

PNI — NEWSLETTER

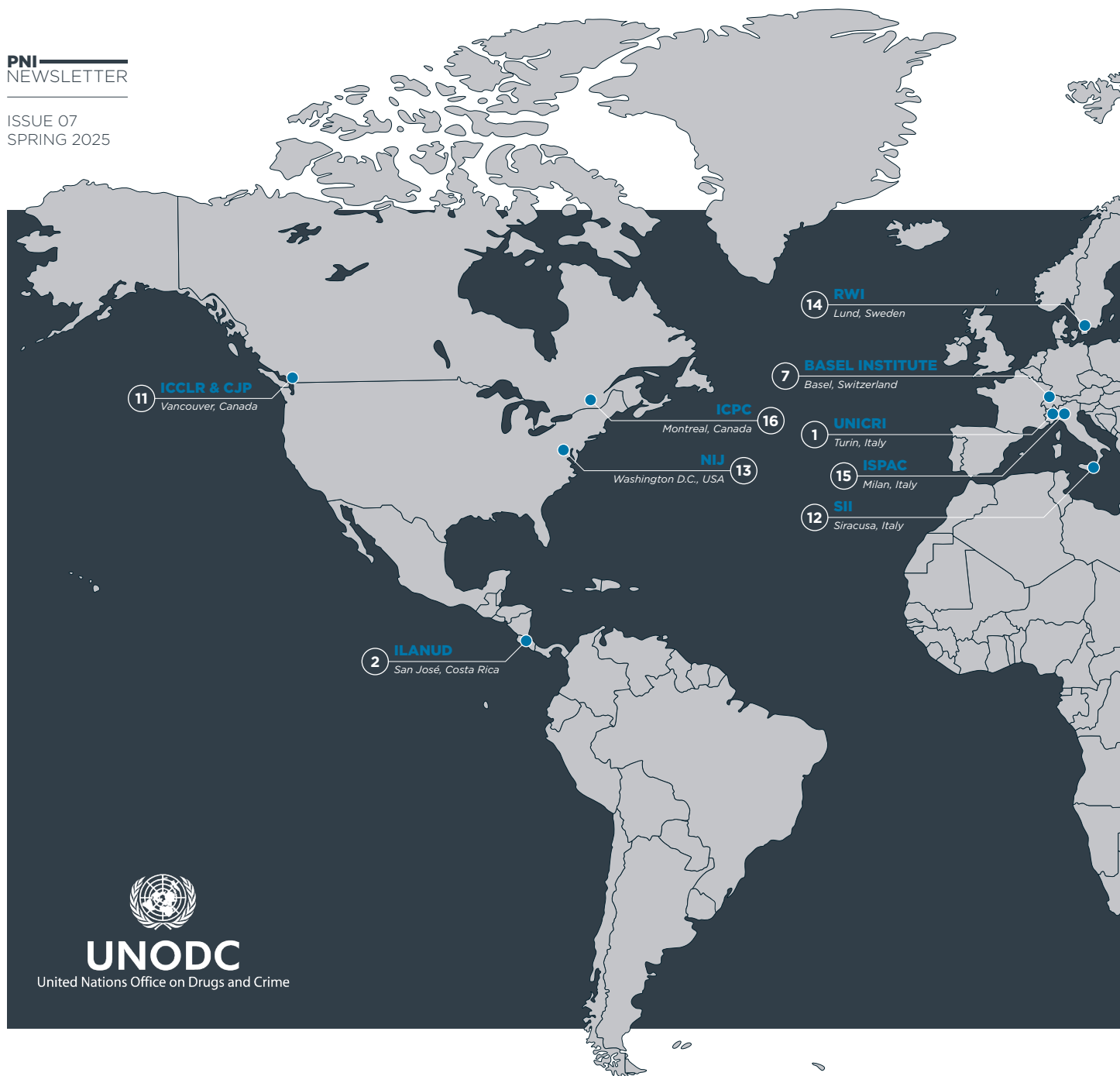
THE UNITED NATIONS CRIME PREVENTION
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME
NETWORK OF INSTITUTES (PNI)

PNI ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE KYOTO DECLARATION
ARTICLES
PNI KNOWLEDGE SHARING
A CLOSER LOOK AT INDIVIDUAL PNIs

