



Forum: Youth Assembly

Topic: Action paper on the reintegration of youth offenders into society.

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Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates of the Youth Assembly,

My name is Aloï Gkania and I will be serving as your deputy president in the Youth Assembly (YA) of this year's SCMUN conference. I am currently 16 years old, and a 10th grade student at Platon School.

This will be my first time serving as a student officer and my 10th overall conference. After participating in multiple conferences and in a variety of committees, I have discovered how important Model United Nations and the experience that this rapidly growing academic stimulation provides you with is. Not only are delegates given the opportunity to acquire knowledge about controversial topics and current affairs, but they are also challenged to debate them and create resourceful and reasonable solutions regarding the issues, through collaboration and teamwork with their fellow delegates. Youth Assembly being a beginner committee, can be a great experience and a lovely introduction to the world of MUN.

As a delegate in the Youth Assembly, you will have the opportunity to connect with the MUN world for the first time and participate in fruitful debates on global issues - whilst also discovering realistic and functional solutions, which aim to make the world a better place.

Most importantly you will be given the chance to find your voice and confidence in expressing your beliefs. Meanwhile, I will guide you throughout this journey and help you with any obstacle that may come your way.

In this year's youth assembly, delegates are called upon to debate topics related to "post-war and societies", since this is SCMUN 2024's theme. This study guide discusses



the issue of “reintegration of youth offenders into society”. It will introduce you to the main aspect of the issue and provide you with useful information to grow familiar with the topic. However, it is significant to note that this guide is for introductory purposes only and further research is required for a better understanding of your position on this topic. If you have any questions concerning the topic or the conference in general, feel free to contact me through my email address at aloigkania@gmail.com .

I am looking forward to meeting you all this February!

Yours truly,

Aloi Gkania

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

In today's society, one of the most significant challenges facing communities and the justice systems around the world is “the reintegration of youth offenders back into society”.

In order to live in a community that has undergone the process of healing it is essential to heal the individuals that assemble it. The reintegration of youth offenders aims to provide healing and closure to the victims by providing them with a second chance in life. To allow them to contemplate and reflect on their past mistakes and choices and become what is best for themselves and the ones surrounding them. Taking into consideration the damage one has suppressed is necessary for the improvement of our world. Additionally, it is significant to note that this process upholds the value of fairness and equity as it reduces tensions among citizens. Finally, this study guide will discuss the damages youth offenders face such as stigmatisation, lack of education, mental health and psychological barriers, substance abuse and addiction.

Subsequently, tackling this issue is an opportunity for society to invest in the future of its people by offering them a second chance to acknowledge the mistakes of their past and be ready to move on to a brighter future.



DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Youth offender ¹

'A youthful offender is an adolescent who committed a crime, who may not be tried in an adult court; instead will be tried in a juvenile court. The youthful offenders may take some responsibility for the unlawful behaviour and may not be sentenced as an adult criminal.'

Reintegration

Reintegration of youth offenders is the process of young individuals with a history of criminal activity transitioning back into their old lives and communities as law-abiding citizens.

Juvenile justice ²

Juvenile justice is the area of criminal law applicable to persons not old enough to be held fully responsible for criminal acts.

Recidivism ³

Reversion to an undesirable behaviour pattern, such as committing another criminal offence after punishment.

¹ "Youthful Offender." *Legal Information Institute*, www.law.cornell.edu/wex/youthful_offender#:~:text=A%20youthful%20offender%20is%20an,sentenced%20as%20an%20adult%20criminal Accessed 10 Oct. 2023.

² "Juvenile Justice." *Legal Information Institute*, www.law.cornell.edu/wex/juvenile_justice#:~:text=Juvenile%20justice%20is%20the%20area,fully%20responsible%20for%20criminal%20acts.

³ "Recidivism." *Oxford Reference*, www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100407987#:~:text=Reversion%20to%20an%20undesirable%20behavior,an%20apparent%20cure%20of%20addiction



Rehabilitation.⁴

The process of returning to a healthy or good way of life, or the process of helping someone to do this after they have been imprisoned

Juvenile Justice System⁵

Juvenile justice, a system of laws, policies, and procedures intended to regulate the processing and treatment of non-adult offenders for violations of law and to provide legal remedies that protect their interests in situations of conflict or neglect.

