The Role of the UN in Fostering Support for Restorative Justice in Criminal Matters

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UNODC in a nutshell

- UN entity with the mission to making the world safer from crime, drugs and terrorism.
- Operates in more than 80 Member States through its network of 115 field offices
- 2,400 personnel globally
- Headquartered in Vienna
- Five main thematic areas with mandates arising from various sources

**OUR THEMATIC AREAS**

- WORLD DRUG PROBLEM
- ORGANIZED CRIME
- CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC CRIME
- TERRORISM
- CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Work on crime prevention and criminal justice

- Promoting effective action to strengthen national responses in crime prevention and criminal justice
- Particular focus on assisting post-conflict and developing countries
- Wide range of topics, e.g. prison reform, access to justice, youth crime prevention, violence against women, juvenile justice, police reform ... and, of course, restorative justice.
Engagement types

1. Norm-setting  
   UN Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

2. Guidance materials  
   Criminal Justice Handbook Series

3. Technical Assistance  
   Legislative review, training, awareness raising, advisory services
Norm-setting:

- Provides guidance on development and operation of restorative justice at any stage of the criminal justice system

- Articulates fundamental procedural safeguards to guarantee fairness to the offender and victims, *including the right not to participate*

- Encourages Member States to adopt and standardize restorative justice by establishing their own guidelines and standards with legislative authority, if necessary
Guidance materials

**Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes**
Contains updated normative and practical guidance on restorative justice

- Second Edition – Updated from its initial publication in 2006
- Explains key concepts, principles and programmes
- National examples from around the world

Now available in
Czech / French / Korean / Portuguese
Technical assistance

Regional Training Workshop
(Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Viet Nam)

Training-of-Trainers Workshop
(Thailand)

Participants stressed that more evidence base on the benefits of restorative justice would be helpful in advocating for the expansion of restorative justice in their countries.
Post-Kyoto Congress:
*Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending*

- 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
- Discussions held at Workshop 2 on “Reducing Reoffending” led to a new mandate to develop a new standard on reoffending
- Currently under development
- Aim is to collect good and promising practices from different jurisdictions and present a model of possible strategies for consideration by governments
Post-Kyoto Congress:
*Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending*

Kyoto Declaration, para. 42:
- “Facilitate, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic legal frameworks, restorative justice processes at relevant stages in criminal proceedings in order to assist the recovery of victims and the reintegration of offenders, as well as to prevent crime and recidivism, and assess their usefulness in this regard”

*Advancing support for restorative justice internationally requires robust empirical research.*
Thank You

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