ISSUE 07
SPRING
2025

**LOOKING BACK,
LOOKING FORWARD
THE KYOTO
DECLARATION
AND ITS
IMPLEMENTATION**





UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

INTERREGIONAL & REGIONAL INSTITUTES



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



- 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*



- 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



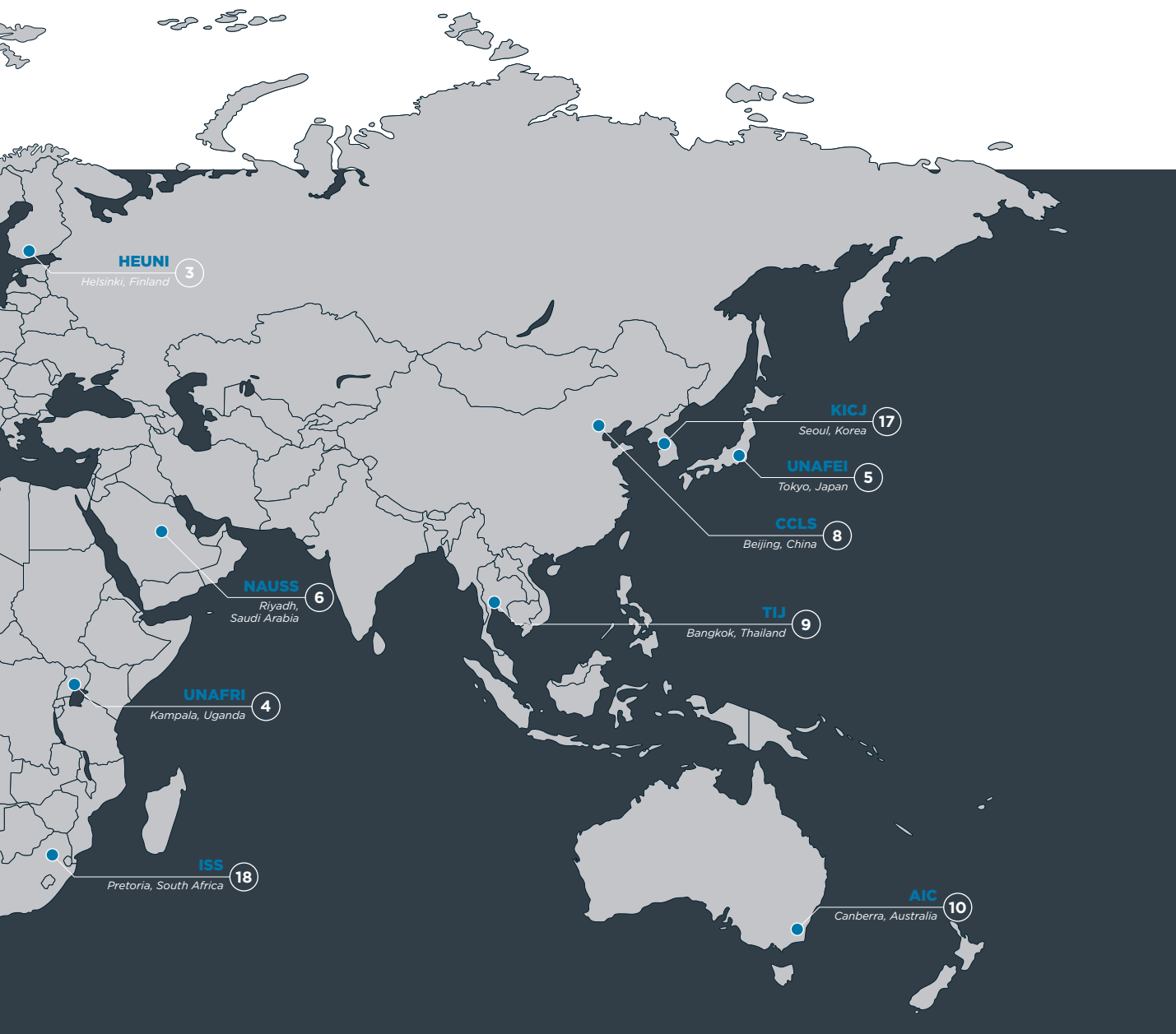
- 7 BASEL INSTITUTE**
Basel Institute on Governance; *Basel, Switzerland*