Juvenile Delinquency⁶

A violation of the law committed by a juvenile that would have been a crime if committed by an adult.

Incarceration⁷

The act of imprisoning someone or the state of being imprisoned.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Reintegration of youth offenders

Definition and importance

The reintegration of juvenile offenders into society is a crucial and compassionate aspect of the juvenile justice system. It involves supporting young individuals who have

⁴ "REHABILITATION | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." *Dictionary.cambridge.org*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/rehabilitation.

⁵ Shoemaker, Donald J, and Gary Jensen. "Juvenile Justice." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 14 Jan. 2016, www.britannica.com/topic/juvenile-justice.

⁶ "Juvenile Delinquency Definition & Meaning." *Merriam-Webster*, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/juvenile%20delinquency#:~:text=Legal%20Definition-,juvenile%20delinquency,is%20subject%20to%20legal%20action. Accessed 12 Nov. 2023.

⁷ "Definition of INCARCERATION." *Www.merriam-Webster.com*, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/incarceration#:~:text=%3A%20confinement%20in%20a%20jail%20or.



committed crimes in their transition to becoming responsible, law-abiding citizens in their communities. The significance of reintegration is rooted in its ability to break the cycle of criminal behaviour, providing these young people with an opportunity to learn from their mistakes, acquire essential life skills, and make positive contributions to society. Through tailored interventions - such as education, counselling, and vocational training, reintegration programs - we can reduce the risk of reoffense, thereby enhancing community safety and instilling a sense of optimism and possibility in young offenders who may have made poor choices in the past that they regret. This approach aligns with principles of fairness, empathy, and the belief in the potential for growth and transformation in our youth.

Types of youth offenders

There are four fundamental types of youth offenders worth investigating.

For starters, there are offenders who engage in delinquent activity due to environmental factors, such as peer pressure, poverty, family instability and family background. Said individuals usually resort to illegal activities as a means of survival. Hence, it is essential to regulate vulnerable conditions, like, in order to prevent such results.

Moreover, there are offenders who are influenced by substance abuse or mental health issues - who lack a healthy, functional state of mind. Psychological and therapeutic programmes are mandatory for the development of their thinking process as they can not refrain from committing said crimes due to their mental instability.

On another note, there are serious youth offenders who commit violent crimes, such as murder, domestic violence and sexual assault. First-degree crimes are not to be taken lightly and punishment is inevitable. However, the isolation and abandonment of said individuals will not contribute to the development of our society as a whole. It is imperative to investigate the targets behind the crimes they committed and attempt to resolve the inner battle they are fighting by engaging in open discussion and providing necessary help through specialised programmes.



Finally, chronic or repeat offenders are the most common type of offenders. They refer to minors who are convicted of a crime and serve time but do not learn from their mistakes and are convicted for another crime and incarcerated again. A 2015 CSG⁸ justice report, investigating data from 39 states of the USA that track recidivism, found juveniles are far more likely than adults to be repeat offenders and commit another offence after release. The highest rates of reoffending were 76% within three years and 84% within five. The distinction between different types of youth offenders is crucial in developing effective strategies for prevention, intervention and rehabilitation within the juvenile justice system and even more crucial during the creation of their personalised reintegration program.

Benefits of reintegration

Reduction in recidivism

Reducing recidivism through the reintegration of youth offenders is an essential objective of the juvenile justice system. Recidivism often refers to the urge of individuals to re-offend and get intertwined in the Criminal justice system once more.⁹ By participating in reintegration programs, which aim to decrease the likelihood of reoffending by addressing the root causes of delinquent behaviour and providing the necessary support and resources for youth offenders, it is without doubt that recidivism rates will drastically decrease. This is illustrated by an innovative crime prevention charity, which claims that through their programme the percentage of offenders who have completed their reintegration program is 14%, compared to the national reoffending rate of 67%.¹⁰

Economic contributions

By simply punishing youth offenders, the justice system is not effectively discouraging recidivism. However, reintegration programmes guide the young individuals on the

⁸ Services, M. S. T. "Do We Know the Full Extent of Juvenile Recidivism?" *Info.mstservices.com*, 1 Nov. 2018, info.mstservices.com/blog/juvenile-recidivism-rates.

