectures, case studies and discussions on contemporary developments in international criminal law. The **Siracusa Institute** also hosted the fifth edition of the Judges@Europe Forum, one of Europe's leading platforms for judicial dialogue. Organized in partnership with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), the Forum brings together judges and legal experts from across the European Union to discuss contemporary challenges

facing justice systems and to promote cooperation in upholding the rule of law.

The **ISS** established a new strategic partnership with the Government of The Gambia to support the country's transitional justice process. Through technical cooperation with the national Post-TRRC Unit (which followed the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission), the partnership aims to strengthen the implementation of transitional justice recommendations, reinforce accountability frameworks and support long-term stabilisation. The initiative will also include a high-level continental strategic dialogue to promote regional cooperation and sustain progress towards peace, justice and institutional reform.

The **ISS** continued to support regional peace and security efforts in the Sahel by providing strategic policy advice to the African Union (AU) and facilitating high-level dialogue among regional stakeholders. In 2026, the Institute prepared a policy note for the Chairperson of the AU Commission on strengthening the AU's engagement in the Sahel and convened senior representatives from the AU, Member States and regional experts to identify practical approaches for enhancing regional cooperation, operational engagement and coordination in support of peace and stabilization.

Addressing terrorism-related threats and violence extremism

In partnership with the Abidjan-based Conseil de l'Entente and the Government of Togo, the **ISS** organized a regional seminar on "Lessons learned from counterterrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism in the Entente space." Aimed at representatives from Conseil de l'Entente member states, Mali, Chad, Ghana and the Accra Initiative, the event was held against a backdrop of deteriorating security and the fragmentation of regional cooperation, particularly following the withdrawal of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

As part of the EU CT-JUST Project, under the framework of the Sphinx Initiative, the **Siracusa Institute** co-organized two workshops in Siracusa on the judicialization of intelligence in counter-terrorism cases. The events brought together practitioners from different regions to contribute to a White Paper offering guidance on the use of intelligence in criminal

proceedings. Through the research project Mafia-Jihad, conducted with Next Wave, the Siracusa Institute explored parallels between mafia indoctrination and jihadist radicalization among youth. The study produced a bilingual publication and two webinars, offering innovative approaches for preventing violent extremism.

In February 2025, **UNAFRI** hosted a Francophone Zoom conference titled “The Recruitment and Exploitation of Children by Violent Terrorist and Extremist Groups: The Role of the Judicial System.” Participants discussed judicial responses, national legal frameworks, prevention strategies, and international conventions for protecting child victims.

UNAFEI organized the 186th International Senior Seminar in Tokyo from 17 January to 13 February 2025, during which 18 senior criminal justice officials examined issues related to youth involved in terrorism. In addition, on 31 January 2025, **UNAFEI** held the 43rd Public Lecture on Criminal Justice Policy in a hybrid format, focusing on key issues related to the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth involved in terrorism.

The **ISS**, in partnership with the Conseil de l'Entente and the Government of Togo, convened a regional seminar on counterterrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism, bringing together senior representatives from the Conseil de l'Entente member states, the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), ECOWAS countries and regional organizations. The seminar provided a trusted platform for dialogue at a time of heightened regional tensions, helping to preserve channels of communication, promote the exchange of lessons learned and strengthen regional cooperation against violent extremism.



Opening session of the regional seminar on “Lessons Learned from Counterterrorism (CT) and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) in the Entente Area”

Response to organized crime and transnational crime

On 16 October 2025, the **Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice (KICJ)** hosted the 12th Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice International Forum (KICJIF) under the theme “Strengthening International Cooperation in Response to Transnational Organized Crime.” The forum brought together PNI institutes, including **UNAFEI**, **TIJ** and **CCLS**, to promote practical collaboration in addressing cross-border crimes and to lay the groundwork for joint research and policy development. **KICJ**, on 13 December 2025, also convened the International Conference on Combating Transnational Organized Crime under the theme “International Cooperation in Criminal Matters: The Cambodia Kidnapping and Detention Case.” The conference examined international cooperation strategies in response to the growing spread of transnational organized crime, with particular attention to recent Cambodia kidnapping and detention (scam centre) cases. Building on these discussions, **KICJ** will continue policy dialogue aimed at enhancing institutional and policy effectiveness and improving victim protection and response systems at both domestic and international levels.

The **CCLS** continued to strengthen international engagement in the field of economic and transnational crime. In this context, **CCLS** and the Faculty of Law of Beijing Normal University participated as joint organizers in the 42nd Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime, held from 31 August to 7 September 2025 at Jesus College, University of Cambridge. For the symposium, the institute sent a delegation and hosted a Chinese side event titled “Research on International Cooperation in the Recovery of Suspicious Assets in Corruption Cases from a Chinese Perspective,” where it shared Chinese research and practical experience with the international community.

The **AIC** published research on serious and organized crime that examined the overall cost to Australia of such crime, the cost to Australia resulting from espionage, and the extent of the relationship between drug and alcohol consumption and involvement in crime.

In combating transnational organized crime, **UNAFEI** organized the first UNODC-UNAFEI Pacific Island Countries and Territories Training Programme in Tokyo from 29 July to 6 August 2025. The programme brought together eight participants from Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to discuss effective investigative techniques.

The **ISS** continued its research on emerging maritime security challenges in the Western Indian Ocean, with particular attention to the Swahili Coast and its strategic importance for regional security and sustainable development. Through studies on ports in Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique and assessments of regional maritime security mechanisms, the research examined evolving threats, including the convergence of transnational organized crime and terrorism, as well as the effectiveness of regional responses. The findings aim to strengthen evidence-based policies and regional cooperation to address emerging maritime security challenges.

Addressing emerging and evolving form of crime

In response to rapid technological change, the **CCLS** engaged extensively in research and dialogue on cybercrime and artificial intelligence. On 14 October 2025, the institute and the Law School of Beijing Normal University (BNU) jointly hosted the Sino-Brazilian Symposium on Law and Artificial Intelligence. The symposium brought together more than seventy scholars, judges, legal practitioners, and students from China and Brazil. Discussions focused on the application of artificial intelligence in judicial practice, algorithm transparency, and institutional innovation, reflecting the deepening cooperation between China and Brazil in the field of digital rule of law.

On 18 August 2025, to mark the 20th anniversary of the **CCLS**, the 16th Contemporary Criminal Justice Forum and the 2nd Jing Shi Forum on Foreign-related Rule of Law were convened. The forum, themed “The United Nations Convention against Cybercrime and China’s Criminal Law Response,” explored China’s legislative and judicial responses and contributed to ongoing discussions on the development of foreign-related criminal law in China.

The **Siracusa Institute** held a training programme in Rome on human trafficking, in collaboration with the Supreme Judiciary Council of Qatar, providing prosecutors with a practical and legal framework for addressing labour and sexual exploitation, including study visits to anti-mafia and anti-terrorism institutions. In addition, in Doha, the Institute conducted four workshops on Modern Approaches to Prosecuting Cybercrimes and Drug-Related Crimes, in partnership with the Institute for Criminal Studies of the Public Prosecution of Qatar. The sessions explored digital forensics, cryptocurrency-based trafficking and regional cooperation in prosecuting cyber-enabled crime.

UNICRI, jointly with the European Commission and with funding from the European Union, organized the third edition of the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Academy. Held at the United Nations Campus in Turin, the Academy brought together more than 250 participants from over 70 countries to exchange experiences, strengthen capacities and promote international cooperation in preventing and responding to evolving CBRN risks. The programme highlighted the importance of cross-sector partnerships, technological innovation and coordinated action in addressing emerging global security challenges.

UNICRI also delivered a series of specialized training activities to strengthen national capacities to investigate chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) crimes. Bringing together investigators, prosecutors and other criminal justice practitioners from the United Arab Emirates, Moldova and Ukraine, the programme combined legal, scientific and operational perspectives to enhance the collection and analysis of evidence, inter-agency cooperation and the prosecution of CBRN-related offences. Through practical exercises and case-based learning, participants strengthened their skills needed to investigate increasingly complex threats while promoting international cooperation and information-sharing. These programmes are funded by the European Union, Global Affairs Canada and the Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority.

UNICRI continued to strengthen international efforts to address chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats through a range of capacity-building and technical assistance initiatives. **UNICRI** also advanced global efforts to counter the financing of weapons of mass destruction proliferation through its Global CBRN Counter-Proliferation Finance and Sanctions Evasion Programme, supporting Member States in preventing, detecting and disrupting proliferation financing, sanctions evasion and illicit procurement networks through technical assistance, specialized training and national risk assessments. In addition, together with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and with financial support from the European Union, **UNICRI** continued to strengthen regional cooperation to prevent chemical crimes by supporting the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention through legislative assistance, practical training and the exchange of good practices among policymakers, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and customs authorities.

At the 35th session of the CCPCJ, **UNICRI** and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the International Organizations in Vienna co-organized a side event examining how regional crime dynamics are increasingly shaping global security and justice challenges. Drawing on preliminary findings from **UNICRI**'s ongoing interregional comparative study, the discussion highlighted the growing impact of cyber-enabled crime, illicit financial flows, technological developments, geopolitical instability and converging forms of organized crime. The event underscored the importance of evidence-based research and international cooperation to support forward-looking crime prevention and criminal justice responses.

The use of new technology

The **Siracusa Institute** began establishing a platform to promote the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence in European justice systems through the European Union-funded project TRUST-AI (Transparency, Rule of Law, Understanding and Safety in AI for Criminal Justice), launched at the end of 2025 and continuing through 2027. Implemented in partnership with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and the Asser Institute, with the support of several associated judicial training institutions across Europe, the project aims to strengthen the understanding and responsible use of artificial intelligence in criminal justice systems across EU Member States. Through comparative research, capacity-building activities and the development of specialized training modules, TRUST-AI seeks to enhance the ability of judges, prosecutors and investigators to apply AI tools in a manner consistent with EU law, rule-of-law principles and fundamental rights.

The **AIC** conducted research on child sexual abuse, which included research projects focused on the use of AI in facilitating and investigating online sexual exploitation of children, and on the link between child sexual abuse victimization and subsequent criminal justice involvement as an adolescent. Research was also undertaken on the online sexual extortion of young people, examining its prevalence in a national survey of adolescents and also examining the impacts on young people. Other research examined the negative experiences of young people who used websites designed for use by adults (such as dating sites).

Trafficking in persons and modern slavery

The **AIC** continued its programme of work on trafficking in persons and modern slavery, which included the release of two reports from a statistical monitoring programme, and continued work on the evaluation of a national action plan to combat modern slavery.

The **Siracusa Institute** hosted the Nigeria-Europe NGO Conference on the non-punishment principle for victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants, in collaboration with the UNODC. The event served as a platform to exchange best practices and improve cross-border protection mechanisms.

Through support from the Italian Ministry of Justice, the **Siracusa Institute** implemented a training programme on strengthening international and inter-agency cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in the Mediterranean. The programme enhanced the capacity of prosecutors, law enforcement officials and other practitioners to address transnational trafficking-related crimes, including drug trafficking, migrant smuggling and trafficking, environmental crime and the trafficking of cultural property. Training activities combined legal and operational perspectives, with particular attention to investigative techniques, international cooperation and asset recovery.

HEUNI prepared a study examining the relationship between work-related crime, workplace risks and labour exploitation, producing practical knowledge to support labour inspectors, regulatory authorities and labour market actors in combating labour-related crimes. In addition, **HEUNI** developed a practical factsheet and checklist in six languages to help identify occupational safety and health breaches that may be linked to work-related crime and labour exploitation. **HEUNI** also supported the implementation of the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive by drafting a study on the concept of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, based on illustrative national legislation and jurisprudence. From a business and human rights perspective, **HEUNI** also launched the international project "EMBRACE: Empowering Business Communities to Prevent Labour Trafficking", aimed at preventing labour trafficking and exploitation by strengthening systemic responses and preventive measures.

THE COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL EFFORT IN COUNTERING CULTURAL PROPERTY TRAFFICKING: FRAMEWORK AND MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR¹

On 7 November 2025, at Palazzo Edison in Milan, under the auspices of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (ISPAC), the international conference “Curbing Trafficking in Cultural Property: A Path for Global Strategy?” was held to address the growing concern over trafficking in cultural property.

The conference, in recognition of the central role that cultural heritage protection plays within ISPAC’s mandate, aimed at raising awareness and stimulating the debate on the security risks posed by trafficking in cultural assets, as restated by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in its resolutions 10/7 of 2020 and 11/4 of 2022. All in all, the seminar sought to promote information-sharing and foster coordinated international responses to this complex phenomenon.

By bringing together representatives of UNODC, the PNI institutes, scholars, experts and practitioners to address the pressing issue of trafficking in cultural property, the seminar laid a solid foundation for the ongoing international dialogue on this topic, also in consideration of the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, at the end of September 2026, where trafficking in cultural

property will be addressed as one of the emerging and evolving forms of crime.

As a matter of fact, although the key characteristics of this illicit phenomenon have been studied, effective and coordinated action continues to face significant challenges due to the transnational nature of this crime, the secrecy and opacity characterizing the art market and exposing it to money laundering and fraud, the limited capacity and expertise of law enforcement agencies, the increasing involvement of criminal networks in the looting and trafficking of cultural property from conflict zones, as well as the uneven implementation and adherence to international legal frameworks.

In response to such issues, the conference emphasized the urgency of reinforcing global strategies against the illicit trade in cultural property and supporting UNODC’s ongoing efforts in this critical field. Notably, the collaborative effort of ISPAC, the Centro Nazionale Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale (CNPDS), and the UNESCO Chair on Business Integrity and Crime Prevention in the Art and Antiquities Market in promoting the event further underscored the importance of preventive approaches, international cooperation, and shared ethical standards in safeguarding cultural heritage.

In this respect, it is worth mentioning the contribution given by the UNESCO Chair on Business Integrity and Crime Prevention in Art and Antiquities Market, which sees ISPAC as its promoting partner since 2024, in emphasizing the growing need to integrate legal, institutional and market-based interventions to enhance transparency and promote common standards of conduct in the art market.

The participation of UNODC members and representatives of the PNI institutes (in particular, from NAUSS, UNAFRI and UNICRI) enormously enriched the

¹ The editorial team would like to express its sincere thanks to Mr. Marco Colacurci, Assistant Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Campania and Research Fellow of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC), and to Ms. Serena Sancataldo, PhD student at the University of Campania and Research Team Member of the UNESCO Chair on Business Integrity and Crime Prevention in Art and Antiquities Market, for preparing this article.

discussion, being determinant to the success and depth of the Milan seminar, ensuring that discussions were informed by both global policy perspectives and practical enforcement experience.

By combining the contributions of UNODC, PNI representatives and experts in the field, the seminar offered a multi-layered discussion that highlighted its role as a key platform for knowledge-sharing and promoted the exchange of best practices in combating trafficking in cultural property at different levels.

The event, structured around three main thematic sessions, aimed at addressing the trafficking of cultural property in its legal, ethical and economic dimensions, at both the national and international levels.

The welcome session set the tone for the discussion, emphasizing the impact that trafficking in cultural property has on the collective memory of societies and raising attention regarding evolving threats, noting that cultural property is increasingly targeted by terrorist groups, exposed to money laundering and vulnerable on e-commerce platforms. The speakers also underscored the relevance of the current legal framework and existing initiatives, stressing the importance of proactive action and Italy's pioneering role in enforcement.