- 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



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



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

NIJ

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

**RAOUL
WALLENBERG
INSTITUTE**

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

ISPAC

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



**INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE
FOR THE
PREVENTION
OF CRIME**

16 ICPC
International Centre for the Prevention of Crime;
Montreal, Canada

KICJ

**Korean Institute of
Criminology and Justice**

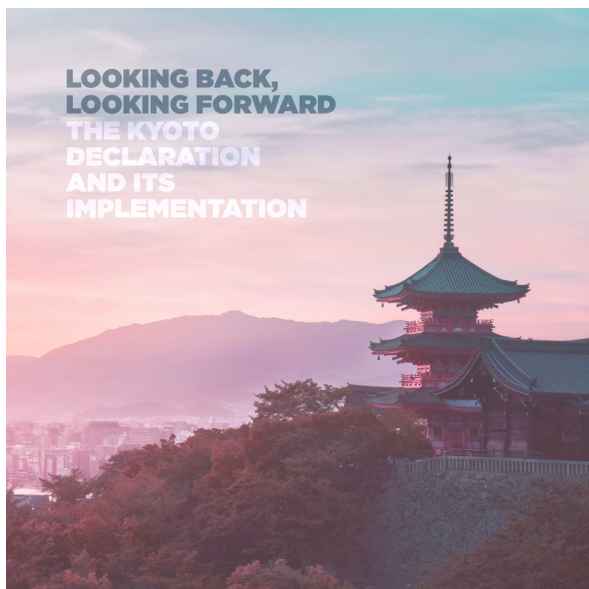
17 KICJ
Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice;
Seoul, Korea



**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 on 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 a “PNI Newsletter” as a way of sharing information on the contributions of the Network, in a way that could benefit a wide range of international and regional stakeholders as well as the general public. The Newsletter also serves to promote cooperation within the Network as well as with UN entities and with national and international stakeholders, through the dissemination of information and the sharing of knowledge. The Newsletter is published twice a year, in the spring and the autumn.

This seventh issue focuses on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, adopted at the 14th United Nations Crime Congress in 2021. As the international community prepares for the forthcoming Crime Congress and declaration in Abu Dhabi in 2026, this issue offers a timely opportunity to reflect on progress made under the Kyoto Declaration. Featured sections include highlights from regional preparatory meetings, an in-depth interview with UNAFEI Director Yamauchi Yoshimitsu, and a spotlight on the 15th anniversary of the Bangkok Rules. Additionally, this issue introduces a new “Knowledge Sharing” section designed to guide readers toward further learning resources and insights on key topics in crime prevention and criminal justice.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

UPDATES

UPDATES ON PNI ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KYOTO DECLARATION	01
NEWS FROM THE PNI	12
LEADERSHIP UPDATES	17

THE PNI AT THE 34th SESSION OF THE CCPCJ

THE PNI WORKSHOP	19
SIDE EVENTS	20

ARTICLES

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD INSIGHTS ON THE KYOTO DECLARATION AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION: AN INTERVIEW WITH UNAFEI DIRECTOR YAMAUCHI YOSHIMITSU	23
THE 15 TH UN CRIME CONGRESS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN EFFECTIVE CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AND TO FACE UP TO THE REALITIES OF CONTEMPORARY ORGANIZED CRIME	27

PNI KNOWLEDGE SHARING

KNOWLEDGE SHARING SPOTLIGHT: BRIDGING THE GAP: HOW BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE CAN STRENGTHEN ANTI-CORRUPTION AND CRIME PREVENTION	31
INFORMATION ON RECENT PNI PUBLICATIONS	34

A CLOSER LOOK AT INDIVIDUAL PNIs

THE SII IN FOCUS INTERVIEW WITH MR. JEAN-FRANÇOIS THONY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SIRACUSA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS	40
MEET THE STAFF: CONVERSATIONS WITH MS. MARCELLA CHAN & MS. JEONGMIN SONG	45

EDITORIAL TEAM

48

UPDATES ON PNI ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KYOTO DECLARATION

Since the adoption of the Kyoto Declaration in March 2021 at the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the international community has reaffirmed its collective commitment to strengthening crime prevention, criminal justice, and the rule of law as fundamental pillars of sustainable development. Structured around four interlinked pillars, the Kyoto Declaration offers a comprehensive roadmap for advancing justice and security in line with the 2030 Agenda.