⁹ Recidivism." *Oxford Reference*, www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100407987#:~:text=Reversion%20to%20an%20undesirable%20behavior.an%20apparent%20cure%20of%20addiction

¹⁰ admin. "Home." *Key4Life*, key4life.org.uk/.



right path to closure which could provide them with opportunities in the future and allow an easier transition back into the community. Data has proven that youth offenders who have completed reintegration programs are more likely to be seen as suitable and acceptable candidates in the workforce than youth offenders who have not participated in reintegration programs. More specifically, they are taught how to adapt to workplace and societal environments which may help them resolve any financial difficulties they are facing or will face in the future in the reduction of financial problems they might have faced or are currently facing. Ultimately, it is significant to note that in contrast with long-term incarceration, reintegration programmes are a much more beneficial economic alternative.

Drawbacks of reintegration

Risk of recidivism

One of the greatest drawbacks of reintegration is recidivism. Namely, it is the chances of youth offenders to return to illegal tendencies after reintegration by reoffending and perpetrating criminal activities. Recidivism threatens public safety and decreases the success rates of reintegration of youth offenders into society. It stems from a youth offender's treatment before and after imprisonment as well as previous prison sentencing and punishments that do not align with the severity of their crime.

On May 14, 2023, a report supported by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) asserts that "more than eight out of every ten youth offenders are arrested again within five years of release."¹¹ Therefore, it is significant to provide youth offenders with a clean slate and a chance to start over whilst focusing on their futures rather than repeating their pasts. This can be achieved by engaging in their progress whilst creating effective reintegration programs that will allow them to adapt to our society in a legal and appropriate manner. Additionally, reintegration programs would educate youth offenders on necessary knowledge and skills, pushing them towards a brighter future. However, for said programmes to succeed their cooperation and compliance with their reintegration plans should be ensured.

¹¹ "How Common Is It for Released Prisoners to Re-Offend?" *USAFacts*, usafacts.org/articles/how-common-is-it-for-released-prisoners-to-re-offend/#:~:text=How%20does%20recidivism%20differ%20by.



Educational reintegration

Youth offenders are underaged individuals who, naturally, will have not completed their school education by the time they are imprisoned. This will result in gaps in their designated knowledge which are likely to cause problems once they are reintegrated into society. Due to social stigmatizations, youth offenders are often discriminated against and treated much differently than normal youth by the public. This stigmatisation can result in them being denied fundamental human rights, such as the right to education and the right to labour. Insufficient support will be provided to them to the point where they will be driven to a state of isolation and neglect. The majority of schools refuse to educate youth offenders, stripping them of a chance for a brighter future, and the ones that do, usually lack funding and resources. Seeing as they will have no other choice but to face obstacles throughout their journey such as transitioning back to the educational system and enduring any psychological abuse that might accompany this.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

| Date of the Event | Event |
|---------------------------|---|
| September 7th 1974 | The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) was the first comprehensive federal juvenile justice legislation which modified the JJDP to prohibit states from detaining juveniles in local lockups and adult jails. |
| November 29th 1985 | The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules) provide guidelines on how children should be treated while they are in the criminal justice |



| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| | system. |
| November 20th 1989 | The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a legally binding international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities. |
| December 14th 1990 | The United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Guidelines) The Riyadh Guidelines affirm the importance reducing juvenile delinquency plays in reducing crime, the necessity of implementing the guidelines according to a child-centred approach, and the communal responsibility for children's well-being from the earliest ages onward ¹² |
| February 25th 1997 | The United Nations Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System These guidelines provide a framework for action to ensure that children in conflict with the law are treated in accordance with international standards and focus their reintegration and rehabilitation into society. |
| September 2015 | The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) are a set of 17 targets that were adopted for the agenda of 2030 by the United Nations |

