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**Western Asia Regional Preparatory  
Meeting for the Fifteenth United Nations  
Congress on Crime Prevention and  
Criminal Justice**

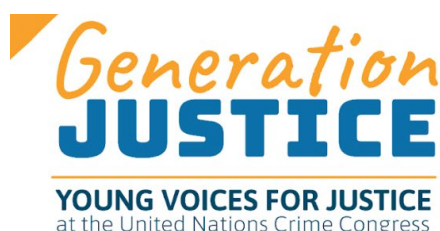
Marrakech, Morocco, 23–25 April 2025

**Recommendations from the GenJust Western Asia Regional  
Youth Consultation\***

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\* This document has not been edited.





## **Recommendations from the GenJust Western Asia Regional Youth Consultation**

Youth bring fresh perspectives, creativity, and a bold ability to speak truth to power—making them vital actors in preventing crime and protecting their peers from exploitation by criminal networks. Their lived experiences and insights help expose the root causes of violence and drive momentum for justice system reform. Recognizing this, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is committed to making the 15th UN Crime Congress the most youth-inclusive to date. Through the Generation Justice (GenJust) initiative, UNODC is creating space for meaningful youth engagement both in the lead-up to and during the Congress. This initiative empowers young people to shape the global agenda on crime prevention and criminal justice, amplifying their voices in international policy dialogues and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions.

The Fifteenth Crime Congress will be held in the United Arab Emirates in 2026 under the overall theme “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”. This document entails youth recommendations from Western Asia stemming from the GenJust regional youth consultation, held online on 8 April, to be submitted ahead of the 2025 regional preparatory meeting for the region, to be held in Marrakech from 23 to 25 April. The priority topics for the Western Asia youth consultation have been formulated based on the responses to a global survey circulated in 2024 on the agenda of the UN Crime Congress. The topics selected for discussion were agenda items 1 and 3, with their respective recommendations presented below.

### **Agenda Item 1: Advancing innovative and evidence-based crime prevention strategies towards social, economic and environmental development**

1. Member States are encouraged to adopt integrated coordination and referral mechanisms to address different forms of crime and ensure the provision of accessible, multi-sectoral protection services, especially for children, youth, and survivors of gender-based violence.
2. Member States, in collaboration with thematic experts, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations, are encouraged to establish national level monitoring and evaluation bodies to assess the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies and criminal justice responses throughout the entire process of prevention, detection, reporting, investigation, and prosecution.
3. Member States are invited to promote multi-sectoral prevention strategies through investments in education, economic opportunities, digital literacy, and cybersecurity, particularly targeting children and youth.
4. Member States should strengthen the capacity of educators and school systems to identify and respond to high risk and criminal behavior, with particular attention to children and youth from underserved communities.

5. Member States must ensure meaningful engagement of children and youth, women, and local communities in the design, implementation and monitoring of crime prevention and peace and security strategies, including strategies that address gender-based violence, in line with the women and youth peace and security agendas.

### **Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**

6. Member States are urged to implement education and awareness-raising programmes across all sectors of society to address cultural norms and raise awareness on human rights and all forms of gender-based violence, including economic, political, social, and sexual violence.
7. Member States should take steps to enhance women's economic and political empowerment, particularly in rural and underserved areas, including through investments in inclusive infrastructure and services.
8. Member States should collect and utilize gender-disaggregated data to design inclusive and evidence-based responses that address the diverse needs and realities of women and girls.
9. Member States, with support from international partners, are urged to enhance real-time data collection in conflict-affected settings and among internally displaced populations, including survivors of GBV.
10. Governments are encouraged to increase the representation and number of women in law enforcement and police forces and promote their involvement in operational decision-making to ensure gender-responsive crime prevention and justice systems.
11. Member States should invest in the training of first responders and law enforcement officials to handle GBV cases sensitively and professionally, while also putting in place robust and effective accountability mechanisms.
12. Member States should work to enhance women's participation in local and regional security strategies and promote women-centered restorative justice approaches, including through cross-border networks and initiatives.
13. Member States, with support from the United Nations, are to establish accessible, local one-stop centers or women's security hubs that provide integrated services including free legal assistance, medical and psychosocial support, mental health services, training, and community mediation, to ensure holistic care for survivors of crime and enable informed decision-making.
14. Member States, in collaboration with civil society and relevant United Nations bodies, are encouraged to develop and implement guidelines for integrating gender-responsive approaches into crime prevention and policy making processes, and to ensure the application of gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment policies at all levels of governance, including governorate and municipal levels.
15. Member States, in cooperation with civil society organizations, are encouraged to secure sustainable funding and mechanisms to support the protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of GBV survivors into their communities.

### **Agenda Item 3: Addressing and countering crime, including organized crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in new, emerging, and evolving forms**

1. Member States should invest in improved data collection and analysis of crime patterns and their linkages with terrorism to inform timely and effective countermeasures to crime.

2. Member States are urged to address the root causes of youth radicalization by advancing youth-centered empowerment strategies that provide positive role models, employment pathways, support systems, and avenues for civic engagement.
3. Member States are encouraged to invest in the rehabilitation and social reintegration of offenders, particularly children and youth, to prevent reoffending, and challenge stringent approaches to incarceration and detention.
4. Member States are encouraged to work with the private sector to promote digital safety and corporate responsibility, and to support the implementation of online education campaigns that promote media literacy and shift harmful narratives and practices that contribute to digital crime threats.
5. Member States should utilize digital tools and platforms, including social media, to promote positive messaging, awareness, and advocacy, particularly through mediums that resonate with youth culture and experiences.
6. Member States are asked to establish accessible hotlines and digital applications that facilitate safe reporting of trafficking in persons and provide support for crime survivors, particularly children, youth and women.
7. Member States are encouraged to promote the responsible use of digital technologies in crime prevention, including through initiatives that counter disinformation, enhance fact-checking mechanisms, and harness artificial intelligence to analyze crime trends for policy development.
8. Member States are encouraged to train law enforcement and justice sector personnel on anti-corruption frameworks and strengthen accountability mechanisms.
9. Member States should adopt robust measures to counter money laundering and prevent the financing of terrorism through nonprofit and charitable entities.
10. Member States should strengthen and modernize national legal frameworks to address organized crime, terrorism, and digital threats, and ratify and implement relevant international instruments, including the Cybercrime Convention.
11. Member States are urged to enhance international cooperation in responding to cross-border crimes and to train relevant actors, including border control units and law enforcement units, on distinguishing between trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, in line with the relevant protocols, international human rights and refugee standards and laws.
12. Member States should improve intelligence sharing frameworks to strengthen regional and international responses to organized crime and terrorism, ensuring that all efforts are inclusive, gender-responsive, and respectful of human dignity.

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