The PNI institutes, through their research, training, policy engagement, and field activities, continue to play a vital role in supporting the implementation of the Declaration. This section presents selected examples of these contributions from across the PNI, organized according to the Declaration's four thematic pillars, as defined by the series of CCPCJ intersessional thematic discussions.

PILLAR I: ADVANCING CRIME PREVENTION

Pillar I emphasizes the need to address the root causes of crime and adopt proactive, evidence-based, and tailored crime prevention strategies. This includes a focus on the economic dimension of crime, the integration of a gender perspective, and the active involvement of children and youth in crime prevention. The initiatives highlighted in this section reflect the diverse ways in which PNI members are advancing innovative and inclusive prevention efforts—particularly those grounded in social, economic and developmental approaches.

Promoting tailored crime prevention strategies

The **International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR)** conducted a review and gap analysis of crime prevention and response interventions in the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The main objective of the review was to inform discussions and decisions to address, at the national and regional levels, the increasing levels of crime in the Caribbean. The final report offered recommendations on how to tackle risk factors associated with criminal behaviour and suggested interventions for reducing future crime through deterrence, rehabilitation and reintegration. The **International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC)** produced a publication for the city of Longueuil, Quebec, which contained an analysis of crime trends and provided insights for improving urban safety strategies and addressing related challenges. The **Institute for Security Studies (ISS)** engaged with stakeholders to promote a better understanding of the nature of violence and the criminal justice landscape in South Africa, alongside options for improving public safety.

Enhancing evidence-based crime prevention

The **Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)** continued to administer a series of statistical monitoring programmes in the field of criminal justice. This 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 online dashboard was also introduced to provide quarterly reports on intimate partner homicide. Collaborating with the South African Police Service, **ISS** supported the rollout of a new evidence-based policing project, while contributing to the analysis of South Africa's crime statistics.

The **Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice (KICJ)** and the **Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ)** co-hosted the Fourth Regional Meeting on Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics, held from 9 to 11 July 2024, in collaboration with UNODC and the KOSTAT-UNODC Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and the Pacific. The meeting brought together policymakers and practitioners from across the Asia-Pacific region to explore how data and statistics can be more effectively harnessed to support evidence-based crime prevention strategies. **KICJ** also hosted the third Asia-Pacific Expert Conference for Criminal Justice on the theme “Evidence-based policy and digital technologies: the future of the Asia-Pacific region's crime victimization survey and crime and criminal justice statistics,” providing a platform for policy discussions on effective criminal justice in the region.

The economic dimension of crime

The **United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI)** held a conference on 5 December 2024, in partnership with the Higher Regional School of Magistracy of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa. The event, themed “Cross-border economic crime: strategic solutions for overcoming the crisis,” examined regional responses to economic crime. The **Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights (SII)** co-organized the conference “Evidentiary challenges in the fight against money-laundering” in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, offering a platform for experts to exchange legal and operational best practices in prosecuting money-laundering cases and recovering illicit assets.



Conference on evidentiary challenges in the fight against money-laundering

Continuing its collaboration with the European Union Global Facility on anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, the **SII** advanced the development of the *Siracusa Challenge*, an international competitive training event focused on practical skills to combat financial crime. Participants engaged in drafting case studies and developing strategies to address complex money-laundering scenarios. As part of the G7 ministers' meeting on agriculture and fisheries held in Siracusa in September 2024, the SII also hosted a public event on organized crime in the agricultural sector ("agromafias"). Organized in collaboration with Italy's Ministry of Agriculture, the event drew attention to the infiltration of organized criminal groups into agriculture and underscored the need for enhanced cooperation to protect supply chains and ensure food security.



Public conference on the fight against mafias in the agricultural sector

Asset recovery

The **Basel Institute on Governance**, through its International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR), provided hands-on technical assistance in financial investigations and asset recovery to approximately 40 anti-corruption and related authorities across 18 countries. New cooperation agreements were signed with the National Prosecution Service of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Office of the Special Prosecutor of Ghana. ICAR also supported the implementation of non-conviction-based forfeiture laws, which contributed to the recovery of \$94 million by Peru, \$500,000 by Colombia, and \$1 million by Mozambique. The Centre conducted 17 training programmes in nine countries, including a new course on illicit enrichment in Malawi and train-the-trainer programmes in Ukraine and Zambia.