¹² Digital, Swace. "United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency: The Riyadh Guidelines (A/RES/45/112)." *Save the Children's Resource Centre*, resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/united-nations-guidelines-prevention-juvenile-delinquency-riyadh-guidelines-ares45112/.



| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| | <p>General Assembly (UNGA). Specifically, these targets such as (16,1 16,3 16,6 16,7) all provide solutions and ways to help youth offenders through their reintegration and solve the issue.</p> |
| <p>June 2017</p> | <p>The ILO Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience focuses its attention on the importance of providing employment opportunities and vocational training to help their reintegration into society after associating with the justice system.</p> |
| <p>December 18th 2018</p> | <p>The juvenile justice reform plan was created to strengthen families and communities while promoting public safety and ensuring a responsible and effective use of limited resources.</p> |
| <p>May 25th 2022</p> | <p>The implementation of juvenile justice legislation which focused on steering youth away from formal court processing, protecting due process rights, safeguarding against deceptive interrogation techniques, limiting the use of solitary confinement and restraints, improving conditions of confinement and access to services and overall improvement of the implementation of human rights in the justice system.</p> |

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Major countries involved



United States of America (USA)¹³

The USA has experienced vast developments since the first juvenile court in Cook County, Illinois, in 1899. Namely, the distinction between adults and youth who have committed crimes has become apparent. Additionally, it has been recognised that youth are less blameworthy for crimes as they are more prone to being influenced into breaking the law by triggering circumstances, and also have a broader capacity to change than adults do. By the 1920s, the USA had succeeded in establishing a separate criminal justice system, the juvenile justice system, which highlights the differences mentioned above, in all its states. Additionally, since 1975 the Juvenile Law Center has worked hard to promote the rights of youth offenders and their future prospects as well as opportunities to become healthy and productive adults.

As of recently the reintegration of youth offenders into society has been one of the USA's justice system's most prominent focuses. It aims to offer educational and psychological programmes during incarceration in order to prepare children before they reenter society. And offer job training opportunities in order to assist them with fitting back into society. For instance, the Community Restitution and Apprenticeship Focused Training (CRAFT) focuses on the unemployment of youth offenders and the tackling of recidivism.

Canada¹⁴

Incarceration rates in Canada have not been in its favour. A study uploaded in 2019 from Statistics Canada, claims that "of the 2,838 youths accused of a criminal incident in 2012/2013, half had at least one re-contact with the police within a two-year follow-up period."¹⁵ Illustrating Canada's exposure to recidivism. However, Canada is currently taking measures to decrease said incarceration rates. More specifically, it has offered community resources to prevent youth offenders from following a life of crime. These

¹³ *Reintegrating Juvenile Offenders into the Community: Ojjdp's Intensive ...*, www.ojp.gov/pdffiles/fs000234.pdf.

¹⁴ Government of Canada, Correctional Service of Canada. "Programs for Offenders." *Government of Canada, Correctional Service of Canada, Communications*, 30 Sept. 2019, www.csc-scc.gc.ca/002/002-index-en.shtml.

¹⁵ Government of Canada, Department of Justice. "Justfacts." *Recidivism in the Criminal Justice System*, 20 Jan. 2023, www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jf-pf/2020/aug01.html#:~:text=A%202019%20study%20by%20Statistics,%2Dyear%20follow%2Dup%20period. Accessed 12 Nov. 2023.



include the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) of April 2003, which urges officers to take alternative measures, like submitting cautions or referring to support programmes, rather than immediately arresting youth.

Canada has a comprehensive approach to youth offender reintegration, emphasising rehabilitation, education, and community support such as the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) which is responsible for supervising and running said programmes.

India

As a large and diverse country, India has been implementing various programs aimed at the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth offenders. Initiatives include vocational training, counselling, and community-based support. Statistics suggest that 43% of children of inmates have difficulty enrolling in school and 1628 children are behind bars thus becoming youth offenders because their mothers are convicted and serving or facing trials inside jail.¹⁶ Through this it is significant to acknowledge that no matter the innocence of a child, their parent's actions follow their life and impact their future in India nevertheless.

