

Session I: Juveniles as perpetrators and victims

“New perspectives for preventing youth violence and victimization”

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Abstract

The world is a young population: Children and youth under the age of 18 comprise up to 50% of urban population in developing countries. It is estimated that 60% of all urban dwellers will be under the age of 18 by 2030. Many of these children and young people grow up without proper access to good health, schooling or skills development, recreation, or legitimate employment prospects. These factors all increase their risks and vulnerability to exploitation, victimization, and criminalization – and to be trafficked, sexually assaulted, abducted as child soldiers, killed by guns, or to be at-risk of HIV/AIDS or drug abuse .

In this context, there is a pronounced tendency to see young people as troublesome and problematic, and not as constructive citizens. Responses include the use of repressive policies against them, resulting in more exclusion and marginalization. These have proved to be unsustainable and counterproductive answers to the challenges.

At the same time, we are increasingly witnessing the development of youth focused and youth-led initiatives that are integrating prevention and innovative perspectives, and have been successful at addressing and creating alternatives for youth involved in or victimized by crime.

This presentation will showcase and discuss international promising prevention practices, which have been mapped by the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC). These initiatives will be - based on a multi-sectoral approach to crime prevention which have prevented violence and victimization, encompass social, environmental and institutional dimensions, and deal with some of the major problems affecting young people around the world.

Bio

Dr. Paula Miraglia is the Director General of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC). Dr. Miraglia holds a PhD in Social Anthropology and has collaborated with the ICPC for many years during her previous mandate as the Executive Director of ILANUD Brazil (United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders). Her academic and professional activities for the past 15 years addressed themes related to urban violence, crime prevention, youth and safety, including the development of local prevention plans, police training and extensive research to inform public policy at different levels. Paula has also acted as a consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank – IDB and the United Nations Development Program – UNDP. She is currently a regular researcher at the International Center for Comparative Criminology at the University of Montreal. Dr. Miraglia frequently collaborates with newspapers and journals and has a weekly column in which she comments on issues relate to crime prevention, safety and justice.