Promoting business integrity and corporate compliance

The **Basel Institute** hosted the Fifth International Collective Action Conference in Basel, Switzerland, which welcomed over 200 participants from government, civil society, and the private sector. Its support to the Business 20 Brazil Integrity and Compliance Task Force led to a new policy recommendation on anti-corruption collective action for G20 States. In parallel, the **International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC)** continued to manage the Corporate Crime and Compliance Hub, a dedicated platform featuring expert commentary on criminal liability of corporate entities in Italy.

Promoting gender perspective in crime prevention

The **AIC** conducted several studies on violence against women. These included research into misidentification

of perpetrators through body-worn cameras, experiences of technology-facilitated coercive control during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence. One study supported the development of a domestic violence threat assessment centre targeting individuals at high risk of committing intimate partner homicide. Other AIC research addressed sexual violence, including dating-app-facilitated abuse among women with disabilities and the impact of restorative justice programmes addressing domestic, family, and sexual violence.

Promoting child- and youth-sensitive crime prevention approaches

The **AIC** conducted research on child sexual abuse, examining issues such as offenders' use of the darknet, cloud-based technology in investigations, and the exploitation of children through digital platforms. It also explored risk factors for online victimization and juvenile offending. The **KICJ** organized the first International Symposium on Youth and Justice on 12 August 2024, focusing on substance abuse and gambling among youth, in collaboration with the National Youth Policy Institute of the Republic of Korea.

To engage youth as agents of change, **UNAFRI** and the Afro-Arab Youth Council co-hosted a dialogue on 1 November 2024, focusing on the digital space and youth engagement in the context of the African Union's Agenda 2063. Participants emphasized the importance of empowering young people to take an active role in leadership, governance, and development efforts as part of broader crime prevention strategies.

PILLAR II: ADVANCING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Pillar II focuses on enhancing the fairness, effectiveness, and humaneness of criminal justice systems. This includes safeguarding the rights of victims and witnesses, improving investigative processes, ensuring decent prison conditions, supporting rehabilitation and reintegration, and addressing the needs of children and youth in contact with the justice system. The activities presented here demonstrate how PNI members are contributing to criminal justice reform through training, technical assistance, and the promotion of international standards and good practices.

Improving investigative processes and promoting fair trial rights

UNAFEI hosted the Francophone African Criminal Justice Seminar in Tokyo from 13 to 22 February 2025. Twenty-two practitioners explored procedural issues in investigating and prosecuting crimes involving minors. From 30 September to 4 October 2024, **UNAFEI** and the International Criminal Court held a joint seminar in The Hague, where 13 participants discussed effective witness protection measures. The **European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI)** launched the "E-ViVi" project to establish best practices for video-recorded interviews and virtual hearings across Europe, aiming to strengthen procedural safeguards for complainants and defendants. HEUNI also released a policy brief on child forensic interviews, summarizing recommendations from the European Association of Psychology and Law.

The **SII** worked to enhance investigative capacity under its Regional Atrocity Crimes Training Platform. It conducted a two-week training in Georgia and a three-day programme in Guinea to build national capacities in investigating and prosecuting atrocity crimes. The training included cross-border cooperation, legal frameworks, and evidence preservation.



SII's Regional Atrocity Crimes Training Platform, Georgia

The **RWI** collaborated with the Academy of Justice of Armenia to provide training on fair trial rights for judges, prosecutors, and investigators, as well as training for law enforcement officials on human rights in detention contexts. The RWI also supported Armenia's Human Rights Defender Office in developing monitoring systems for places of detention.

Improving prison conditions and the treatment of offenders

UNAFEI held the 183rd International Senior Seminar from 11 January to 6 February 2024 in Tokyo. Seventeen senior officials discussed the management of correctional institutions and the implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules. In a public lecture held on 26 January 2024, participants examined evidence-based rehabilitation and youth justice. **UNAFEI** also hosted a study visit by Timor-Leste correctional officials in February–March 2024, focusing on juvenile treatment and violence prevention programmes. In November 2024, seminars were conducted in Kenya to strengthen community-based rehabilitation practices for probation officers.

In Kenya and Zimbabwe, the **RWI** launched initiatives to bring international human rights standards into correctional systems. These included training programmes, inspection functions, and legislative reviews. In Zimbabwe, **RWI** also initiated a cooperation with the National Prosecuting Authority to strengthen its capacity, and partnered with universities to expand clinical legal education. It also supported inter-agency cooperation between human rights, gender, and anti-corruption bodies to explore the linkages between corruption and human rights.