Sessions Overview

Session 1

The session, articulated into two main bodies addressing international and domestic approaches, explored the complex frameworks governing responses to the trafficking of cultural property. Starting from the assumption that the art market is characterized by a culture of privacy, exposing it to risks such as money laundering, the discussion also examined the opportunities and challenges posed by innovative technologies in the field. Speakers highlighted the role of key international instruments—including the 1970 UNESCO Convention, the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime—alongside non-binding tools such as the UNESCO Model Provisions, in guiding domestic legislation and harmonizing enforcement. In this reconstructive effort, it was also possible to trace the evolution of cultural heritage protection, identifying persistent gaps in uniformity, retroactivity and sanctions across states, underlying the need for coordinated and adaptive strategies.

Moving to the domestic approach, Italy, Egypt, Australia and Morocco were analysed, focusing on major challenges and strategies proven to be successful in tackling and responding to cultural property crimes. These cases illustrated the diverse approaches employed by some of the world's most culturally and materially rich source countries, highlighting both consistent improvements and challenges. Collectively, they underscored the importance of tailored domestic measures in complementing international conventions and fostering coordinated responses.

Session 2

During the second session the seminar focused on multi-stakeholder cooperation in the return and restitution of cultural property, featuring contributions from experts across law enforcement, prosecution and the protection of cultural heritage.

The challenges of tracing, confiscating and repatriating stolen cultural goods, and the related issues of reconstructing provenance chains, identifying illicit excavations and recognizing the fraudulent alteration of original artworks, represented the core of this session.

In this respect, the importance of robust legal frameworks, including export and import regulations harmonized with international conventions, was emphasized. Practical measures were explored, such as the use of national databases, AI-assisted tools, and specialized task forces to proactively recover cultural objects. The session also highlighted the intersection between trafficking in cultural heritage and broader criminal activities, including links to organized crime and terrorism, and the growing role of online platforms in facilitating illicit trade. Overall, light was shed on the need for coordinated, multi-stakeholder approaches that integrate legal instruments, technical expertise and proactive enforcement strategies.

Roundtable

The roundtable critically examined the 2014 UN International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Cultural Property. The session began with an analysis of multi-stage implementation strategies for the principles outlined in the Guidelines. Furthermore, recalling Chapter I.A and III.E of the 2014 UN Guidelines, the discussion emphasized the central role of data collection and data sharing in monitoring and preventing trafficking in cultural property and related

offences. Proceeding, the discussion highlighted the role of codes of conduct and their potential to transcend national barriers, building on Guideline No. 5, which encourages States to promote codes of conduct for cultural institutions and private actors, especially those active in the art market. To conclude, attention was also given to the liability of legal persons, shedding light on its criminological importance, particularly in addressing organized and economically driven forms of crime. As a result, the growing international recognition of corporate liability could strengthen the global response to trafficking in cultural property and influence future policy development in this field.



THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY (AIC) 2026 CONFERENCE

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) 2026 Conference, held in Canberra from 17–18 March 2026, brought together leading researchers, policymakers and practitioners to explore the theme of transnational serious and organized crime. The conference provided a multidisciplinary approach with thematic panel sessions and applied research insights to better understand and address evolving serious and global criminal threats.

The conference opened with remarks from AIC Director Heather Cook, highlighting the importance of collaboration across the national security and law enforcement community.

A keynote address by Professor Ella Cockbain from University College London on day one examined the complexities of human trafficking and exploitation, emphasizing the need for evidence-based and context-specific responses. On day two a keynote address by Professor Edward Kleemans from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam challenged traditional “mafia-style” conceptions of organized crime, instead presenting it as a networked and socially embedded phenomenon.

Day one focused on key crime types and enablers. Panel sessions addressed the rapid growth of illicit tobacco and nicotine markets, identifying their links to organized crime, consumer behaviour and public policy challenges. A subsequent session on money laundering explored regulatory tensions, emerging risks and the significant role of trade-based laundering in disguising criminal proceeds. The final panel of the

day examined the rise of cyber-scam centres in South-East Asia. Presentations showed their intersection with trafficking, forced criminality and technology-enabled crime. Active collaborations were highlighted, while also emphasising the need for stronger regional cooperation.

Day two focused on offender behaviour, crime networks and systemic impacts. Panels explored how organized crime is enabled and sustained. Topics included the role of firearms within criminal groups, network disruption strategies targeting drug trafficking organizations, and the dynamics of cooperation and competition in illicit markets.

Further sessions addressed the measurement and analysis of illicit commodities, including wildlife crime and environmental offences as well as innovative monitoring approaches such as wastewater analysis. These discussions underscored the global scale and diversity of organized crime markets, as well as the importance of data-driven policy and collaboration across sectors.

The final panel focused on understanding the harms associated with organized crime, particularly the economic and social impacts of illicit drugs and the role of money laundering in amplifying criminal activity. The conference concluded by examining future directions, identifying emerging trends and reinforcing the importance of intelligence, regulation and international cooperation in responding to these threats.

Overall, the AIC 2026 Conference highlighted the complexity, adaptability and transnational nature of serious and organized crime. Across all sessions, a consistent theme was the need for integrated, evidence-based approaches that bridge research, policy and practice. The programme demonstrated that effectively combating organized crime requires coordinated action across jurisdictions, innovative analytical tools and a deeper understanding of both criminal networks and the harms they generate.



RADICALIZATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM – 2026 CONFERENCE

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) and the Office of National Intelligence (ONI) co-hosted a conference in June 2026 on radicalization and violent extremism, highlighting the growing complexity of Australia's security environment and the importance of collaboration across research, government and law enforcement sectors. Bringing together leading experts, the event focused on understanding the evolving drivers of extremism and identifying effective prevention and intervention strategies.

Speakers noted that today's threat landscape is increasingly shaped by a mix of ideological influences, online harms, grievance narratives, conspiracy movements and social fragmentation. Extremist risks now range from jihadist and right-wing extremism to anti-government ideologies, misogynistic violence and lone-actor attacks motivated by personal grievances or hybrid belief systems.

A key focus was the role of digital technologies. Online platforms, algorithms, influencers, gaming communities and encrypted applications have transformed how extremist ideas are spread, amplified and reinforced. While most people exposed to extremist material do not engage in violence, understanding vulnerability and resilience remains critical, particularly among young Australians.

Researchers presented findings on broader social factors linked to radicalization, including isolation, identity challenges, alienation and declining trust in institutions. These influences often interact with online environments that reward outrage and polarization, making social cohesion and democratic resilience increasingly important national security concerns.

The AIC highlighted its ongoing research into radicalization, including large-scale surveys exploring risk and protective factors. Recent studies have examined online exposure to fringe and radical content, conspiracy beliefs, anti-authority movements and pathways to violent extremism.

Evidence-based research plays a vital role in informing public policy, operational decision-making and community responses. By fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing, the conference sought to strengthen Australia's ability to prevent, respond to and counter emerging extremist threats.

UNAFEI HOSTS PNI EXPERTS' MEETING IN KYOTO ON REDUCING REOFFENDING

From 26-27 June 2026, representatives of institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI) gathered in Kyoto, Japan, for the PNI Experts' Meeting on Reducing Reoffending, hosted by UNAFEI. The participants included experts from UNICRI, ILANUD, ICCLR, RWI, KICJ, TIJ and UNAFEI, who met to exchange experiences and identify practical approaches to implementing the recently adopted United Nations Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending—more commonly known as the Kyoto Model Strategies (KMS)—and to examine how the PNI can contribute to implementation in diverse national contexts.

The meeting carried symbolic significance, as the concept of the Kyoto Model Strategies was first proposed in Kyoto during Workshop 2 of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The participants reflected on the need to move beyond the development of principles and toward concrete action, emphasizing the unique role of the PNI network in supporting implementation through research, training, technical assistance and international cooperation.

The presentations highlighted a wide range of initiatives undertaken by PNI institutes related to the implementation of the KMS. The programmes and practices presented addressed issues such as digital rehabilitation in prisons, gender-responsive justice, restorative justice, evidence-based offender assessment, strengthening community supervision through probation and parole, family and community engagement, and reintegration support programmes. Discussions focused on creating rehabilitative prison environments, expanding community-based alternatives to imprisonment, strengthening evidence on "what works" to reduce reoffending and fostering partnerships that support successful reintegration. Participants also explored emerging issues such as the use of digital technology and artificial intelligence in correctional settings.

Throughout the meeting, participants underscored that successful implementation of the KMS requires approaches that are evidence-based, locally adapted and supported by broad cooperation among criminal justice institutions, communities, civil society and the private sector. The discussions demonstrated the many ways in which PNI institutes are contributing to the implementation of the KMS through capacity-building, technical assistance, policy development,

research and the dissemination of promising practices.

The discussions reflected a meaningful step forward toward widespread implementation of the KMS, outlining three key principles of implementation: (1) taking an evidence-based approach that focuses on local adaptation rather than mere replication of programmes and practices; (2) involving a broad range of stakeholders, including affected individuals, families, communities, institutions, civil society and the private sector; and (3) pursuing sustainability of reforms by embracing a whole-of-justice-system approach rather than implementing isolated programmes.

Moreover, participants observed that technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), is not inherently rehabilitative but can support offender rehabilitation when adapted to local circumstances and introduced with a clear programme logic, ethical safeguards, human oversight and systematic evaluation. These insights led to a broader discussion surrounding technology and AI, and the potential value of developing a common framework or position on the use of AI in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Ultimately, the meeting demonstrated that reducing reoffending is not merely a correctional objective but a broader public policy challenge requiring coordination across criminal justice institutions, government agencies, communities and civil society. Participants emphasized that successful implementation of the Kyoto Model Strategies will depend not only on identifying effective practices but also on adapting them to local circumstances, evaluating their impact and sustaining them through long-term partnerships.

Prior to concluding the meeting, the participants observed a moment of silence in the memory of Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha of Thailand, who passed away in June 2026. Princess Bajrakitiyabha championed the adoption of the Bangkok Rules—the UN standards and norms on the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders—and was a steadfast supporter of the PNI. Exemplifying leadership, compassion and a belief in second chances, Princess Bajrakitiyabha's legacy will continue to guide cooperation by and among the PNI for generations to come.

¹ The Editorial Team would like to thank Mr. Tom Schmid, Linguistic Adviser, UNAFEI, for contributing this article.



Presentation by Dr. Jisun Choi of the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice on the role of the PNI in supporting the implementation of the Kyoto Model Strategies



PNI representatives discuss practical approaches to implementing the Kyoto Model Strategies and reducing reoffending.



TIJ Executive Director Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen and UNAFEI Director Yamauchi recalling the legacy of HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha of Thailand and her many contributions to the field of offender treatment and rehabilitation



Group photo of the meeting participants on the roof of the Kyoto International Conference Centre (KICC) in Kyoto, Japan

THE 15TH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE FIFTEENTH UN CRIME CONGRESS

THE BASICS OF LIFE AT UN CONGRESSES

Matti Joutsen²



² Dr. Matti Joutsen has attended the UN Crime Congresses since 1975, as a member of the national delegation of Finland. He has also served as Director of the European institute in the PNI network, HEUNI, and is currently Advisor to the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ). He has written about the Congresses for example in "The Evolution of the United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice," published by the TIJ in 2021 (available at: <https://knowledge.tijthailand.org/uploads/publication/file/20210305/en-bdfjptx12579.pdf>) and in "The United Nations Programme for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice" (Routledge, 2024).

Orienting yourself in the midst of one of the largest global Crime Congresses ever

If you have decided to take part in the Fifteenth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held from Saturday, 26 September through Thursday, 1 October 2026 in Abu Dhabi, congratulations! These UN Crime Congresses, held every five years, are the largest global gathering in this field. An estimated 5,000 persons from around the world are expected to be filling the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC). The participants will represent some 150 different Member States, dozens of UN agencies, the Programme Network Institutes, the major intergovernmental organizations in the field, and over a hundred civil society organizations. In addition, over

a thousand individual experts from around the world are expected to take part.

The programme for the six days of the Congress will be packed with a variety of events: high level discussions, plenaries, four workshops held in two Committees, hundreds of ancillary meetings and exhibitions. There will also be many smaller and informal ad hoc meetings. Along the way, you will have ample opportunities for one-on-one meetings in the hallways and over coffee, lunch and dinner with your friends and colleagues from around the world: policymakers, practitioners from all sectors of crime prevention and criminal justice, academics, researchers, media representatives and so on.

The UNODC has sought to make the Congress the most youth-inclusive ever through its Generation Justice (GenJust) initiative, which is designed to amplify the voice of youth and facilitate their contribution. A youth statement will be given in the plenary, representatives of youth will contribute as panellists to all four Workshops, and a youth art exhibition shall be organized. A Youth Forum shall be organized preceding the Congress, on 24-25 September 2026, focusing on a youth roadmap to implement Congress commitments.

Cramming all of that into the six days of the Congress will require some planning on your part. The purpose of this article is to provide some information which may help you decide how to spend your time. All of this, of course, will depend on what you want to get out of the UN Crime Congress in Abu Dhabi. Start by considering what topics you are interested in, who you would like to meet, and why.

By now, you should have registered with the UNODC and, should you need one, secured a visa for entry into the United Arab Emirates. Those persons who are attending in person should already have arranged for their travel and accommodation. The proceedings may also be followed online, since they shall be webcast by the UNODC on UN WebTV. The link will be available on the Congress website <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crimecongress/about.html> (In practice, it is not possible for online participants to request the floor during the formal sessions. Online input is possible during the ancillary meetings, if this has been arranged with the organizers of the meeting in question.)

Before the Congress, you should take the time to look at the Congress programme and the other background documents, including

- the discussion guide (A/CONF.241/PM.1),
- the revised annotated provisional agenda (A/CONF.241/1/Rev.1),
- the rules of procedure (A/CONF.241/2) and
- the revised information for participants (A/CONF.241/INF/1/Rev.1)

These and other Congress documents are available on the Congress website (<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crimecongress/index.html>). Throughout the Congress, you will undoubtedly have many reasons to check the website. The Fifteenth UN Crime Congress will be the first one to go virtually paperless. The website will contain the many preparatory and in-session documents, such as the background documents and the draft reports. It will also contain the Daily Journal, which provides information on what meetings are to be held and where, as well as what documents relate to the discussions to be held that day. (Some of this information will also be available on the monitors at the site of the Congress.) Statements given during the high-level segment will be made available on the website. In addition, many of the Member States, other entities and individual participants will have provided written statements, and again they can be found on the website.

Getting around the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre and the city of Abu Dhabi

The Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) is a well-equipped and well-planned congress venue located in the Capital Centre district, about fifteen minutes from the Abu Dhabi International Airport and twenty minutes from downtown Abu Dhabi. It is the largest exhibition space in the Middle East.

The UN Crime Congress will be held in halls 1-7 and conference halls A & B of the ADNEC. The congress venue has a restaurant and several cafés, and there are more within walking distance in the surrounding area. Two of the Congress hotels are attached to the congress centre, while the others are located between three and fifteen kilometres away. Shuttles will bring Congress participants from their hotels to the Congress and back again. In addition, there is an extensive network of public transport suitable for exploring the city, and taxis are available.

It is expected that the host government will have a tourist office at the Congress site, should participants want (and have the time) to visit the many sights in the city and the surrounding area, or for example in Dubai, only 90 minutes away.

The pre-session consultations (Friday, 25 September 2026)

Many members of national delegations shall be arriving already a day in advance to attend the pre-session consultations (“informals”) for the UN Crime Congress. These will be held in the Plenary Hall of the ADNEC on Friday afternoon, 25 September, from 15:00 to 18:00.

The purpose of the informals is to go through several procedural issues to see if tentative consensus on these can be reached already in advance, which would speed up their formal adoption during the opening of the Congress.