The India Vision Foundation founded by the first female officer of India Police Service, Kiran Bedi, is a 29 year old non-profit organisation that has been strongly committed to the reintegration and rehabilitation of prisoner inmates. Supported by the prize money of the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1994. This foundation has worked tirelessly and with great effort to promote the lives of incarcerated individuals and ensure them with an impartial future. This is illustrated by the fact that as of March 2023, 7,86,808 beneficiaries have been reached, as it is operational in 40 prisons across 8 states of countries.¹⁷

¹⁶ "What's New." *India Vision Foundation*, 4 Oct. 2023, indiavisionfoundation.org/#:~:text=India%20Vision%20Foundation%20is%20a,Ramon%20Magsaysay%20Award%20in%201994. Accessed 12 Nov. 2023.

¹⁷ "What's New." *India Vision Foundation*, 4 Oct. 2023, indiavisionfoundation.org/#:~:text=India%20Vision%20Foundation%20is%20a,Ramon%20Magsaysay%20Award%20in%201994. Accessed 12 Nov. 2023.



Brazil

According to the IPEA, there are about 60,000 juveniles under socio-educational measures in Brazil, with almost 22,000 imprisoned and 12,000 on parole or probation. Statistics from June 2015 show that the majority of juvenile offenders are black males, 16 to 18 years of age who do not attend school and live in poverty.¹⁸

Brazil has implemented social programs and educational initiatives to address juvenile delinquency and support the reintegration of young offenders into their communities, due to the overwhelming statistics expressed above.

Brazilian prisoners are too often forced to endure appalling daily living conditions in the country's prisons, jails and police lockups. In 2016, the National Council of Justice (CNJ) established a social office - a public institution managed jointly by the Judiciary and Executive Power, which is present in almost all units of the federation. The expansion and optimization of the service are part of the Doing Justice programme, a partnership between CNJ and UNDP with the support of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, through the National Penitentiary Department.¹⁹ The service is responsible for supporting newly released prisoners, in part with referrals for services for health and psychosocial care, education, training and professional qualification, housing, family assistance, job allocations and more.

Since March 2022, the Social Office of Cuiabá has helped over 500 people. Of this total, at least 70 remain in constant monitoring. The staff actively seek out former detainees, confirming if they are in fact being supported by the health services, going to work and constantly checking on the improvement of each individual.²⁰

United Kingdom²¹

¹⁸ *An Overview of Juvenile Offences in Brazil - Unafei*, unafei.or.jp/publications/pdf/RS_No101/No101_13_IP_Brazil.pdf. Accessed 12 Nov. 2023.

¹⁹ "Justice Programme." *European Commission*, commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/justice-programme_en. Accessed 12 Nov. 2023.

²⁰ Programme, UN Development. "A Second Chance." *Medium*, 28 Nov. 2022, undp.medium.com/a-second-chance-b3c9a6266119. Accessed 12 Nov. 2023.

²¹ "What We Do at Novus." *Novus*, 7 Feb. 2023, www.novus.ac.uk/what-we-do/.



The UK has a range of programs designed to rehabilitate and reintegrate young offenders. These include education and training opportunities, mentoring, and community-based initiatives aimed at reducing reoffending rates.

Organisations such as NOVUS (Organization for Change) an organisation of 30 years provide a range of education and training services to help young offenders gain the skills they need for further education or employment after release from custody. They provide numerous educational programmes depending on each individual's needs and weaknesses to enhance their strengths. From maths, English, vocational and higher level courses to providing creative arts, enrichment and Personal and Social Development (PSD) programmes that help young offenders develop self-confidence, find enjoyment, and develop additional skills. Lastly, their team works closely with the children in their care to provide them with a fulfilling career moving forward which is a crucial step in the process of their rehabilitation and the possibility of reoffending as a whole.

Everyone works with care and commitment and in partnership with the individual children and young people that they support through the Secure Stairs Framework they make a difference to every child, their family and their community. Now, and for the future.