In support of the implementation of the Bangkok Rules, **ILANUD**, the **TIJ** and the **UNODC** co-organized the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Consultative Meeting to Advance the Implementation of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), held in San José from 25 to 27 November 2024. The meeting was organized as part of the project entitled **“Renewing our promise: fostering progress and investment to advance the application of the Bangkok Rules.”** Ninety participants from across the region, Europe, and Asia attended the meeting, where discussions focused on barriers to funding, strategies to mobilize resources, and good practices for developing a roadmap toward stronger implementation of the Bangkok Rules.



The **TIJ** further advanced this agenda by hosting the Women in Corrections Conference in Bangkok from 19 to 21 February 2025, in collaboration with the International Corrections and Prisons Association. The event brought together 350 participants from over 50 countries to examine prison design, psychological support, mother-child bonds, and reintegration.



Women in Corrections Conference, 19 to 21 February 2025

The **ICCLR** contributed to systemic reform through its ongoing project addressing the impact of parental incarceration. The initiative promotes community-based alternatives and supports legal actors in ensuring that the best interests of children are considered throughout judicial processes.

The **ICCLR** contributed to systemic reform through its ongoing project addressing the impact of parental incarceration. The initiative promotes community-based alternatives and supports legal actors in ensuring that the best interests of children are considered throughout judicial processes.

Promoting the use of restorative justice

ILANUD developed a protocol for applying restorative justice to women who commit minor drug offences in Costa Rica. This gender-responsive initiative—conducted in partnership with national justice and health authorities—seeks to provide alternatives to incarceration and support reintegration. **ILANUD** also supported the International Congress on Restorative Justice for the second year. Held from 5 to 7 November 2024, the fifth edition focused on the theme “Women, Indigenous Peoples, and Children: intersectionality through the lens of restorative justice and therapeutic justice.” The Congress was held in a hybrid format and brought together judicial authorities and experts from across Latin America and beyond.

Addressing the specific needs of children and youth in contact with the justice system

ILANUD partnered with the Judicial Training Centre of Buenos Aires to organize the third edition of its online diploma programme in juvenile justice, which ran from May 2024 to March 2025 and attracted over 80 participants from 16 countries. Additionally, **ILANUD** collaborated with the Office of the Attorney General of Spain and the Juvenile Justice Network of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP) to deliver a hybrid training course in Cartagena, Colombia, from 6 to 14 June 2024, engaging over 100 prosecutors and judicial officers.

PILLAR III: PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW

Pillar III underlines the importance of equal access to justice, the availability of legal aid, and the establishment of fair and accountable institutions. It also highlights the role of national sentencing policies, anti-corruption efforts, and social and educational measures. The examples in this section show how PNI institutes are working to build inclusive justice systems by supporting

legal empowerment, enhancing institutional integrity, and promoting respect for human rights.

Promoting the rule of law

The **TIJ** continued to strengthen its Rule of Law and Development Programme, which has grown into a network of more than 500 members from multiple sectors. This expanding network played a central role in organizing the Thailand Rule of Law Fair 2025, held on 7–8 February 2025 and co-hosted by the World Justice Project and The Standard, a leading media outlet in Thailand. The event featured more than 30 interactive sessions on social justice challenges, providing a platform for dialogue and public engagement.



Thailand Rule of Law Fair 2025

Access to justice

In advancing access to justice and legal aid, **UNAFRI** held a virtual conference on 23 April 2024 for francophone African countries on the theme “Access to justice for all: legal aid in criminal justice in francophone Africa and the Maghreb region.” The event explored legislative, administrative, and practical challenges in implementing legal aid systems and highlighted the role of bar associations, financing mechanisms, and national efforts to ensure free access to justice. Recognizing the economic burden of crime, the **TIJ** supported a study by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the cost of crime and criminal justice in Thailand.

The study highlighted the financial strain on the justice system and was presented by the **TIJ** at the OECD Global Round Table on Equal Access to Justice in Ottawa.