One such question is the composition of the General Committee (the corresponding body at the UN Crime Commission is called the “bureau”): the President of the Congress, 24 Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a chairperson for each of the two committees. The president has traditionally been a high-level official of the host country, in this case the United Arab Emirates. The other members of the General Committee are selected on the basis of equitable geographical representation: seven from African States, six from Asian States, three from Eastern European States, five from Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) and six from Western European and other States (WEOG).

In addition to the General Committee, each of the two Committees is to have a vice-chairperson and a rapporteur.

The other procedural issues that are to be discussed during the informals include the rules of procedure, the agenda, the organization of work, and arrangements for the examination of credentials of representatives to the Congress.

The first day of the Congress (Saturday, 26 September 2026): the opening and the high-level segment

Participants wishing to attend the opening of the Congress at 09:30 on Saturday, 26 September are strongly encouraged to arrive early at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre so that they have time to go through security and collect their Congress identification badge (“grounds pass”). This requires a passport or other acceptable identification documents. For almost all participants, who will have uploaded their photograph at the time of registration

through the Indico portal, their grounds pass should be waiting for them on arrival, but it understandably takes time to check the IDs of thousands of participants and match them with their grounds pass. Please note that participants are requested to be in their seats by 09:15, fifteen minutes before the opening of the Congress.

As at past Congress openings, the opening ceremony is expected to feature messages of welcome from the host country, as well as messages from several distinguished UN officials. The opening will also include the taking of formal decisions on the composition of the General Committee, the rules of procedure, the agenda, the organization of work, and arrangements for the examination of credentials of representatives to the Congress. Since these would presumably have been tentatively agreed upon during the informals on the preceding afternoon, adoption should go smoothly.

During the formal opening, no other activities (such as ancillary meetings) are generally scheduled.

The opening ceremony is followed by the high-level segment in plenary, which is scheduled to last the rest of Saturday and all day Sunday (26 and 27 September, with exceptional evening sessions). Depending on the number of speakers, the segment may be continued through to Monday. During this part of the Congress, heads of state or government, ministers and other high-level governmental representatives are invited to address the overall theme of the Congress, “Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age.”

At the beginning of the high-level segment, the Congress is expected to adopt the Abu Dhabi Declaration. Each UN Crime Congress adopts a single and non-binding political declaration, which expresses the collective commitment of the Member States gathered at the Congress to specific goals, principles and actions. The Congress Declaration is politically the most important outcome of the Congress and provides a framework for the work of the UN Crime Commission and for the entire UN Crime Programme for the following five years.

The “zero draft” of the Abu Dhabi Declaration emerged based on the conclusions and recommendations of the five regional preparatory meetings for the UN Crime Congress, held during the first months of 2025. The drafting of the Abu Dhabi Declaration began in

mid-2025, with a view to having the Declaration adopted on the opening day of the Congress. The negotiation involves representatives of Member States, but consultations have been conducted with relevant organizations and entities.

After the adoption of the Abu Dhabi Declaration, the floor at the high-level segment will be given to over 100 speakers, starting with the representatives of the Member States chairing each of the five regional groups: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), and Western Europe and others (WEOG). They will be followed by high-level representatives of Member States. If there are heads of state or government, they would speak first. Otherwise, Member States would generally be represented by ministers or ambassadors. (Most of the statements will be given in person, although several will be pretaped video statements.)

Should time permit, heads of UN entities, intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations may also make statements during the high-level segment.

The representatives of regional groups will each have seven minutes to speak, and other speakers will have five minutes – a relatively brief slot of time, indeed. Longer statements may be posted on the website of the Congress.

Since the speakers represent different Member States and other entities, they have different approaches to the topics, and they will each focus on issues of special interest or concern to them, a participant sitting in the audience may feel that it is a challenge to follow the high-level segment and identify underlying themes. However, participants who take the time to listen to even a few of the statements will soon be able to pick up many items of interest. Even the short statements will give a flavour of the range of issues that are of concern in different countries around the world. Several themes will undoubtedly be repeated. Concern will be expressed by many speakers regarding the same forms of crime, and regarding certain challenges in the operation of the criminal justice system. Some speakers may report on recent noteworthy policy initiatives in their country in crime prevention or criminal justice. Other speakers may call on the international community and the UNODC to provide more technical assistance. Some representatives may express concern over the actions of entities which they regard as potentially engendering crime or harming the rule of law.

A new feature of the Fifteenth UN Crime Congress will be a pledging ceremony entitled “Pledge for Justice,” which will take place during the high-level segment. As noted by the UNODC, “The ceremony will provide Member States with an opportunity to publicly reaffirm their commitment to advancing justice, protecting persons in vulnerable situations and supporting innovative, inclusive, and sustainable responses to crime. Pledges may be made in relation to, inter alia, policy and legislative reforms, efforts to enhance the capacity of criminal justice actors, partnership initiatives and financial contributions.”

The Congress rapporteur (ably assisted by the UNODC Secretariat) will produce a report on the high-level segment which will have identified many of the common threads and notable comments. The statements given during the high-level segment would also be made available on the Congress website.

Choosing between alternatives: the formal part of the UN Crime Congress

Following the opening ceremony, all participants will have to make choices as to where and how they are to spend their time. A dozen or more meetings can be going on at the same time: sessions of the plenary and the two Committees, and a host of ancillary and other meetings. Sessions of the plenary and the Committees are held from 10:00 to 13:00 and 15:00 to 18:00 each day, with evening sessions added on for the high-level segment in plenary during the first two days of the Congress.

Information on what meetings are being held and where will be found in the programme that appears online in the Daily Journal on the Congress website, and on the monitors located around the building.

The formal part of the Congress is held in the plenary and in the two Committees. The plenary, which will have the benefit of interpretation into the six UN working languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish), deals during the first two days with the high-level segment, and after that with the four substantive agenda items. During the last day, the plenary considers the reports of the two Committees, as well as the report of the Congress itself, and is the venue for the closing ceremonies. The four Workshops are dealt with in the two Committees, from the afternoon of the first day (26 September) through to 30 September. As an exception to past UN Crime Congresses, the Workshops will be in English only, without the benefit of interpretation.

The substantive agenda items and the Workshop topics follow an internal logic. The four agenda items have been selected so that the first deals with a topical issue in crime prevention, the second with the criminal justice system, the third with serious forms of crime, and the fourth with international cooperation:

- Advancing innovative and evidence-based crime prevention strategies towards social, economic and environmental development
- Promoting people-centred, inclusive and responsive criminal justice systems in a world of continuous change
- Addressing and countering crime – including organized crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations – in new, emerging and evolving forms
- Working better together to elevate cooperation and partnerships, including technical and material assistance and training, at the national, regional and international levels, in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Each substantive agenda item, in turn, relates to a Workshop that precedes the discussion on the agenda item, as follows:

- Workshop 1: Building resilient societies, with a focus on protecting women, children and youth: fostering engagement, education and the culture of lawfulness
- Workshop 2: Ensuring equal access to justice for all: towards safe and secure societies while respecting the rule of law
- Workshop 3: Getting ahead: strengthening data collection and analysis to better protect people and planet in times of new, emerging and evolving forms of crime
- Workshop 4: Turning the digital age into an opportunity: promoting the responsible use of technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Each Workshop lasts for six hours (with two three-hour sessions) and is timed so that a report on it can be submitted to the plenary when it begins to discuss the respective substantive agenda item.

The Workshops have been prepared primarily by various Programme Network Institutes in cooperation with the UNODC. The lead institutes have been UNAFEI for Workshop 1, ILANUD for Workshop 2, the Thailand Institute of Justice for Workshop 3, and UNICRI and the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice for Workshop 4. The Workshops are designed

to be more practical and focused than the more policy-oriented discussion on the substantive agenda items, and to feature as much interaction among the presenters and the audience as possible. The substantive agenda items, which deal with broader issues, will have some structure, and the input will consist primarily of short, three-minute statements from participants. (The chairs of regional groups will be allotted five minutes each.)

Choosing between alternatives: the informal part of the UN Crime Congress

The informal part consists largely of ancillary meetings and exhibitions, but also of a range of other (usually closed) meetings of regional and professional groups, as well as internal meetings of various delegations.

Ancillary meetings (which correspond to the “side events” held in connection with sessions of the UN Crime Commission) are organized by Member States, UN entities, intergovernmental organizations, Programme Network Institutes, civil society organizations, professional organizations and other bodies to discuss very specific issues. While the UNODC will provide the room and standard audiovisual equipment, the organizer is responsible for the structure and content of the meeting, as well as for the online conferencing platform, if needed. The organizer is also responsible for any necessary interpretation.

Ancillary meetings generally last one hour each and are open to all Congress participants. The programme of ancillary meetings is available on the Congress website at www.unodc.org/res/crimecongress/events_html/15thCongress_Ancillary_Meeting_Programme.pdf

The Fifteenth UN Crime Congress will feature two new forms for organizing ancillary events, the “NGO Lab” and the “PNI Lab.” The concept is based on having one room reserved exclusively for NGOs, and a second room exclusively for Programme Network Institutes throughout the week to organize ancillary meetings. Instead of the usual ancillary meeting format based on presentations followed by discussion, these Labs offer a flexible and informal setting for activities such as workshops, film screenings, roundtable discussions, or more innovative and experimental formats.

Separate facilities have been arranged for the UN Crime Congress exhibition, where Member States, UN entities, Programme Network Institutes,

intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations may showcase their contributions to crime prevention and criminal justice. These provide participants an opportunity to become familiar with national and organizational efforts and initiatives, good practice and success stories. At the same time, they can follow up with representatives of Member States or other entities should a statement made during the Congress have sparked a participant's special interest.

In addition, regional groups and delegations may hold regular meetings, and professional and other organizations may hold their own meetings. These are generally closed meetings. Several delegations meet once or twice each day to exchange notes on what has happened, and to decide who in the delegation would cover upcoming activities, generally to ensure that their interests are represented, and to record what is discussed.

Presenting statements during the UN Crime Congress

With some 5,000 participants, not everyone will be able to make statements. The process for requesting the floor during the plenary (the high-level segment and the consideration of the four substantive agenda items) as well as in the two Committees (the four Workshops) is subject to guidelines, including (as noted above) on the maximum length of interventions.

The greatest number of requests for the floor will come for the high-level segment. The initial list of speakers has already been determined by lot in advance of the Congress, at an intersessional meeting of the UN Crime Commission held on 2 September 2026. Other speakers may be added to the list on a first-come, first-served basis.

Requests for the floor during the consideration in plenary of the substantive agenda items can be made already in advance of the Congress, and the list of speakers will generally be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The list of speakers during the Workshops in Committees 1 and 2 is opened once the Committees begin their work.

If you are planning to make a statement in plenary, please note the multilingual nature of the UN Crime Congress. The use of videos and PowerPoint slides so common elsewhere is not practical at the Congress

already due to the briefness of the time allowed for speaking, but also because even the highly skilled UN interpreters cannot simultaneously interpret what the speaker may be saying, as well as what is shown on the screen.

As for statements during the ancillary meetings and other parts of the informal meetings, this will be subject to the guidance of the chairperson.

The last day of the UN Crime Congress (Thursday, 1 October 2026)

On the final day of the Congress, Thursday, 1 October 2026, the discussion on the substantive agenda items is concluded in the plenary, which then turns its attention to the draft reports that have been prepared during the Congress. First is the draft report of the Credentials Committee, and then the draft reports of Committees 1 and 2. At past Congresses, this has generally involved only minor fine-tuning of the drafts. (Technical corrections, such as the wording of translations into the different language, should be made directly to the UNODC Secretariat.)

The final agenda item to be dealt with by the plenary is the adoption of the Congress report itself. This will contain the text of the Abu Dhabi Declaration, any other decisions taken by the Congress, a (brief) account of the events leading up to the Congress and of the Congress proceedings, a (brief) summary of the substantive work by the plenary and the two Committees, an overview of the high-level segment, and an account of the action taken.

Follow-up to the UN Crime Congress

The Congress report and the Abu Dhabi Declaration contained in it will be submitted to the UN Crime Commission at its resumed session in December 2026 for follow-up action. The Commission is charged by the General Assembly with recommending, through the Economic and Social Council, appropriate follow-up by the General Assembly at its subsequent session.

Some final thoughts: the significance of the UN Crime Congress

The preceding fourteen UN Crime Congresses (from 1955 in Geneva to 2021 in Kyoto) have helped to widen and shape our understanding of many key issues in

crime prevention and criminal justice. By providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences in how local, national and international responses to crime can be improved, they have promoted the global spread of the latest approaches in criminal justice and the latest thinking in criminology, victimology and criminal justice studies. Innovations and research conducted in some Member States and reported at the Congresses have stimulated similar efforts elsewhere. Early examples of this are the way the Third UN Crime Congress in Stockholm (1965) served to direct attention to crime prevention strategies, the role of informal social control, and the impact of social change on crime, and the way the Fourth UN Crime Congress in Kyoto (1970), and the Fifth UN Crime Congress in Geneva (1975) raised awareness of the national and international dimensions of organized crime and terrorism. Subsequent UN Crime Congresses provided criminal justice policymakers and criminologists around the world with better conceptual tools to understand and analyse for example the economic impact of crime, issues related to crime and development, challenges caused by prison overcrowding, the “hidden crime” of domestic violence, the importance of addressing the needs and concerns of victims of crime, the value of non-custodial sanctions, and the harm caused by new, emerging and evolving crime such as environmental crime, cybercrime, trafficking in persons, and terrorism. These are only some examples.

By taking part in the Fifteenth UN Crime Congress in Abu Dhabi in April, you will have the opportunity to be part of this rich legacy, learn from your peers, and contribute your own experiences and insights for the benefit of others all around the world.

LOOKING AHEAD TO ABU DHABI: A CONVERSATION WITH JOHN BRANDOLINO

CHAPTER 2



The Editorial Team had the privilege of speaking with Mr. John Brandolino, former Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and former Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs. Over many years, Mr. Brandolino has played a central role in advancing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice agenda, including through his involvement in the preparation of successive UN Crime Congresses.

As preparations continue for the Fifteenth United Nations Crime Congress in Abu Dhabi, we invited Mr. Brandolino to share his reflections on the evolving landscape of crime prevention and criminal justice, the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead and what participants can expect from the upcoming Congress.

(Editor's Note: This interview was conducted in February 2026, prior to the announcement of the postponement of the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice)

Have you observed any significant changes in the landscape of crime prevention and criminal justice that are likely to shape the field over the next five years, and could be reflected in the discussions in Abu Dhabi?

We are witnessing a period of rapid and profound change in the landscape of crime prevention and criminal justice. Digitalization, artificial intelligence and new technologies are transforming both how crimes are committed and how criminal justice systems respond. Organized crime is increasingly transnational, exploiting cyberspace, illicit financial flows and supply chain vulnerabilities at unprecedented speed and scale.

At the same time, criminal justice systems are being asked to respond to these evolving threats while respecting sovereign borders, upholding human rights, ensuring access to justice and maintaining public trust. Crimes that affect the environment, corruption and the links between crimes are becoming more visible and interconnected. Together, these trends underline the urgency of strengthening our collective capacity to protect people and the planet in the digital age—a challenge that will shape the field for years to come and feature prominently in the discussions in Abu Dhabi.

What, in your view, will make the Abu Dhabi Crime Congress distinct from previous Crime Congresses?

The Abu Dhabi Crime Congress will be distinct in its strong focus on the future. While firmly anchored in the foundational principles of the Crime Congresses, the Congress will look beyond today's challenges to examine how criminal justice systems can anticipate and respond to emerging threats, including those driven by technological change and environmental pressures.