Organisations involved

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF protects and promotes the rights and well-being of children worldwide, including those who may be involved in the justice system as youth offenders. Though UNICEF does not directly work with youth offenders, it supports various initiatives and programmes that aim to address the needs and rights of these people. Namely, they conduct data collection and research on children in conflict with the law to better understand their circumstances and needs. This information helps shape policies and programmes that support youth offenders. UNICEF works to ensure that every child can access a justice system that is child-friendly, gender-sensitive and well-equipped to



secure their rights and focuses on encouraging child-sensitive investigations and court procedures. They help in keeping children from formal criminal proceedings, promoting and supporting restorative justice approaches, advancing alternatives to pre-trial and post-trial detention, providing recovery and reintegration services, empowering children to claim their rights, through legal and other services and preventing abuse, violence and exploitation.

International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO)

Since 2002, the IJJO has worked to promote the rights of children and young people who come into contact with legal grounds and to encourage the implementation of international standards which guarantee these rights. It aims to distribute knowledge and improve the justice systems and policies on a global scale. The IJJO works primarily in training, research, raising awareness, consultancy, dissemination of specialised resources and news in the field, and recognition of professionals and organisations involved in the area of Juvenile Justice. The success of its programmes is exemplified through the receiving of the 'Juvenile Justice Without Borders International Award in 2022, which aims to recognize persistent, effective and contributive organisations in the juvenile justice sector.

RELEVANT UN TREATIES CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Articles 37 and 40 focus on the protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration of child offenders, emphasising their right to reintegration into society and the importance of their well-being during and after their involvement with the justice system. (November 20th 1989). It consists of 54 articles that set out children's rights and how governments should work together to make them available to all children. Under the terms of the convention, governments are required to meet children's basic needs and help them reach their full potential.²² More specifically articles 2,3,6,37,39 and 40 focus

²² ---, "UN Convention on the Rights of the Child | Save the Children UK." *W*www.savethechildren.org.uk, 2021, www.savethechildren.org.uk/what-we-do/childrens-rights/united-nations-convention-of-the-rights-of-the-child#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20Convention%20on.



specifically on the protection and rights of youth offenders whilst the UNCRC as a whole plays a vital role in ensuring and emphasising rehabilitation and discrimination of youths that have come to conflict with the law and taking into consideration the best interests of the youths as key principles in the juvenile justice systems around the world.²³

United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules)

Adopted on November 29th 1985, these rules provide guidelines such as “Member States shall seek, in conformity with their respective general interests, to further the well-being of the juvenile and her or his family” which aims for the treatment of juvenile offenders and emphasises their rehabilitation and reintegration into society as a fundamental principle.

The Beijing Rules have had a significant impact on shaping international standards for the treatment of juveniles in the criminal justice system. Adopted in 1985, the rules highlight the importance of a juvenile justice system that focuses on rehabilitation and the best interests of the child, rather than punitive measures. The Beijing Rules support alternatives to imprisonment, the use of diversion programs, and the protection of juveniles' rights during legal proceedings. They have played a crucial role in influencing legal reforms and policies in many countries, promoting a more rehabilitative and child-centric approach to juvenile justice.²⁴

United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Guidelines)²⁵

The Riyadh Guidelines, adopted on the 14th of December 1990, outline strategies for

²³ ---. *UNITED NATIONS CRC Convention on the Rights of the Child*. 2007.

²⁴ “United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules).” *OHCHR*, www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/united-nations-standard-minimum-rules-administration-juvenile.

²⁵ “All about United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Guidelines).” *Latestlaws.Com*, www.latestlaws.com/articles/all-about-united-nations-guidelines-for-the-prevention-of-juvenile-delinquency-riyadh-guidelines. Accessed 12 Nov. 2023.



the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the social reintegration of young offenders, directing to address the root causes of delinquency and affirming the importance of reducing juvenile delinquency for the reduction of crime as a whole.

These guidelines have had a notable impact on international efforts to address and prevent juvenile delinquency. They provide a comprehensive framework for member states to develop effective policies and programs aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency through social, educational, and community-based initiatives. The Riyadh Guidelines draw attention to the importance of early intervention, community involvement, and the protection of juveniles' rights. They encourage global commitment and the creation of environments that support the positive development of young people and reduce the risk factors associated with delinquent behaviour.