Anti-corruption and fraud

In the area of anti-corruption, **UNAFEI** held the twenty-sixth United Nations Convention against Corruption training programme in Tokyo from 23 October to 19 November 2024, with 29 participants discussing the prevention, detection, and prosecution of corruption, as well as public-private partnerships. The **Basel Institute** expanded its Basel LEARN online platform with two new e-learning courses—one on collective action against corruption and another on data cleaning and harvesting—leading to a 35 percent increase in registered users, reaching 53,500 learners. The **RWI** implemented a cooperative project involving legal professionals in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, focused on enhancing their contributions to anti-corruption initiatives through joint training, mentoring, and action planning. The **ISS** contributed to designing new approaches to anti-corruption and transparency as part of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on the Future of Good Governance.

PNI institutes also strengthened links between anti-corruption and environmental protection. The **Basel Institute** advanced its Green Corruption programme, which now operates in eight countries across four continents. In Latin America, the programme team organized a regional meeting and virtual training sessions for officials from Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru on addressing corruption affecting the Amazon rainforest. The Institute's leadership in the Countering Environmental Corruption Practitioners Forum, which now includes over 700 members, reflects growing interest in cross-sector collaboration between environmental and anti-corruption communities. In Ukraine, the **Basel Institute** supported a holistic anti-corruption programme that included hands-on support to public institutions such as the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories, Ukrainian Railways, and the State Agency for Forest Resources, focusing on risk assessments, codes of ethics, and institutional reform in sectors such as forestry and infrastructure.

Further advancing anti-corruption dialogue, the **CCLS** held an international symposium on 9–10 November 2024 on the theme “Anti-corruption fugitive repatriation, asset recovery, and construction of the rule of law in anti-corruption with Chinese characteristics.” Approximately 100 national and international experts, practitioners, and judicial officials participated in person or online.

To address corruption, fraud, and misinformation, the **ICCLR** co-hosted the conference “Journalism under siege: strengthening fact-based reporting to counter financial crime” in Vancouver, in partnership with Trace International. The event brought together experts from journalism, policy, academia, and business to explore strategies for combating misinformation and enhancing transparency. The **ICCLR** also continued its partnership with Transparency International Canada and the Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia through the Vancouver Anti-Corruption Institute. This collaboration included a series of seminars and an eight-part online course titled “The life cycle of dirty money,” offering in-depth sessions on money-laundering and financial crime. The Basel Institute's Basel AML Index further contributed by incorporating fraud risks into its money-laundering risk indicators across 203 countries. The release of its thirteenth public ranking and report drew significant international attention.

Promoting respect for human rights

ILANUD presented the outputs of its interdisciplinary training project on the Istanbul Protocol during an event in San José on 19 June 2024. The project, led by **ILANUD** and coordinated with Costa Rica's National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, aimed to train officials involved in preventing, reporting, investigating, and prosecuting acts of torture. Approximately 50 judicial officials, government representatives, prison system staff, and forensic medical personnel attended the event. The project was funded by the Special Fund established under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The **RWI** also provided support to the Human Rights Commission of Ethiopia by developing online and in-person training for staff and civil society actors conducting prison monitoring visits.

PILLAR IV: PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Pillar IV, *"Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime,"* encompasses four key areas: international cooperation, including through capacity-building and technical assistance; cooperation to deprive criminals of their proceeds of crime; countering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; and responding to new, emerging and evolving forms of crime.

Promoting international cooperation

UNAFEI held the first ASEAN-Japan Criminal Justice Seminar from 11 to 19 December 2024 in Tokyo. The seminar brought together 23 participants to discuss current challenges in the areas of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and prison overcrowding. The Basel Institute continued its work on enhancing international cooperation in the area of criminal finance. The eighth Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies, co-hosted with Europol and UNODC, focused on facilitating peer learning and coordinated responses to financial crime. The **TIJ**, in cooperation with UNODC, organized a training programme titled *"Training on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for South-East Asia"* from 4 to 13 June 2024, which engaged participants from 11 countries in the region.

In the area of international criminal justice, the **CCLS** hosted an international seminar on 7 and 8 November 2024 to address ongoing challenges faced by the International Criminal Court. More than 40 national and international experts, including judges from the ICC and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, participated either in person or virtually. **ISPAC**, in collaboration with the University of Milan, organized the second edition of its one-year training course on international criminal justice for legal practitioners. The course included study visits to the European Public Prosecutor's Office and the International Criminal Court, and concluded with a conference in Milan on *"Harmonization and cooperation in international criminal law."* In addition, the proceedings of the inaugural edition's launching conference were published.