Another defining feature will be the emphasis on broad engagement and partnerships. The Congress will bring together governments, international organizations, practitioners, academia, civil society, youth and the private sector in a more integrated way, reflecting the shared responsibility required to protect people and the planet in the digital age. During the first-ever Pledge4Justice Initiative held at the high-level segment, heads of delegation will be encouraged to lay out concrete, time-bound actions to advance crime prevention and criminal justice during the period 2026-2031.

What opportunities do you see in having the Congress hosted by the United Arab Emirates?

Hosting the Congress in the United Arab Emirates offers a unique opportunity. The UAE has positioned itself as a global hub for innovation, digital transformation and international cooperation, while investing in modern and forward-looking institutions. This creates a powerful setting to explore how technological advancement, sustainability and the rule of law can reinforce one another.

The region's strategic location also enhances the Congress's global reach, enabling broad participation and dialogue across regions, legal traditions and development contexts.

Is there any message you would particularly like to convey to those preparing to attend the Congress?

My message to participants is to come prepared to engage openly, share experience and think boldly. The Crime Congress is not only a forum for dialogue, but a platform to help shape practical, future-oriented solutions. The ideas, commitments and partnerships forged in Abu Dhabi can contribute meaningfully to protecting people and the planet in the digital age, well beyond the Congress itself. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice offers an ideal intergovernmental platform to ensure follow-up and help Member States translating the outcome of the Abu Dhabi Congress into concrete action, on the road to the 16th UN Crime Congress to be held in 2031.

CRIME CONGRESS WORKSHOPS: A CONVERSATION WITH THE FOCAL POINTS

CHAPTER 2

One of the key contributions of the institutes of the PNI to the work of the United Nations Crime Commission has been their role in contributing to the thematic discussions of the Commission. This has traditionally taken place through the organization of a PNI workshop during each annual session of the CCPCJ.

Within the context of the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Congress workshops form an important part of the official agenda and are linked to major thematic areas under discussion at the Congress. These workshops provide a space for more focused and in-depth exchanges on emerging issues, research findings, innovative practices and practical challenges in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. They also help bring academic perspectives and evidence-based approaches into broader intergovernmental discussions.

The official discussion guides, background papers and provisional agendas available on the Crime Congress website provide an important foundation for understanding the four upcoming Congress workshops. For this edition of the Newsletter, we asked PNI colleagues directly involved in the preparation of the workshops to share, in their own words, what participants may expect from the discussions ahead, which themes are likely to shape the conversations, and what makes each workshop particularly timely and relevant.

Through these interviews, we hope readers will gain not only a clearer understanding of the issues to be discussed, but also a sense of the energy, ideas and collaborative spirit behind the preparation of the workshops. We are grateful to the colleagues who took the time to share their reflections and insights for this special edition:

- Mr. Yoshimitsu Yamauchi, Director of UNAFEI, for Workshop 1;
- Mr. Douglas Durán Chavarría, Director of ILANUD, for Workshop 2;

- Ms. Nichapa Limsiritong, Senior Policy Coordination Officer at TIJ, for Workshop 3;
- Ms. Jisun Choi, Director of the Division of International Affairs at KICJ, and Ms. Ottavia Galuzzi, Associate Expert at UNICRI, for Workshop 4

WORKSHOP 1:

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

What should participants expect from attending your workshop?



Yoshimitsu Yamauchi: At its core, Workshop 1 will examine why community engagement and participation are critical to enhancing crime prevention and how building resilience (the capacity to overcome adversity) lies at the heart of this process. Consistent with the criminological and psychological literatures, we suggest that building resilience in the context of crime prevention involves providing timely and tailored support to people who need it at the individual, family and community levels. Because both crime victims and most offenders have experienced

varying degrees of adversity from past to present, the workshop will explore how the active participation of the community not only supports criminal justice policies but can generate resilient outcomes.

Our approach to resilience is also based on the United Nations Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies, which calls on policymakers to prioritize the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups. For that reason, the workshop will explore resilience-oriented approaches by focusing on measures to protect women, children and youth. The workshop will be divided into two thematic discussions. The first, held on the afternoon of 26 September, will primarily consider such measures from the perspective of crime prevention and criminal justice. The second, which will be held on the morning of 27 September, will look at involving these groups in policy formulation, their role as agents of change in the community and the broader justice system and the positive role that lived experience can have in this process.

Ultimately, effective crime prevention requires a whole-of-society approach, and the active engagement of communities will focus efforts on finding solutions to local problems in a way that is consistent with community norms and values. We believe that the ideas and practices shared during the workshop are fundamental not only to enhancing the effectiveness of criminal justice policies and practices but to improving public safety, reducing the financial and administrative burdens on the criminal justice system and enhancing individual and community well-being.

What makes this workshop particularly exciting?

Yoshimitsu Yamauchi: With the recent adoption of the Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending (the Kyoto Model Strategies), A/RES/80/226, Annex, Workshop 1 provides an exciting opportunity not only to introduce the newest UN standards and norms but also to start working toward implementation. Core Principle V specifically recognizes the importance of community engagement in supporting offender rehabilitation and reintegration, underscoring the importance of multi-stakeholder partnership, which can include collaborative efforts ranging from interagency cooperation to the engagement of community volunteers and civil society organizations. Just as this approach plays a key role in reducing reoffending, it is also important for providing support to crime victims, at-risk individuals and marginalized populations. In this sense, the workshop aims to build on the concept of

reducing reoffending, explored in Workshop 2 of the Kyoto Congress, by extending the principle of multi-stakeholder partnership to all aspects of crime prevention.

We're also excited about introducing the theory of collective efficacy to the UN Crime Programme as an evidence-based approach with implications on a culture of lawfulness. Similar to individual efficacy, the collective efficacy of a neighbourhood measures the willingness and ability of community members to intervene in and prevent crime on the basis of shared community values and mutual trust. Neighbourhoods with high collective efficacy have been shown to have lower violent crime rates than those with low collective efficacy. A culture of lawfulness exists at the societal or community level when the people embrace values that are resistant to crime and consistent with the rule of law. By bringing collective efficacy to the discussion, we aim to identify a significant part of the mechanism through which a culture of lawfulness works, and we hope this lays the groundwork for future efforts to strengthen both a culture of lawfulness and community engagement in crime prevention.

WORKSHOP 2:

Ensuring equal access to justice for all – towards safe and secure societies while respecting the rule of law

What should participants expect from attending your Workshop?



Douglas DURÁN CHAVARRÍA: The United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is the most important global forum bringing together

authorities, criminal justice policymakers and academics working in this field.

At this type of Congress, the most relevant issues related to crime prevention and the functioning of criminal justice systems are discussed, making it a prime opportunity to conduct an in-depth analysis of a wide range of aspects related to social control and public security.

The diversity of topics addressed also makes it possible to cover issues that require the highest level of attention from decision-makers, criminal justice system actors and the academic community.

One such issue is access to justice, which will be the central theme of Workshop 2 of Committee II at this Congress, scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi at the end of September 2026.

What gives this workshop particular importance is that it offers an opportunity to highlight the main challenges affecting the full enjoyment of rights by individuals, since even in well-designed normative and institutional frameworks there may be barriers to access to justice, especially for people and groups in situations of vulnerability. This is particularly evident in contexts of increasing inequality: until recently, approximately 70 per cent of the world's population lived in countries where inequality has grown (<https://www.un.org/en/un75/inequality-bridging-divide>).

Structural violence, such as that I have just described, makes effective access to justice difficult for certain populations and groups, which underscores the relevance of placing a situational analysis of these challenges at the centre of the discussion.

For ILANUD, co-organizing this workshop is of particular interest, as Latin America is one of the regions facing some of the most severe inequality challenges. However, it is not the only one, as similar challenges can be observed in many other regions and subregions, including Africa and large parts of the Middle East.

In any case, this is a global challenge that should prompt reflection on how to strengthen and improve justice systems in order to make them more accessible to all people, without distinction based on economic status or any other circumstance that may give rise to discrimination on grounds such as ethnic origin, gender or similar factors.

What makes this workshop particularly exciting?

Douglas DURÁN CHAVARRÍA: For ILANUD, co-organizing this workshop has been an extraordinary experience, as it allows us to serve as facilitators of a space in which, as mentioned earlier, the prevailing situation can be analysed. At the same time, this forum will also bring solutions, innovative approaches, successful experiences and good practices to the Congress—in short, concrete pathways to improving existing systems, which is particularly compelling.

The idea developed over several years of planning together with UNODC is for the workshop to highlight these new perspectives for improvement in the most practical manner possible, by showcasing, for example, projects that have produced positive results or processes that, although still ongoing, show strong potential.

To this practical orientation, we aim to add a multi-regional perspective by bringing together officials and experts from all parts of the world, thereby making possible a comparative and cross-regional approach.

Another element that will make the workshop particularly appealing is the inclusion of speakers with diverse professional backgrounds, drawn from different sectors of the criminal justice system, as well as from academia, civil society and non-governmental organizations.

Accordingly, participants will include law enforcement officials, prosecutors, public defenders, representatives of relevant ministries and public institutions, as well as experts working from complementary perspectives that seek to expand access to justice, such as restorative justice, which also offers additional avenues for addressing the rights and needs of victims.

As can be seen, this will be a highly dynamic and diverse session in terms of the backgrounds of the invited speakers, the themes addressed, the participants and the approaches adopted. All of this promises a very engaging workshop that will make substantive contributions to advancing the international agenda on access to justice. We therefore expect broad participation, both from our partners within the network of institutes and from the general public, which is usually very numerous at these Congresses. See you in Abu Dhabi!

WORKSHOP 3:

Getting ahead: strengthening data collection and analysis to better protect people and planet in times of new, emerging and evolving forms of crime

What should participants expect from attending your Workshop?



Nichapa Limsiritong: Over the years, our justice system has changed a lot, and today, faces many new challenges which were not even imagined until recently. It is impossible to respond effectively to these challenges in the current scenario without robust, comprehensive and accessible data. For instance, the evolution of technology has allowed cybercrimes, human trafficking, money laundering and environmental crime to transcend borders with fluidity. These now pose unusual and unexpected challenges of prevention and control. High-quality empirical evidence and statistical data can help identify trends, allocate resources effectively and evaluate the impact of interventions.

At the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ), we are especially aware of the opportunities that lie at the intersection of data and crime. This is what prompted TIJ to lead the workshop for the first time at the Crime Congress. We believe that this Workshop can propel us towards better know-how and innovative ways to collect, analyse and utilize crime-related data. In turn, this can help tailor crime prevention and criminal justice strategies to deal with intricate problems and to the different needs in our respective countries and on the global level as a whole.

Imagine a workshop where we don't just "talk about" the problem of emerging crime, but we explore how to get ahead of it through better data and smarter analysis. Our goal is to change the way we look at data

— they are not just static numbers on a page, but a strategic tool that can help transform how we detect crimes, improve response times and mitigate future risks.

As for key takeaways for participants attending this Workshop, I can think of at least three that stand out: Firstly, a clearer understanding of the full spectrum of data sources available for detecting and tackling new threats, like environmental crimes, human trafficking and cyber-enabled offences; secondly, practical insights on how to translate data into action and policy impact; and thirdly, exposure to innovative tools and approaches, including geospatial analysis and sensor data, to visualize crime patterns, and foresight methods to identify new risks and threats.

Over multiple in-depth sessions, the Workshop will also consider the improvements needed in traditional data collection methods, and the use and limitations of newer sources like machine learning and artificial intelligence. We will also examine cross-border collaboration in tackling transnational crimes, and the benefits of international data sharing and cooperative law enforcement. We will consider how best jurisdictions can pool resources, share intelligence and align strategies, and the role of international organizations in such collaboration.

The Workshop's objective is to equip attendees – including practitioners, policymakers, academics, NGOs and private sector representatives – with a recognition of the urgent relevance of data collection and analysis today, and more importantly, the value of working collaboratively. Among other things, we hope participants will emerge with a toolkit of practical examples of cross-sectoral and cross-regional communication and analysis methods and skills, and an understanding of how data can be better used to protect people and the planet.

I do not want to reveal too much in advance. The best way to understand what to expect would be to join us at the Workshop and experience the discussions firsthand.

What makes this workshop particularly exciting?

Nichapa Limsiritong: What excites me most about this workshop is the unique mix of perspectives from different players, and the many moving parts we are bringing into one space. We will bring together a network of like-minded individuals and organizations to share experiences and best practices in

methodologies, innovations and tools that can effectively respond to the evolving nature of crimes and their surrounding complexities. Participants will be able to interact with top-tier national statisticians and academic researchers who deal with the technical use of data, alongside law enforcement leaders and civil society who are engaged with the ground realities of crime. We even have “Foresight” experts to help us look systematically and strategically at what the future holds.

Participants across different roles will each gain something meaningful from the Workshop. For instance, policymakers can see how raw data can be translated to inform policy; practitioners can get insights into tools and approaches to strengthen operational readiness for emerging threats; academics and data analysts can enhance their understanding of connecting data or statistics with real-world challenges, and where evidence and innovation can be most useful. Conversations like these are doubly important because they remind us of the importance of these interrelationships and their impact on a safer future for all of us.

Another exciting element is that this workshop is not designed as a one-way session. We try to incorporate interactive elements and innovative ways to ensure participants do not just sit as the audience, but actively shape the conversation, sharing experiences, raising questions and contributing insights from their own contexts. It follows that the workshop also offers real networking value. It is a space where participants can connect with peers who are tackling similar issues, explore opportunities for collaboration and leave with ideas they can apply in their own jurisdictions.

We hope to welcome as many attendees as possible from Member States, NGOs, academia and international organizations who are interested in driving this issue and will continue to work along with us in this endeavour. See you in Abu Dhabi!

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

What should participants expect from attending your Workshop?



Jisun Choi: Participants will gain practical insights into integrating digital technologies within criminal justice systems while balancing innovation with human rights. The KICJ chose to focus on this topic because “evidence-based criminology” is central to our mandate. We aim to share the studies on advanced technological infrastructure and our experience in applying digital solutions to legal policy. By attending, participants will engage in a dialogue that moves beyond theory, offering concrete strategies for establishing robust institutional frameworks for digital justice.

Ottavia Galuzzi: Participants attending Workshop 4 can expect a dynamic, forward looking and solutions-oriented dialogue on how to integrate digital technologies into criminal justice systems responsibly, ethically and effectively.

The workshop will be divided into four panels spread over two days. During the first day, the workshop will set the scene by discussing the challenges, risks and

opportunities for using technology in the criminal justice system, and by exploring digital trust and strategies to leverage technology for data analysis and strengthened criminal justice functions. During the second day, the workshop will move into the concept of dual-use technologies and the relevance of regulatory frameworks to ensure that technology in the criminal justice system upholds human rights protections, and will conclude with reflections on international cooperation and public-private partnerships as essential drivers for strengthened crime prevention and streamlined criminal justice responses to cybercrime.

Throughout the workshop, participants will engage with experts, policymakers, Member States' representatives, researchers and practitioners who are actively shaping the future of digital justice. They will explore how technological tools, when designed and deployed responsibly, can enhance efficiency, transparency, access to justice and the overall functioning of criminal justice institutions. At the same time, the workshop will shed light on the growing challenges associated with cybercrime, online harms and the misuse of advanced technologies. These include risks such as cyberattacks, online fraud, exploitation, biased predictive policing and the dangers of mass surveillance, all of which stand to disproportionately impact vulnerable populations and exacerbate existing inequalities.

The workshop will provide a platform to reflect on how Member States and diverse stakeholders can balance innovation with accountability. Participants will explore ways to address global disparities in digital access and capability, particularly in regions where law enforcement institutions remain under-resourced and face significant barriers to adapting to rapidly evolving technologies.