United Nations Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System

These guidelines adopted on the 25th of February 1997 provide a framework for action to ensure that children in conflict with the law are treated following international standards and focus their reintegration and rehabilitation into society. They emphasise collaboration, principles of justice, and responsible resource allocation for the Convention's effective implementation.

The guidelines have influenced legal reforms and practices globally, encouraging the establishment of juvenile justice systems that prioritise rehabilitation, diversion, and alternative measures over punitive approaches. By emphasising the unique vulnerabilities of children in the criminal justice context, these guidelines have played a crucial role in shaping policies that protect and promote the well-being of children in conflict with the law.

ILO Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience

Similar to youth offenders, this recommendation introduced in June 2017 focuses its attention on the importance of providing employment opportunities and vocational training to help their reintegration into society after associating with the justice system. It guides Members on the measures to be taken to generate employment and



decent work for prevention, recovery, peace and resilience concerning crises arising from conflicts and disasters.

This recommendation has had a profound impact on promoting stability and resilience in conflict-affected and fragile regions. By emphasising the connection between employment, peace, and resilience, ILO Recommendation No. 205 has affected global efforts to integrate decent work principles into post-conflict reconstruction and development strategies, contributing to more sustainable and inclusive outcomes in regions affected by conflict and fragility.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)

The SDGs are a set of 17 pressing goals set in 2015 that the UN aims to have achieved by the agenda of 2030. The reintegration of youth offenders into society regards the sixteenth goal "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions." More specifically, these goals targets such as (16,1 16,3 16,6 16,7) all provide solutions and ways to help youth offenders through their reintegration and solve the issue. (2015)

They have had a positive impact on the reintegration of youth offenders into society by promoting a comprehensive and overall approach to justice and social development. By integrating these goals into national policies, countries are working towards creating more supportive environments that facilitate the successful reintegration of young people into their communities, thereby contributing to the broader agenda of sustainable and inclusive development.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (JJDP)Congress

On September 7th 1974 the first comprehensive federal juvenile justice legislation enacted in the United States Modified the JJDP to prohibit states from detaining juveniles in local lockups and adult jails and approved an exception to the DSO mandate for status offenders who were found to violate a valid court order.

This prevention act had a transformative impact on the juvenile justice system, especially in the United States. By promoting a more rehabilitative and community-



oriented approach, the JJDPa marked a significant shift in juvenile justice policies, emphasising the welfare of young offenders and the prevention of delinquency. The Act continues to shape juvenile justice practices, focusing on best practices that align with the developmental needs and rights of young individuals in conflict with the law.²⁶

The Juvenile Justice Reform Plan 2018

On December 18th 2018 the Juvenile justice reform plan was created to strengthen families and communities while promoting public safety and ensuring a responsible and effective use of limited resources. It gives clear direction to states and localities to plan and implement data-driven approaches to ensure fairness and reduce racial and ethnic disparities, to set measurable objectives for disparity reduction, and to publicly report such efforts.

This reform plan encouraged critical federal law and successfully improved the conditions for youth involved in the juvenile justice system across the country, and the reauthorization made critical updates to the four core protections for justice-involved youth provided by the law.²⁷

Juvenile Justice Legislation 2022

The Juvenile justice legislation which occurred on May 25th 2022 focused on steering youth away from formal court processing, protecting due process rights, safeguarding against deceptive interrogation techniques, limiting the use of solitary confinement and restraints, improving conditions of confinement and access to services, curtailing the imposition of fines and fees, and expanding access to record expungement. State lawmakers also passed bills relating to data collection and legislative oversight of

²⁶ “Juvenile Justice: Overview of Legislative History and Funding Trends.” *EveryCRSReport.Com*, Congressional Research Service, 25 Jan. 2007, www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RS22070.html#:~:text=In%201980%2C%20Congress%20modified%20the,of%20a%20valid%20court%20order.