Most importantly, we want to hear from you!

There will be multiple opportunities to contribute actively by sharing research, analytical insights, national experiences and examples of good practice. The workshop's structure will encourage peer learning and foster cross-sector collaboration. Participants can expect practical insights into building digital trust, leveraging data responsibly and developing partnerships that strengthen crime prevention and ensure fair, transparent responses to cybercrime.

We hope participants will leave the workshop with an enriched understanding of how to cultivate a culture of responsible innovation: one that prioritizes inclusivity,

contextual sensitivity, human dignity, fairness and the rule of law, while navigating the rapidly changing technological landscape shaping modern criminal justice systems.

What makes this workshop particularly exciting?

Jisun Choi: This workshop is uniquely exciting due to the strategic partnership between KICJ and UNICRI. Unlike other sessions, this collaboration synergizes KICJ's strengths in sophisticated criminological research and Korea's world-class technological prowess with UNICRI's extensive international field experience.

Korea is a global leader in digital innovation, and the KICJ leverages this national expertise to develop cutting-edge criminal justice policies. Combining this with UNICRI's global mandate allows us to offer a holistic perspective that bridges local technological success with international implementation standards.

Ottavia Galuzzi: Workshop 4 stands out as an especially exciting opportunity because it sits at the intersection of global policy, emerging technologies, and the fundamental principles that underpin fair and effective criminal justice systems. At a time when digital transformation is rapidly reshaping institutions worldwide, the workshop offers a platform to explore how innovation can be pursued responsibly, ensuring that technological progress strengthens, rather than undermines, human rights, access to justice and public trust.

What makes the workshop particularly exciting is its multi-stakeholder and solutions-driven approach. Rather than limiting the conversation to either the promises or dangers of the digital age, it embraces the complexity of technological change. Speakers and participants will engage in thoughtful discussions about how platforms and tools such as diverse online environments, artificial intelligence and data analytics can meaningfully enhance efficiency, transparency, crime prevention strategies and victim support.

Adding significantly to the workshop's dynamism is its inclusive design. By convening representatives of Member States, practitioners, the private sector, researchers and civil society actors, the workshop fosters genuine exchange and cross-sector collaboration. Participants are encouraged not only to learn but also to contribute—sharing research findings, national experiences and innovative practices. A particularly exciting feature is the meaningful

collaboration between the UNODC, UNICRI and the KICJ. Our combined expertise and complementary mandates enrich the workshop's content, broaden its global reach and ensure a thoughtful balance between policy, research and capacity building perspectives. Our partnership underscores the shared commitment of these institutions to advancing responsible, inclusive and human rights-centred technological innovation in criminal justice systems.

We hope to see you all at Workshop 4 during the Crime Congress and learn from your background and expertise!

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS BAJRAKITIYABHA AND THE UN CRIME CONGRESSES: THE STORY BEHIND A LASTING LEGACY



As the international community prepares to gather for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Abu Dhabi, many colleagues across the PNI will inevitably look back on previous Congresses and the people they encountered along the way. Among the many memories that come to mind, one image will undoubtedly remain with many of us: Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha actively engaging in discussions and participating in events throughout the Thirteenth United Nations Crime Congress in Doha in 2015.

Some may remember Her Royal Highness speaking at the high-level panel on violence against children.

Others may recall her participation in the opening of the exhibition on the rule of law, or her keynote address at Workshop 1 on the role of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. Above all, many remember her as an active and passionate participant whose commitment was evident throughout the Congress. Her Royal Highness's engagement extended beyond the Congresses themselves. She also contributed to the preparations for the Doha Congress, sharing her experience and perspectives at the invitation of the Government of Qatar. In the lead-up to the Fourteenth United Nations Crime Congress in Kyoto, she was likewise invited by the Government of Japan to participate in discussions

and share her perspectives during the preparations for the Congress.

Her Royal Highness's involvement in the Crime Congresses represents only one part of her longstanding commitment. Over the years, many colleagues across the international crime prevention and criminal justice community have witnessed her active engagement in, and support for, a number of landmark initiatives within the framework of the United Nations Crime Programme. These include, for example, the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the dialogue on the rule of law that contributed to Sustainable Development Goal 16, and the promotion of alternative development.

Within the PNI, Her Royal Highness is remembered not only for her instrumental role in the establishment of the Thailand Institute of Justice, but also as a genuine friend of the Programme Network. She took a close interest in the work of many PNI institutes, actively participated in seminars and activities across the PNI, and encouraged dialogue and collaboration among institutes. Many colleagues also remember her visits to PNI institutes and her efforts to strengthen cooperation across the Network. Above all, they remember her warmth, humility, intellectual curiosity and her unwavering belief that crime prevention and criminal justice should ultimately serve people, protect human dignity and offer opportunities for change.

The passing of Her Royal Highness has been deeply felt across the international crime prevention and criminal justice community. In remembrance of her life and work, the Editorial Team is honoured to present four personal tributes from colleagues who had the privilege of working closely with Her Royal Highness.

The Editorial Team extends its sincere appreciation to Ms. Jo Dedeyne-Amann, Chief of the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies, UNODC, for kindly contributing a written tribute especially for this commemorative section. The Editorial Team also wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Dr. Matti Joutsen, Mr. Naoki Sugano and Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen for permitting us to reproduce the tributes they delivered during the commemorative event held on 20 July 2026 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. Together, these reflections offer different perspectives on Her Royal Highness's life, work and legacy, and

paint a portrait of a leader whose vision, humanity and dedication left a lasting impression on colleagues, practitioners and institutions around the world.

Jo Dedeyne-Amann

Chief Secretary to the Governing Bodies UNODC, Secretary of the CND, CCPCJ and UN Crime Congresses

It is with profound sadness and deep respect that I pay tribute to Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha, whose unwavering commitment to justice, human dignity, and international cooperation left an indelible mark on the work of the United Nations and on all those who had the privilege of working alongside her. I had the honour of serving with Her Royal Highness during her tenure as Chair of the 21st session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in 2012 and as First Vice-Chair of the 57th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in 2014. I will always remember her remarkable intellect and diplomatic talent, as well as her genuine compassion, humility, and tireless dedication to advancing fair and humane criminal justice systems around the world.

As Chair of the CCPCJ, Her Royal Highness guided the Commission with wisdom and inclusiveness, fostering dialogue among Member States and helping to build consensus on complex and sensitive issues. She emphasized that effective crime prevention and criminal justice policies must be grounded in the rule of law and in respect for human dignity and fundamental rights. Her leadership inspired confidence and encouraged constructive engagement among delegations from all regions.

Her contribution to the CND was equally significant. As First Vice-Chair in 2014, she promoted balanced and evidence-based approaches to addressing the world drug problem and reinforced the importance of international cooperation. Throughout her engagement, she demonstrated the relevance of Alternative Development, by showcasing the impressive results that Thailand had achieved and which now serve as a good practice and model for other countries.

Her Royal Highness's influence was especially transformative in the field of prison reform and the treatment of offenders, particularly women in contact with the criminal justice system. She was a passionate advocate for humane and gender-responsive

approaches to corrections and rehabilitation. Her steadfast commitment played a pivotal role in the development and promotion of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders, widely known as the Bangkok Rules. These landmark standards have become a cornerstone of international efforts to ensure that the specific needs and circumstances of women offenders are recognized and addressed within criminal justice systems worldwide.

Her Royal Highness believed firmly that societies are strengthened when they create opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration. Through her advocacy, countless policymakers, practitioners, and institutions have been inspired to embrace more humane and effective approaches to criminal justice.

To be mentioned further is that Her Royal Highness was equally instrumental for the adoption 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.

As we are approaching the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, I remember her active engagement in the preparations for, and conduct of the Thirteenth United Nations Crime Congress, held in Doha in 2015, during which she chaired parts of the High-Level Segment. Her participation helped reinforce the recognition that effective justice institutions are essential for peaceful, inclusive, and resilient societies.

Beyond her many accomplishments, what remains most vivid in my memories is her personal warmth and kindness. She listened attentively, valued diverse perspectives, and approached every discussion with grace and sincerity. Her leadership was exercised through integrity, empathy, and a genuine commitment to serving others.

The legacy of Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha lives on in the international standards she helped shape, in the reforms she championed, and in the countless individuals whose lives have been positively affected by her work. Her contributions to advancing the rule of law and strengthening international cooperation will continue to guide future generations of policymakers and practitioners.

As we pay tribute to Her Royal Highness today, we honour a steadfast champion of justice and humanity. The international community has lost an exceptional

leader and advocate. Those of us who had the privilege to work with her have lost a respected colleague, a trusted partner, and a dear friend. My family will always cherish the memorable private encounters.

Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha will be remembered with gratitude, admiration, and enduring respect. May her remarkable legacy continue to inspire our collective efforts to build more just, compassionate, and inclusive societies for all.

Dr. Matti Joutsen

Advisor, Thailand Institute of Justice; and former Director of European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI)

Through the years that I have been involved with the United Nations Crime Programme, I have been privileged to meet many memorable people who have shaped international cooperation. I do not recall anyone who has made such an impression, and achieved so much good so quickly, as Her Royal Highness, Princess Bajrakitiyabha.

Others deservedly pay tribute to her pioneering work for example with women prisoners and the Bangkok Rules, her contributions to sustainable development and her passion for helping the vulnerable.

I want to pay tribute not so much to the important accomplishments of Her Royal Highness, but more to the inspired and dedicated way in which she achieved them. I know from my own experience that getting problems recognized, and getting criminal policy changed nationally and internationally, usually takes decades of work, as shown for example by the slowness of the recognition on the United Nations level of the importance of victim issues, or of access to justice. Compare that with how Her Royal Highness was able to take the issue of women prisoners from a chance encounter at a prison in Thailand all the way to a General Assembly resolution on the Bangkok Rules in just a few short years.

Having the Bangkok Rules adopted was not enough. They need to be implemented. In very short order after their adoption, Her Royal Highness was instrumental in the establishment of the Thailand Institute of Justice, which is nobly continuing her legacy.

She was the rare person who could and would approach persons regardless of their social status. I have watched with admiration while she spoke with local community representatives in Northern Thailand, discussed criminal justice and human rights with professionals and academics at international conferences, and skilfully chaired sessions of the UN Crime Commission. She would listen, understand, and go on to do a world of good as a result. She had the heart and vision to know what was needed, and the knowledge and skill to bring it about. Her memory will always be treasured in our hearts as the embodiment of a true leader and a champion of justice. She has left a legacy of compassion for the vulnerable and the underprivileged.

The world has much reason to be thankful for the achievements of Her Royal Highness.

Naoki Sugano

Deputy Director, United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)

I am originally a prosecutor from Japan and was seconded to the Permanent Mission of Japan in Vienna, where I had the privilege of working with Her Royal Highness during her time as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand, and as Chairperson of the Twenty-first session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

To all of us in the diplomatic community, it was clear that she possessed the rare combination of strong vision, leadership and genuine compassion. She strongly advocated that criminal justice must protect the dignity of every individual involved, especially those who are too often overlooked and marginalized. The United Nations standards and norms, and the initiatives she developed under her leadership, reflect her unwavering commitment to women, children and youth, and have left a lasting mark on the international crime prevention and criminal justice community.

I also vividly remember Her Royal Highness's leadership in convening the Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law in 2013, which brought together heads of state and government, global leaders and other distinguished participants to discuss the rule of law, justice and the development agenda. The Dialogue prompted high-level exchanges of views that were later reflected in

Sustainable Development Goal 16.

For me personally, it was a privilege to contribute, through coordination with the Government of Japan, to the participation of Japan's then Vice-Minister of Justice in that important initiative. Looking back, I feel very fortunate to have witnessed Her Royal Highness's remarkable ability to bring people together around a common vision.

For UNAFEI, her legacy is especially meaningful. We were honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness to UNAFEI on two occasions. Most memorably, in 2013, she delivered a special lecture at our International Senior Seminar on Putting the Bangkok Rules into Practice through International Cooperation.

Many of the participants in that seminar were senior practitioners from around the world, including judges, prosecutors, prison officials and probation officers, many of whom would later become leaders in their respective countries and jurisdictions. They returned home not only with a deeper understanding of the Bangkok Rules, but also with a renewed sense of mission in their daily work. Today, many of them serve in leadership positions, and through their work, I believe Her Royal Highness's message continues to live on.

Those of us in the Ministry of Justice of Japan also remember, with deep appreciation, Her Royal Highness's support for the preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto. Her encouragement and commitment, drawing on Thailand's experience as host of the Eleventh Crime Congress, reminded us that hosting a Crime Congress is a unique opportunity to leave a lasting legacy for the international crime prevention and criminal justice community.

Such conviction strengthened our determination to make the Kyoto Crime Congress a success, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

What I admire most about Her Royal Highness, in addition to her strong vision and leadership, was her genuine respect for practitioners. As a prosecutor herself, she listened carefully, asked thoughtful questions, and engaged deeply in discussions on criminal justice reform and the role that practitioners can play in bringing about meaningful change. She understood that laws and policies alone are not enough to advance the rule of law, and that real progress depends on the daily work of practitioners in courts, prisons and community-based services.

On many occasions, I was equally touched by the warmth, humility and kindness with which she engaged everyone around her. Those of us who had the privilege of working with Her Royal Highness will deeply miss her presence. Yet her legacy lives on—in the United Nations standards and norms that she helped advance, in the institutions she helped strengthen, and, perhaps most importantly, in the countless people around the world whom she inspired.

As I reflect on the many opportunities I had to work with Her Royal Highness, I am left with one enduring conviction: that we must continue the work she so passionately advanced—bringing people together, supporting practitioners, and building criminal justice systems that protect the rights and dignity of all. Her work constantly reminded us that justice is ultimately about people and that meaningful change must be felt in their lives and communities. By carrying this vision forward, we can honor her legacy and continue to advance the rule of law and justice to which she devoted herself.

Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen

Executive Director, Thailand Institute of Justice

As I reflect on the many tributes shared by colleagues, I am reminded that while each of us remembers Her Royal Highness differently, we are all remembering the same person: a person who believed deeply in justice—and equally deeply in people.

I had the privilege of working under Her Royal Highness for almost twenty years. What impressed me most was not only her dedication to the country, but also the way she treated the people around her. No matter how demanding her responsibilities were, she always made time for people. She listened. She noticed when someone was struggling. She encouraged people quietly, often with just a few simple words.

Looking back, I believe she understood something that many leaders sometimes overlook: those who spend their lives caring for others also need someone to believe in them. Many of us dedicated our work to supporting others. Yet throughout those years, it was Her Royal Highness who continued to give us strength, confidence and encouragement. She made people feel that their work mattered, and she inspired them to believe they could achieve more than they had imagined.

To me, that was not simply kindness—it was leadership. It also reflected the way she understood justice. Justice was never only about institutions or legal systems; it was about recognising the dignity, the potential and the humanity in every person. Perhaps that is why her work continues to touch so many lives, both in Thailand and far beyond.

Although we may serve in different countries, organisations and responsibilities, I hope we all continue to carry with us not only the memory of Her Royal Highness, but also the example she set: to lead with empathy, never to lose sight of the people behind every policy, and to encourage those who dedicate their lives to serving others.

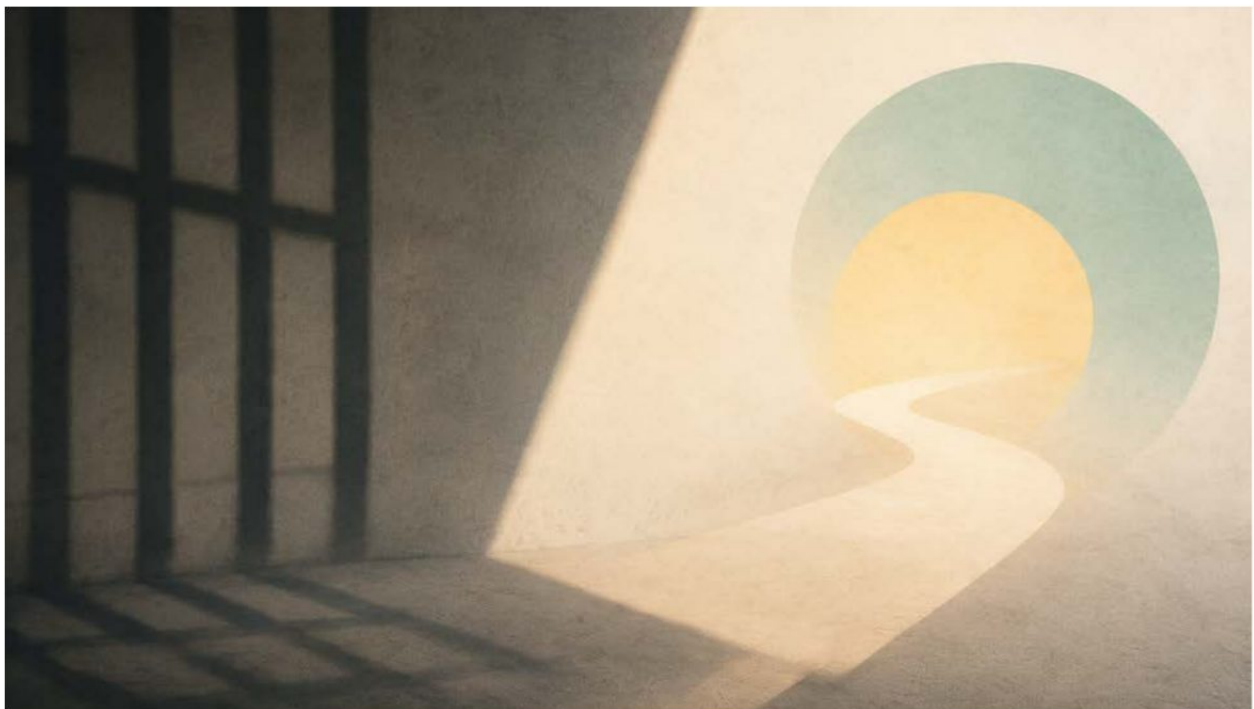
At the Thailand Institute of Justice, we remain committed to carrying forward Her Royal Highness's vision through our work and our partnerships, so that justice continues to be people-centred, compassionate and accessible to all. Her Royal Highness's life was far too short. Yet, her legacy must not be. It is now our shared responsibility to carry it forward.

MITIGATING THE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF PARENTAL INCARCERATION ON CHILDREN:

CHAPTER 3

A NEGLECTED TRANSGENERATIONAL ASPECT OF CRIME PREVENTION

Yvon Dandurand, ICCLR Senior Associate



In the Kyoto Declaration, Member States agreed on a set of key elements to advance crime prevention, including by addressing the causes of crime through evidence-based interventions. Youth crime prevention and early interventions were specifically identified as priorities. However, the Declaration did not draw attention to one of the most important causes of youth crime, that is the adverse impacts of prolonged and sometimes unnecessary incarceration of the children's and youth's parents. The transgenerational aspect of youth crime prevention often gets overlooked but is nonetheless central to longterm violence and crime reduction. Society's overreliance on detention, whether at the pretrial stage or as a sentencing option, disrupts the development of thousands of children and puts

them at greater risk of both victimization and criminal involvement.

Pretrial detention and short-term imprisonment disrupt the offenders' life, destabilize their social situation, as well as their living, employment and family arrangements, but it typically offers nothing that might genuinely help their successful social reintegration after release. These short terms of imprisonment also have a detrimental impact on the offender's family, especially the children. The impact of a prison sentence on an offender's children and family ought to be considered at the time of sentencing (Millar & Dandurand, 2018).

Over the last decade, ICCLR and its partners have attempted to better understand the detrimental family impacts of incarceration and to identify effective means to mitigate those impacts, from both a crime prevention and a children's rights perspectives. The work initially focused on community-based approaches to enhance the protective environment around children of parents in conflict with the law or incarcerated. These children face different developmental and social challenges as well as the negative social reaction and stigmatization they typically encounter. There is a lot that community-based organizations, as well as education, child welfare and child protection agencies can do to help these children and support their positive development, hopefully without further stigmatizing them (ICCLR-EFry, 2018). Eventually, one had to ask what the role of law enforcement, criminal justice institutions and correctional services is in mitigating the adverse impacts on their own practices on those children.

1. IMPACT OF INCARCERATION ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

The effects of parental arrest and incarceration *per se* – independent of parental characteristics – have been repeatedly demonstrated to have severe detrimental effects on the child. Incarceration can significantly damage mother-child relationships, and family relationships are often irreparably harmed by imprisonment and what often amount to relational trauma (Mitchell, 2025). Studies of the impact of parental incarceration have demonstrated that these effects are far-reaching and largely negative across the life course of affected children. These adverse effects can also be multi or intergenerational. The ongoing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study lists parental incarceration as a significant predictor of health risk behaviours in later life and adult-related quality of life.

Longitudinal studies have shown that the accumulation of adverse childhood experiences, such as the imprisonment of a household member and emotional neglect, alters a child's brain development and is significantly associated with various forms of criminal justice contact in adulthood, including arrest and incarceration (Boullier & Blair, 2018; Testa et al., 2018; Turney, 2022; Silver et al., 2023; Mears & Siennick, 2016). There is also ample evidence that sentencing decisions often have a detrimental and often traumatic impact upon an offender's dependent children, both immediately and in the long term (Feig, 2015; Besemer et al., 2017; Dallaire et al., 2010; Scharff Smith, 2014).

Research also shows that, with the right supports, these children can overcome the increased vulnerability that comes from having a parent in conflict with the law. In the absence of such support, children can exhibit behavioural, emotional and developmental difficulty going forward into adolescence; increased risk of social withdrawal and/or violent externalization; and significantly greater risk of criminal involvement and incarceration in later years.

Child-parent relationships and parental attachment are crucial for children's well-being and development, and from a crime prevention perspective have been linked to social adaptation and violence prevention. Yet, criminal justice decisions applicable to parents are typically taken in the absence of meaningful information about their potential impacts on the child. Children are routinely separated from one or both parents with mitigating measures being an ad hoc or occasional feature rather than a systemic effort.

For a range of reasons – traditional, legal and systemic factors – it is still unusual for criminal justice officials to seek input on the effects of any justice process or disposition on the dependent children of those arrested, accused or convicted. Moreover, there rarely are mechanisms to assess and communicate to the court the expected impact of parental incarceration on a dependent child. The child's best interests is therefore rarely an explicit consideration in making sentencing and other decisions about an offender with parental responsibilities.

Independent of the nature of any offence, does the criminal justice system not have a legal and moral responsibility to develop a far greater awareness of the impact of its decisions on children, both in general and of course at the level of individual cases? Whether from a children's rights or a crime prevention perspective, that system ought to recognize dependent children as uniquely impacted by its own practices and attempt to mitigate that impact whenever possible.

2. THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

From a children's rights perspective, the UN Human Rights Council and the Council of Europe have explicitly recognized children whose parents are in conflict with the law as a vulnerable group of children and called for the use of alternatives to imprisonment for parenting mothers and fathers or other primary caregivers— subject to the seriousness of the offence, the need to protect the public and an assessment of the child's wellbeing (Millar, 2023).

Article 3(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), known as the “principle of the best interests of the child”, specifically provides that the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all state actions that affect the child, including those undertaken by courts of law. In its General Comment No. 14 (2013) relating to that article, the Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed the view that the principle applies to children affected by the situation of their parents in conflict with the law and indicated that the reference to “courts of law” extends to criminal court proceedings with a direct or indirect impact on children. The Committee also indicated that, when a parent or primary caregiver commits a criminal offence, alternatives to detention should be considered on a case-by-case basis with full consideration of the likely impacts of different sentences on the best interests of the affected child or children.

The Bangkok Rules also stipulate that, at the time of sentencing women offenders, “courts shall have the power to consider mitigating factors such as lack of criminal history and relative non-severity and nature of the criminal conduct, in the light of women’s caretaking responsibilities and typical backgrounds” (Rule 61).

Studies have shown that there is considerable variation in whether and how an offender’s parental responsibilities are considered in sentencing decisions (Feig, 2015). Currently, at each point in the criminal justice process defendants with dependents are generally treated primarily as individuals, with limited attention paid to their role as parents or to their dependent children, unless the child is a direct victim of their parents’ criminal behaviour. Indeed, children affected by their parents’ criminal justice system involvement are often described as “invisible” (Scharff Smith, 2014).

3. CHILD IMPACT STATEMENTS

When crafting a criminal sentence, judges are theoretically able to consider its potential impact on the offender’s child(ren), provided that they receive reliable information on the offender’s parental duties and the child’s independent rights. In so doing, the intention is not necessarily to seek a mitigated or lenient sentence but to ensure the offender’s parental responsibilities are also taken into consideration (Minson, 2017; Reed, 2014; Jahn, 2023).

There are several legal mechanisms through which

such information can be introduced to the courts, including in presentence reports (PSR). For instance, some studies showed that describing an offender’s mother status in a PSR affects whether her caregiving obligations are reflected in the conditions of her sentencing (Minson, 2017).

Family impact statements are descriptions of the expected effects of sentencing options on the offender’s child(ren) and family. They aim to help the court ensure that offenders with children are held responsible not only for their criminal activity but also for their parental and familial obligations (Conway et al., 2016).

Child impact statements are written explanations of how the sentencing options will affect the sentenced parent’s child, including consideration of how the child’s independent rights may be affected by the caregiver’s disposition. The Prison Reform Trust (UK) has developed a toolkit and other resources to lay out how child impact assessments can be used by a wide range of practitioners to ensure children with a parent in the justice system are listened to, supported and involved in decision-making about that support (Beresford, 2025). ICCLR has been trying to introduce the practice of producing a child impact statement at the time of sentencing in British Columbia’s criminal courts. It has developed a template for the preparation of such reports.

There are many potential obstacles to the courts’ embrace of the principle of the best interests of the child in bail and sentencing decisions and in ordering conditions. These include parents’ reluctance to disclose their family situation to avoid official child protection interventions; the lack of theoretical legal rationale in relation to the traditional aims of punishment and the main goals of sentencing; the fear of encouraging more crime by parents; the further slowing of criminal process; and concerns over inequitable sentencing occasioned by preferential treatment to those with parenting responsibilities (Castle et al., 2025).

Various good practices exist internationally, including court-appointed child advocates, and probation officers and other experts preparing child or family or health equity impact assessments as part of a presentence or other report.

Courts must consider whether community-based alternatives to detention and incarceration exist which are appropriate and effective, not only for the parent and the child but in ensuring justice for victims and

protecting society. Courts will need further guidance on the weight they should place on the expected consequences of a bail or sentencing decision on a dependent child. Existing guidance suggests that such assessments must be made on a case-by-case basis and that while a child's best interests is an important consideration, it is only one of many factors a bail or sentencing court must balance in its decisions.

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RECENT PNI PUBLICATIONS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAPTER 4

THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY (AIC)

RESEARCH REPORT

Validation of the Violence Risk Scale for Australian male prison populations
<https://doi.org/10.52922/rr77932>

The Violence Risk Scale (VRS) is widely used to assess and predict future offending and inform treatment decisions, but its suitability for Australian populations remains uncertain. This study examined the VRS's predictive and discriminative validity among Aboriginal and non-Indigenous Australian males convicted of violent offences across multiple jurisdictions. Results showed moderate accuracy in predicting violent reoffending at five-year follow-up, but Aboriginal males

were significantly more likely to be classified as high risk. Further analyses revealed performance differences between groups. The findings highlight potential bias in risk assessment and discuss implications for correctional practice, including recommendations to improve fairness and accuracy in assessing Aboriginal offenders.



The relationship between pornography use and sexual violence in Australian men
<https://doi.org/10.52922/rr78045>

The study examined links between pornography use and sexual violence among nearly 2,000 Australian

heterosexual cisgender men. It found that more frequent intentional viewing of violent pornography is associated with a small but statistically significant increase in self-reported sexual violence perpetration, while viewing pornography overall (violent or non-violent) showed no significant effect. Part of this association is mediated by attitudes toward sex and women, including promiscuous, emotionally detached views and hostile attitudes, though these factors vary across individuals. The findings contribute evidence to inform prevention strategies addressing potential harms of violent pornography.



STATISTICAL REPORT

Cybercrime in Australia 2024
<https://doi.org/10.52922/sr77918>

This report examines cybercrime victimization, harms and help-seeking among 10,335 Australian internet users in the Australian Cybercrime Survey. Victimization rates remained high, with online abuse and harassment, identity crime, malware and fraud commonly reported, though some types declined compared with 2023. Poly-victimization and data breaches also decreased. Certain groups remained at higher risk, while use of online safety strategies declined and risky behaviours persisted. Although most cybercrime went unreported, help-seeking increased for some offences, especially among small business



Modern slavery in Australia 2022-23

<https://doi.org/10.52922/sr78052>

The Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset is a national data collection on modern slavery events that come to the attention of the Australian Government agencies responsible for responding to these incidents. This study describes modern slavery reports received between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023, the characteristics of victim-survivors and perpetrators identified in these reports, the nature of government-funded support provided to victim-survivors and the outcomes of modern slavery prosecutions.



The costs of serious and organised crime in Australia, 2023-24

<https://doi.org/10.52922/78113>

Serious and organized crime was estimated to cost between \$35.5 billion and \$82.3 billion in 2023-24, including direct, consequential and indirect prevention and response costs. Illicit drugs were the largest contributor to direct costs (\$19.0 billion), followed by organized financial crime and other illicit commodities,

with illicit tobacco emerging as a particularly costly commodity. This report, the fifth in an ongoing series, shows the upper estimate rising from \$68.7 billion in 2022-23 to \$82.3 billion, largely due to methodological improvements. Overall, the findings highlight the substantial and pervasive economic impact of serious and organized crime on Australia.



Modern slavery in Australia 2024-25

<https://doi.org/10.52922/sr78205>

The Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery National Minimum Dataset is a national data collection on modern slavery events that come to the attention of the Australian Government agencies responsible for responding to these incidents.

This study describes modern slavery reports received between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, the characteristics of victim-survivors and perpetrators identified in these reports, the nature of government-funded support provided to victim-survivors and the outcomes of modern slavery prosecutions.



Deaths in custody in Australia 2024-25

<https://doi.org/10.52922/sr78199>

The National Deaths in Custody Program has tracked deaths in prisons, police custody and youth detention in Australia since 1980 and has been coordinated by the Australian Institute of Criminology since 1992 following the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. In 2024-25, 113 deaths occurred in custody: 90 in prison, 22 in police custody or related operations, and one in youth detention. Of these, 33 involved Indigenous people and 80 non-Indigenous people. The report provides detailed analysis and compares current findings with long-term trends.



STATISTICAL BULLETIN

Fraud against the Commonwealth 2023-24

<https://doi.org/10.52922/sb77901>

The 2023-24 Fraud Against the Commonwealth census found similar numbers of internal fraud investigations compared with the previous year, while external investigations declined. Automatic processes were the main method of detecting fraud, with programme information and payments the primary targets for

internal and external fraud, respectively. Reported fraud losses were lower than in 2022-23, with government entities reporting higher internal fraud recoveries but lower external fraud recoveries compared with the prior years.