²⁷ Turner, April. *States Embrace the Juvenile Justice Reform Act*, www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/2019/item/states-embrace-the-juvenile-justice-reform-act#:~:text=Jail%20Removal%20and%20Sight%20and,are%20held%20in%20adult%20facilities. Accessed 12 Nov. 2023.



juvenile facilities.²⁸

This legislation helped in the overall improvement of comprehensive reform and diversion as well as assist in the improvement of the Process Protections and Police Interrogation of youths, the Conditions of Confinement, the Reducing Collateral Consequences: Fines, Fees and Restitution and the Legislative Oversight of Juvenile Institutions.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Educational Programme

Youth offenders can not have completed their school education due to their arrest. Hence, it is imperative to provide them with an educational programme to develop their skills such as literacy and communication skills. This solution consists of therapy and counselling sessions customised personally for each individual's needs and background. They will be addressing past issues such as trauma, past abuse or health difficulties which will be led by skilled professionals and psychological support. Furthermore with the help and guidance of local schools and colleges educational programmes will be established focusing on fundamental skills such as literacy and communication skills the youth offenders might be lacking. These educational elements will help equip them with the necessary knowledge they need to excel academically to secure a good and successful future.

Spreading Public Awareness

The public's awareness is an essential aspect of the reintegration of youth offenders back into society. Although youth offenders have committed illegal acts, the public must acknowledge the circumstances and conditions they must have endured to feel the need to commit such crimes. Sympathy, acceptance and flexibility will be of great

²⁸ "Brief Juvenile Justice 2022 Year-End Brief." *National Conference of State Legislatures*, www.ncsl.org/civil-and-criminal-justice/juvenile-justice-2022-year-end-brief#:~:text=Juvenile%20justice%20legislation%20in,access%20to%20services%2C%20curtailing%20the.



help for the reintegration of youth offenders back into society. This approach includes setting in motion targeted public awareness campaigns that aim to show reintegration's positive impact on youth offenders and their communities. Meanwhile, the campaigns will aim to reduce criticism that the offenders may receive and educate the public about the challenges they face and their potential for change. Organizing events such as fundraisers enabling the communities to engage and support these young individuals is crucial to promoting these efforts. Lastly, collaborating with local newspapers would help highlight their stories and the progress they have made during reintegration. By promoting and actively including their communities a more supportive environment is created for their success.

Mentor and Support Programme

There is a high possibility that youth offenders have experienced traumatic events or have been neglected in the past. Additionally, they are underaged and therefore, could be inexperienced in how society works. Hence, it is imperative to provide them with a support and mentorship programme. These mentorship programmes will pair the youth offenders with experienced mentors who will offer their support, guidance and a role model they could look up to through their reintegration process. This one-on-one programme will focus on their needs, help them regain their confidence and guide them in making responsible choices. Simultaneously, creating networks for youth offenders who have successfully reintegrated, providing them with a sense of community and encouragement to succeed and serve as inspiring examples for their peers. The execution of said program could be supported by government agencies such as the Office Of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) which often supervise and fund youth programmes and collaborate with nonprofit organisations renowned for the knowledge on youth development such as 'Big Brothers' and 'Big Sisters' One of largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring networks whose mission is to "create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth for their expertise and community outreach".²⁹ This

²⁹ "Big Brothers Big Sisters of America." *Wikipedia*, 11 Jan. 2020, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Brothers_Big_Sisters_of_America.



solution works towards empowering the youth offenders and helping them gain the community support needed for their successful reintegration in hopes of reducing the recidivism risks.

Job Training

A potential solution to assist the reintegration of youth offenders into society is to focus on job training and employment opportunities designed to provide them with essential skills and experience. The timeline of this programme depends on the type of youth offender. After the youth offenders have exhausted the programme and have been deemed suitable for work, an additional one-week evaluation of their skills will be added. Where they will have to prove they are familiar with the principles, regulations and ethics that a job requires with a series of mock labour assignments.

Additionally, by collaborating with international organisations such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), which could recognize suitable job assignments for those who have completed their training, broadening their experience on a global scale. This approach aims to empower these individuals with the designated opportunities required for a successful transition back into society.

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