Parricide in Australia: Findings from the National Homicide Monitoring Program

<https://doi.org/10.52922/sb77987>

This study analysed 35 years of Australian data to examine the characteristics of parricide, defined as the killing of a parent by their child. Parricide accounts for about five per cent of homicides annually, with offenders predominantly male and victims more evenly distributed by gender. The offence shows strong gender patterns, with sons more likely to kill fathers and daughters more likely to kill mothers. Young offenders aged 10-17 committed parricide at higher rates than older homicide offenders, and nearly one-fifth of offenders were experiencing delusions at the time of the offence. The findings highlight parricide's distinct nature and the need for greater consideration in family violence responses.



Characteristics of image-based sexual abuse recorded by police

<https://doi.org/10.52922/sb78038>



Image-based sexual abuse (IBSA) is the threatened or actual capturing or sharing of an intimate image of a person without their consent. This bulletin describes the findings of an analysis of 771 individuals proceeded against by police for IBSA offences in four jurisdictions in 2022-23.

Most alleged offenders were males perpetrating IBSA against females, and offenders were most commonly aged 25-34 years. The analysis also identified differences between IBSA subtypes. Alleged offenders were most likely to have distribution offences, and many also had other non-IBSA offences. The bulletin discusses implications for prevention and detection of IBSA offending.

The availability and purchase of digital firearms products among online Australians

<https://doi.org/10.52922/sb78212>

Using a national survey of 9,951 Australian adults in 2024, this study examined exposure to online digital firearms products, including 3D-printing files. Few respondents reported seeing such products on the public internet (2.4%) or darknet (0.9%). About 1.1 per cent said they or someone they knew had bought or traded these products online. Those reporting such involvement were more likely to have criminal justice contact, own an unlicensed firearm, intentionally view fringe or radical content, and encounter material depicting or promoting violence.



TRENDS & ISSUES IN CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The impacts of CCTV on victim-survivors of domestic and family violence

<https://doi.org/10.52922/ti77857>

Victim-survivors of domestic and family violence (DFV) are increasingly using closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems. To date, the impacts of CCTV systems on victim-survivors have been unclear. This paper presents the findings from a world-first study into how victim survivors of DFV experience the use of CCTV systems. It draws on a national survey of 125 DFV support practitioners and 28 in-depth interviews (including with 9 victim-survivors). The findings demonstrate that CCTV can have beneficial impacts on the well-being of victim-survivors by providing



a sense of safety and security but also carries risks, including that victim-survivors will become hypervigilant.

Victim-survivors' perspectives on post-custodial measures for people with convictions for sexual offending

<https://doi.org/10.52922/ti77871>

This study explored victim-survivors' perspectives on post-custodial measures for people convicted of sexual offending, focusing on reasons for supporting or opposing different interventions. Through qualitative interviews with 26 victim-survivors of sexual violence, the research found broad support for measures such as electronic monitoring, non-public sex offender registers, psychological treatment, parole supervision and Circles of Support and Accountability. However, views on public sex offender registers were mixed. The findings highlight the importance of incorporating victim-survivor perspectives into the design and implementation of post-custodial responses to sexual offending, to ensure interventions are effective, balanced and responsive to victim-survivor needs.



First-time violent offending following psychosis diagnosis: Exploring community treatment order use and sociodemographic risk factors

<https://doi.org/10.52922/ti77895>



Psychosis is commonly associated with an elevated risk of violence. This population-based study of people diagnosed with psychosis in New South Wales (n=126,198) found that 15.2 percent committed a violent offence, most commonly within four years following diagnosis. Those who had offended tended to have histories of non-violent

offending, to have been diagnosed at a younger age, to have substance-related psychosis and to have several risk factors associated with criminal behaviour. Being subject to a community treatment order was generally

associated with a higher risk of violence, but results suggest a delay in violent offending for those subject to these orders.

Self-reported desistance and help-seeking approaches of child sexual offenders on the darknet

<https://doi.org/10.52922/ti77925>

This study analysed posts from a darknet forum to explore how undetected child sexual offenders discuss desistance from offending. Users described a range of strategies, some harmful to children, such as using child sexual abuse material to avoid contact offences, alongside less harmful approaches including lifestyle changes, reduced internet use and limiting access to children. Discussions also revealed mixed but sometimes positive views of psychosocial services, coupled with concerns about detection and advice on remaining undetected while seeking help. The findings highlight the need for accessible psychosocial treatment pathways in the community that offenders perceive as low risk for law enforcement detection, to support safer desistance processes.



Validity of the Violence Risk Scale for male prisoners in Australia

<https://doi.org/10.52922/ti77949>



This study evaluated the Violence Risk Scale (VRS) for Aboriginal and non-Indigenous males convicted of violent offences using 2,689 assessments across multiple jurisdictions. It examined criminogenic profiles and violent reoffending within two- and five-year follow-up periods. The VRS showed moderate accuracy in predicting violent recidivism at five years. However, Aboriginal males were significantly more likely to be classified as high risk, and additional analyses revealed disparities in the scale's performance between Aboriginal and non-Indigenous groups. These findings raise important

considerations about the equity and applicability of risk assessment tools and have implications for correctional assessment and practice.

Financial risk indicators of child sexual abuse live streaming: A proof of concept prediction model

<https://doi.org/10.52922/ti77956>

This study examined the live streaming of child sexual abuse (CSA), a crime that has grown with technological and financial advances. Using a machine learning approach, researchers developed a proof-of-concept model to identify financial indicators associated with CSA live streaming. The model effectively distinguished individuals involved in live streaming from those who were not, with few errors. Seven key financial risk indicators were identified—six related to transaction values and one related to the age of the person making transactions. The findings suggest that monitoring financial transactions could be a valuable tool for detecting and disrupting CSA live streaming.



Examining the activities and careers of ransomware criminal groups

<https://doi.org/10.52922/ti77970>



Ransomware is one of the most prolific and economically damaging cybercrime threats of the contemporary era. This exploratory study aims to enhance knowledge about ransomware criminal groups. Our focus is on ransomware criminal groups that targeted organizations in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United

Kingdom between 2020 and 2022. The paper examines the evolution and activities of ransomware criminal groups. Results reveal the most active ransomware criminal groups, the median range of their careers and the most targeted victim organisations by country and sector type.

Victim-survivors' reflections on best practice in restorative justice for domestic, family and sexual violence

<https://doi.org/10.52922/ti78014>

Research on restorative justice (RJ) in domestic and family violence (DFV) and sexual violence is expanding, but best practice principles have largely been shaped by experts rather than victim-survivors. This study addresses that gap by examining the perspectives of 13 victim-survivors who participated in an Australian RJ programme for DFV and sexual violence. Using interviews and surveys, the study found that Convenors' skills and expertise, programme flexibility, and strong support for participants were critical to effective RJ outcomes. Victim-survivors emphasized the importance of feeling heard and supported in meeting diverse justice needs, providing valuable insights to inform best practice in RJ design and implementation.



The links between childhood sexual abuse victimisation and adolescent offending

<https://doi.org/10.52922/ti78007>



Child sexual abuse (CSA) victimization has been linked to a greater risk of engaging in juvenile offending broadly, and sexual offending specifically, for male youth. This study used both administrative youth justice data (n=7,800 youth) and clinical information from a specialized service providing interventions to youth who perpetrate sexual offences (n=377 youth) to examine the links between CSA victimization experiences and sexual offending. CSA victimization was more prominent among young people who sexually offended than those with non-sexual offences. CSA typically co-occurred with other forms of maltreatment and adverse developmental experiences. Findings highlight the need for early intervention to prevent the emergence of sexual harm.

Underage use of adult-based platforms: Risks and experiences

<https://doi.org/10.52922/ti78021>

The risk-taking behaviours of children on adult-based platforms (dating apps, remunerative matchmaking services, subscription platforms, fetish communities) are largely unknown. This study interviewed 46 participants aged 18 to 21 years about their previous risk-taking experiences as children on adult-based platforms. The study found that children are exposed to risk both online and offline as a result of using these platforms—for example, inappropriate or illegal conversations involving sexting and activities such as drug use. However, in some instances, participants reported engaging in similar risk-taking experiences outside of adult-based platforms.



The extent of illicit drug and alcohol involvement in crime: An updated estimate

<https://doi.org/10.52922/ti78090>



Using interviews with 2,249 police detainees, the study assessed the extent to which offending was linked to illicit drugs or alcohol and estimated the number of offences attributable to specific substances. In 2019, 45 per cent of detainees reported that substance use contributed to their offending, most commonly methamphetamine (27.6%)

and alcohol (16.5%). Alcohol was more frequently linked to violent offences, while methamphetamine was associated with both violent and property crimes. Applying these findings to national crime data for 2018-19, the study estimated around 156,760 principal offences attributable to substance use, mainly methamphetamine and alcohol.

Ransomware targeting individuals and small businesses: Vulnerabilities and impacts

<https://doi.org/10.52922/ti78106>

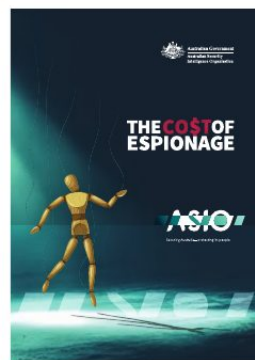
This study analysed survey data from 331 Australian individuals and small to medium enterprise (SME) owners who experienced ransomware to identify targeting methods and vulnerabilities in personal and work contexts. Most victims received multiple ransom messages, with SME owners more likely to receive repeated demands and to have previously paid ransoms, increasing the risk of repeat victimization. SME owners also reported wider impacts across devices, particularly work-issued or work-related devices, and greater spread to workplace systems and accounts. The findings highlight the combined role of human behaviour and technological weaknesses, underscoring the need for stronger prevention messaging and improved cybersecurity measures for businesses.



SPECIAL REPORT

The cost of espionage

<https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/special/special-21>



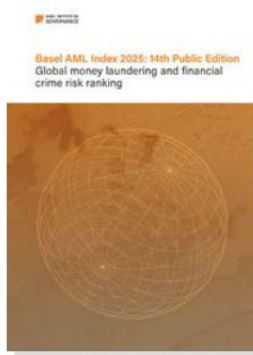
Espionage has become one of the most significant national security threats to Australia, impacting government, businesses and the university sector. The nature of espionage makes it extremely difficult to measure. In this study we estimated the actual and prevented costs of espionage. Building on the Australian Institute of

Criminology's method for measuring the costs of serious and organised crime, we estimated the mitigation and response costs and the direct costs of espionage impacting Australia. We also estimated the preventable costs associated with a number of possible scenarios. The numbers are conservative and an underestimate of the true cost, given the challenges in identifying and measuring espionage activity and its consequences.

BASEL INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE

BASEL AML INDEX 2025

<https://baselgovernance.org/publications/basel-aml-index-2025>



The 14th annual report of the Basel AML Index, with the full Public Edition ranking, regional profiles plus analysis of money laundering and related financial crime risks around the world.

1. Book: Collective Action in practice: a game-changer for business integrity: Stories, evidence and inspiration from the Basel Institute on Governance

<https://baselgovernance.org/publications/collective-action-practice-game-changer-business-integrity>

Our new book distils 15 years of Collective Action work, exploring the growing impact of multi-stakeholder collaboration on promoting business integrity and countering corruption around the world. Free to download and available in print via Amazon.

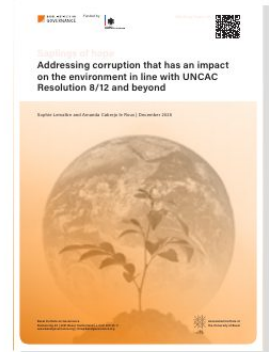


2. Working Paper 61: Saplings of hope: Addressing corruption that has an impact on the environment in line with UNCAC Resolution 8/12 and beyond

<https://baselgovernance.org/resources/publications/wp-61/>

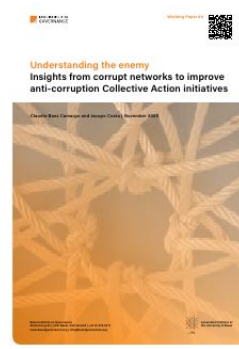
Saplings of hope presents an updated overview of emerging and promising prevention and enforcement actions, initiatives and measures implemented by

UNCAC States Parties to combat corruption as it pertains to crimes that have an impact on the environment. It focuses specifically on initiatives from 2024 and 2025.



3. Working Paper 60: Understanding the enemy: Insights from corrupt networks to improve anti-corruption Collective Action initiatives

<https://baselgovernance.org/publications/wp-60>



How understanding the structures, functions and modus operandi of corrupt informal networks and applying a “network” logic to anti-corruption strategies can help us to achieve better outcomes.

4. Working Paper 59: Using corrupt proceeds to fight corruption: Rethinking how Switzerland uses illicit profits from foreign bribery

<https://baselgovernance.org/publications/wp-59>

Switzerland is among the few states that actively recover illicit profits from companies involved in foreign bribery. This Working Paper examines why and how Switzerland could repurpose these monies to benefit the countries and people most affected by foreign bribery and to enhance global anti-corruption efforts.



5. Working Paper 58: Corruption as a facilitator of drug trafficking in the port of Rotterdam: Drivers, strategies and implications

<https://baselgovernance.org/publications/wp-58>



New research on how corruption facilitates drug trafficking in Europe's busiest port, plus how trafficking and corruption strategies change in response to increased enforcement.

6. Working Paper 57: Mapping and strengthening the evidence base for anti-corruption Collective Action: Models, metrics and insights

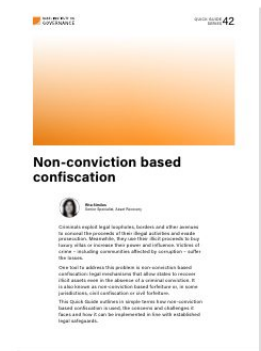
<https://baselgovernance.org/publications/wp-57>

Fresh insights into how Collective Action works in practice, the impact of social and political environments, and how to link Collective Action with real-world improvements in corruption prevention.



7. Quick Guide 42: Non-conviction based confiscation

<https://baselgovernance.org/publications/qg42>



An exploration of the legal mechanisms that allow states to recover illicit assets even in the absence of a criminal conviction. Non-conviction-based confiscation, or forfeiture, is a powerful tool to ensure criminals cannot benefit from the proceeds of their illegal activities.

8. Quick Guide 41: Managing seized and confiscated assets

<https://baselgovernance.org/resources/publications/wp-61/>

Effective, transparent and fair management of seized and confiscated assets is essential. Our Quick Guide 41 breaks down what this looks like, introducing key principles, standards and practical steps based on international good practices.



9. Policy Brief 15: Rethinking how Switzerland uses illicit profits from foreign bribery settlements

<https://baselgovernance.org/publications/pb-15>



This Policy Brief offers key arguments on why Switzerland should consider legislative action to enable the sharing of recovered illicit profits from foreign bribery cases – and potential ways to do so. Also available in French and German.

10. Case Study 12: Indonesia: a landmark money laundering conviction in a forestry crime case

<https://baselgovernance.org/publications/cs-12>

A landmark case in which investigators of Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry achieved their first conviction for money laundering linked to illegal rosewood logging.



11. Case Study 11: International cooperation in the Migori County corruption case

<https://baselgovernance.org/publications/cs-11>



How Kenya obtained crucial overseas intelligence in a corruption case through the International Anti-Corruption Centre, leading to the recovery of USD 1.8 million in assets for the Kenyan people.

12. Anti-corruption Collective Action in the G20/B20 process: Charting progress 2020–2024

<https://baselgovernance.org/publications/anti-corruption-collective-action-g20b20-process-charting-progress-2020-2024>

An analysis of the previous five B20 presidencies' approaches to anti-corruption Collective Action, including lessons learned and recommendations for future B20/G20 cycles.



13. La extinción de dominio desde sus principios

<https://baselgovernance.org/publications/la-extincion-de-dominio-desde-sus-principios>



This paper (in Spanish) covers the principles and practice of Extinción de dominio, Peru's non-conviction-based forfeiture law. It offers a rigorous perspective on one of the most important legal instruments in the fight against organised crime and corruption.

14. Working Paper 62: Corruption sanctions: What governments need to know

<https://baselgovernance.org/resources/publications/wp-62>

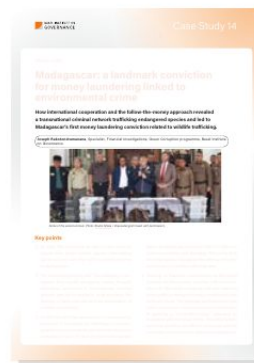
Launch event recording
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_f0QsTApi-Q

Launch event summary
<https://baselgovernance.org/resources/news/what-can-corruption-sanctions-really-achieve>



15. Case Study 14: Madagascar: a landmark conviction for money laundering linked to environmental crime

<https://baselgovernance.org/resources/publications/cs-14>



How international cooperation and the follow-the-money approach revealed a transnational criminal network trafficking endangered species and led to Madagascar's first money laundering conviction related to wildlife trafficking.

16. Case Study 13: The Beauty Queen case: non-conviction based forfeiture across borders

<https://baselgovernance.org/resources/publications/cs-13>

An examination of Colombia's first international recovery through non-conviction-based forfeiture, showing how trust-based cooperation with Guernsey helped identify, freeze, forfeit and repatriate drug trafficking proceeds held in a foreign trust.



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRIME (ICPC)

ICPC continued to produce a wide range of reports, studies, literature reviews and local safety assessments to support evidence-based crime prevention at the community, municipal and national levels. In 2026, its publications focused on topics including youth victimization, urban violence dynamics, the criminal exploitation of minors and emerging issues related to public transport safety, such as safety in tramway systems and perceptions of safety in Canadian urban transit. Together, these publications provide practical guidance for policymakers and practitioners in designing data-informed crime prevention strategies and strengthening safer communities. The full collection of ICPC publications is available on the ICPC website at <https://cipc-icpc.org/en/home/>.

Statistical Portrait of Crime in 2024 for the Greater Montréal Area:

Based on verified police data from Quebec's Ministry of Public Security, compiled through the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR 2.2), this report aims to inform and support decision-making by municipal, community and institutional stakeholders as they work to align policies and interventions with local territorial and social realities.

Data-Driven Portrait of the Borough of Ahuntsic-Cartierville, Montréal:

Based on police data from the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR 2.2), compiled by Quebec's Ministry of Public Security, this report analyses 18,272 criminal incidents documented between 2018 and 2022, of which 72 per cent were property crimes and 28 per cent were crimes against persons.

International Literature Review on Safety Issues in Tramway Networks:

Based on an in-depth analysis of scientific research and international practices, this review highlights that safety in tramway networks extends beyond recorded crime, encompassing a broader set of conditions

related to network organization, urban design and social interactions that shape users' sense of insecurity.

Trajectories Under Coercive Control: Understanding the Criminal Exploitation of Minors in a Fragmented Criminal Ecosystem:

This report examines recent shifts in youth criminal dynamics in Montréal since 2018 and introduces an analytical framework centred on the criminal exploitation of young people.

Youth Victimization and Urban Violence Dynamics: An Integrated Analysis of Risk Factors, Contexts, and Prevention Practices in Montréal:

This report provides an overview of victimization among youth aged 24 and under in the Montréal metropolitan area between 2018 and 2024, with particular attention to crimes against persons committed in public spaces. The study adopts a socio-ecological approach, examining risk and protective factors associated with violence across multiple levels of analysis: individual, relational, community and structural.

Local Safety Assessment in the Chameran Area, Saint-Laurent Borough:

Produced by ICPC in collaboration with the COSSL, this report presents the findings of a qualitative study on the safety issues experienced by youth in the Chameran area of the Saint-Laurent borough, along with concrete recommendations tailored to the sociodemographic realities of the community.

Safety, Security, and Perceptions of Risk in Canadian Urban Transit Systems: An Analytical Review (Year 1 Report):

This report reviews international academic literature and draws on interviews with researchers and practitioners across multiple countries to examine the gap between objective safety conditions and perceived insecurity in Canadian transit systems, arguing that these are distinct phenomena shaped by different mechanisms and requiring different policy responses. It develops a conceptual framework distinguishing between measurable crime, perceived insecurity, and visible social disorder, and diagnoses

the structural governance failures, including fragmented mandates, absent perception data and infrastructure-biased funding, that prevent Canadian transit institutions from treating perceived insecurity as a legitimate policy concern. These findings establish the analytical and theoretical foundation for Phase 2 fieldwork in five Canadian case cities (Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa), where the hypotheses developed here will be tested through direct engagement with transit users, institutional actors and policymakers.

KOREAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY AND JUSTICE (KICJ)

KICJ recently published Volume 7, Issue 2 of the International Journal of Criminology and Justice (IJCJ). In addition, the Institute released the latest issue of Trends & Policies in Criminology and Justice (TPCJ), featuring timely analyses of emerging issues in crime prevention and criminal justice policy. All articles from these publications are available on the English-language website of KICJ: <https://www.kicj.re.kr/board.es?mid=a20203000000&bid=0031>



UNODC



Launch of the 2025 global progress report on SDG16

<https://unodc.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0845922b12bc36e015469462f&id=22b019bba0&e=88df1cd9bc>

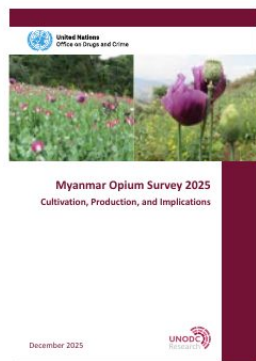
New Research brief on transnational organized crime - release of special points of interest

<https://unodc.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0845922b12bc36e015469462f&id=54f6434555&e=88df1cd9bc>



New study on crimes in the supply chains of critical energy transition minerals

<https://unodc.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0845922b12bc36e015469462f&id=62dac39ede&e=88df1cd9bc>

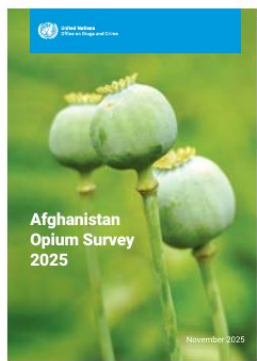


Launch of 2025 Myanmar opium survey

<https://unodc.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0845922b12bc36e015469462f&id=7cd54512e8&e=88df1cd9bc>

Launch of 2025 Afghanistan opium survey

<https://unodc.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0845922b12bc36e015469462f&id=c6bafc18df&e=88df1cd9bc>

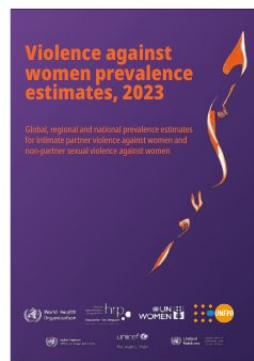


Launch of 2024 Bolivia coca survey

<https://unodc.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0845922b12bc36e015469462f&id=85e7d1cc72&e=88df1cd9bc>

New research brief on femicide

<https://unodc.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0845922b12bc36e015469462f&id=14ee545245&e=88df1cd9bc>



New prevalence estimates on violence against women

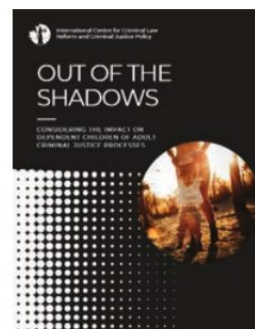
<https://unodc.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0845922b12bc36e015469462f&id=21fca15f6d&e=88df1cd9bc>

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CRIMINAL LAW REFORM AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY (ICCLR)

Out of the Shadows

<https://icclr.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Out-of-the-Shadows.pdf>

Out of the Shadows is a revised, updated and condensed version of ideas first introduced in ICCLR's 2023 publication, Considering the Best Interests of the Child in Sentencing and Other Decisions Concerning Parents Facing Criminal Sanctions – An Overview for Practitioners. The report was authored by Dr. Allan Castle, Dr. Hayli Millar, Yvon Dandurand, Vivienne Chin, Shawn Bayes, Megan Capp, Richard Fowler, Jessica Jahn and Barbara Pickering.



Colloquium on the Impact on Dependent Children of Adult Criminal Justice Processes: Report of Proceedings

<https://icclr.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Colloquium-on-the-Impact-on-Dependent-Children-of-Adult-Criminal-Justice-Processes.pdf>



The project team hosted a Colloquium in the ICCLR office gathering various participants in the justice system, child and family advocates, Indigenous-serving organizations, nonprofit leaders and academic experts, who were invited to discuss the key themes of the project on the impact of dependent children of adult criminal justice processes.

Child Impact Statement

<https://icclr.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Child-Impact-Statement.pdf>

Prepared by ICCLR, this document is a statement of the known or anticipated impacts on a dependent child relating to a charge, period of remand, custodial sentence or other criminal court disposition applied to the child's parent. This document is to be provided by the parent to the judge and to the prosecution service assigned to this criminal matter, for due consideration of the impact on the child of decisions made in criminal proceedings against the parent. The Child Impact Statement was successfully submitted to the court by defence counsel and actively considered by the sentencing Justice in a criminal trial heard in the Supreme Court of British Columbia.



THE SIRACUSA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS



As part of its broader engagement on transnational threats, the Institute carried out the project Mafia-Jihad: An Intersectional Study on Youth Trajectories and Innovative Models for Security Policies Aimed at Preventing Radicalization and Terrorism, developed in partnership with Next Wave. The project explores the

intersection of organized crime and violent extremism, focusing on youth vulnerability and the role of inclusive, community-based prevention strategies. A bilingual publication was released in 2025 in both English and Italian. The English version is available for download here: <https://www.siracusainstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/MAFIA-JIHAD-AN-INTERSECTIONAL-STUDY-ON-YOUTH-TRAJECTORIES-AND-INNOVATIVE-MODELS-FOR-SECURITY-POLICIES-AIMED-AT-PREVENTING-RADICALIZATION-AND-TERRORISM.pdf>.

COLLEGE FOR CRIMINAL LAW SCIENCE

Protecting the Most Vulnerable: Improving Justice in Child Sexual Abuse Cases in China (He Ting et al.) presents the outcomes of an EU-funded project aimed at strengthening justice responses to child sexual abuse. Drawing on Chinese judicial practice, multidisciplinary research and international good practices, the publication provides practical guidance for conducting child-sensitive interviews with victims of sexual abuse while minimizing the risk of secondary victimization.

The Understanding of the Conception and Practice of Protection of the Right to Health in the Legal System of China, in The Right to Health, Zoran Pavlovic (ed.), Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research, Belgrade, pp. 137-149,

available at www.iksi.ac.rs/izdanja/the_right_to_health_2025/the_right_to_health_2025.pdf



The paper examines the content and implications of the right to health under relevant international human rights conventions and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Drawing on typical cases, it provides a comprehensive analysis of the European Court of Human Rights' (ECtHR) interpretations and recent developments in protecting this right. By comparing ECtHR jurisprudence on cruel or inhuman treatment, it is also highlighting the fundamental protection of the right to health within the Chinese legal framework.

Mapping research grant corruption in China: a case study of Beijing,

International Journal of Legal Discourse, 2025.10

Research grant corruption in Chinese higher education, though uncommon among white-collar crimes, has gone largely unchecked in recent years. Using an indicative approach, this study examines 14 cases in Beijing universities from 2014 to 2022. Findings show distinct patterns and that few cases reach criminal trial. Embezzlement often involves joint offending by senior academics in high-ranking posts who use direct methods. Causes are multifaceted, forming an "opportunity triangle" among funders, universities as commissioned agents, and researchers. Key drivers include weak communication between funders and researchers, poor institutional oversight and limited audits, enabling monopolization of funds. The study proposes countermeasures to reduce opportunities and prevent embezzlement, including stronger auditing, reimbursement and funding reform, and risk-prevention mechanisms.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

BASEL INSTITUTE ON GOVERNANCE

10th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptoassets 15-16 September 2026 | Luxembourg (Hybrid)

Co-organized by the Basel Institute on Governance, UNODC and Europol, this annual conference focuses on the criminal misuse of cryptoassets and related services. It brings together practitioners from government, law enforcement, the private sector, international organizations and academia to exchange experiences, share good practices and strengthen responses to the rapidly evolving risks associated with cryptoassets and digital finance. The conference will be followed by specialized workshops on asset management and for law enforcement officers from Africa and Latin America on 17 September 2026.

More information:

<https://baselgovernance.org/10cra>

Certificate of Advanced Studies: Mastering Today's Anti-Corruption Challenges Starts 28 September 2026 (September 2026 – March 2027)

Delivered jointly by the Basel Institute on Governance and the University of Basel, this six-month Certificate of Advanced Studies is designed for professionals from the public and private sectors, civil society and international organizations seeking to address real-world corruption and governance challenges. Combining political science, behavioural science, law and economics with practical case studies, the programme equips participants with evidence-based tools to promote integrity, accountability and effective anti-corruption strategies. The programme is delivered primarily through live online sessions, complemented by two hybrid events in Basel (with optional in-person participation), and leads to a Certificate of Advanced Studies of the University of Basel (10 ECTS credits).

More information:

<https://baselgovernance.org/learning/basel-study/cas-anti-corruption/>

Professional Training Courses on Financial Investigations, Asset Recovery and Crypto Compliance

The Basel Institute continues to offer instructor-led online training courses for practitioners working in anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, financial investigations and related fields. Delivered in small interactive groups, the courses combine expert instruction, practical exercises and case-based learning to strengthen participants' professional skills. Current courses include:

- Introduction to Blockchain: Crypto Investigation and AML Compliance
- Financial Investigations and Asset Recovery
- Asset Recovery for Civil Society and Journalists

Information on upcoming course dates is available at:
<https://baselgovernance.org/crypto-aml-training>

Basel LEARN

Basel LEARN is the Basel Institute's free online learning platform, offering self-paced courses for professionals working in anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, law enforcement and compliance. Through interactive, task-based learning and simulated investigations, participants can strengthen practical skills in areas such as open-source intelligence, financial and operational analysis, asset recovery, international cooperation and counter-terrorism financing. Participants who successfully complete a course receive a Certificate of Completion.

More information:

<https://learn.baselgovernance.org/>

International Anti-Corruption Day Conference 9 December 2026 | Vienna

To mark International Anti-Corruption Day, the Basel Institute on Governance will co-organize a special conference with the UNODC and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The conference will bring together experts and practitioners to discuss current anti-corruption challenges and promote international cooperation.

Further details will be announced by the organizers in due course.

KOREAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY AND JUSTICE (KICJ)

KICJ International Forum December 2026

KICJ will host its flagship academic event of the year, the International Forum, bringing together leading scholars, policymakers and practitioners from the Republic of Korea and abroad to discuss current and emerging issues in criminology and criminal justice policy. Further details on the theme and programme will be announced in due course.

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UPDATES FROM
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UPDATES ON
UN CRIME PROGRAMME
ACTIVITIES

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لمنع الجريمة والعدالة الجنائية
The 15th United Nations Congress on
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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