Launching of publication "Harmonization and cooperation in international criminal law" 13 December 2024

Technical assistance

PNI institutes also continued to provide technical assistance in various areas to support the development of effective and accountable justice systems. On 5 August 2024, **UNAFRI** convened a roundtable discussion with senior members of the judiciary in Uganda on the theme *"Commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day: Uganda judiciary and criminal justice."* The session addressed the role of the judiciary in prison reform, focusing on practical approaches and institutional challenges. In September 2024, **UNAFRI** held consultations with the Judicial Training Institute of Ghana, laying the foundation for future cooperation in judicial training and legal research. Topics discussed included the use of artificial intelligence, bail procedures, and cybercrime.

The **SII** continued its collaboration with Qatar's Supreme Judiciary Council through specialized subprogrammes on cybercrime, commercial investment law, and countering money-laundering and terrorist financing. The cybercrime training, in particular, aimed to provide judges with tools to address digital fraud, organized cybercrime, and emerging technologies, contributing to the strengthening of the judicial system's response to complex transnational crimes.



SII's training on countering money-laundering and terrorist financing, in collaboration with Qatar's Supreme Judiciary Council



SII's Training Programme for Qatari Judges on Tackling Cybercrime Civil Nature of Losses, Frauds, Forgeries from a Commercial Perspective

Meanwhile, the **ISS** provided technical and research support to the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council of South Africa and the country's National Prosecuting Authority. These efforts were focused on improving strategic, administrative, and communications capacities. In Ethiopia, the **ISS** also supported the Ministry of Justice in its work on transitional justice, particularly with regard to establishing special offices within the judiciary and prosecution services to address post-conflict accountability.

Supporting the research community and knowledge exchange

The **AIC** funded and published research as part of its criminology research grants programme. Topics included factors associated with the arrest of Indigenous offenders, the role of video visitation in improving father-child relationships in prisons, and the impact of family support and preschool programmes on serious youth offending. In the United States, the **NIJ** published over 40 solicitations and awarded 111 grants totalling \$89.1 million in 2024. While domestic in focus, many of these projects contribute to broader global discussions. Final research outputs

were disseminated through reports, webinars, and social media to support policymaking and practice. On 30 October 2024, **UNAFRI** held a workshop with the National Crime Research Centre of Kenya to enhance research and policy advisory services on crime prevention in East Africa.

As part of its knowledge exchange activities, the **KICJ** led a delegation to Japan from 5 to 8 February 2025 to examine correctional healthcare facilities and explore cooperation with relevant institutions. The delegation, led by President Woong Seok Jeong, visited the East Japan Correctional Medical Center, Japan's Ministry of Justice Research and Training Institute, and Meiji University. A meeting was also held with the Director of **UNAFEI**, Mr. Yamauchi Yoshimitsu, to discuss future collaboration. The **TIJ** continued to operate *Common Ground*, its public learning space located within its office premises. In 2024, the space welcomed more than 18,400 visitors and hosted exhibitions, seminars, and the *Restart Academy*, a social lab where former offenders gain hands-on experience in running small-scale businesses.



The KICJ led a delegation to Japan from 5 to 8 February 2025 to study correctional healthcare systems and explore opportunities for institutional cooperation

Combating trafficking in persons

As part of broader efforts to combat trafficking in persons and exploitation, **HEUNI** and the **AIC** jointly launched a webinar series titled "Down Under and Up North: Modern Slavery Discussions between Australia and Finland." The series, which included four global webinars in 2024, provided a platform for practitioners from different regions to share knowledge, examine common challenges, and discuss effective practices in addressing trafficking and exploitation. Participants presented the work of both institutes and highlighted differing regional approaches and experiences.

In addition, **HEUNI**, in collaboration with the Police University College of Finland, conducted a study on the cooperation between civil society organizations and police in the investigation of trafficking-related crimes. The Institute also launched a handbook aimed at supporting professionals conducting investigative interviews in suspected cases of child trafficking. Strengthening its focus on labour exploitation in the Nordic region, **HEUNI** began a new project on work-related crime and shared Finland's national experiences on forced labour. As part of the "It is never easy to talk about this" (EASY) project, the Institute developed a booklet summarizing best practices and legal frameworks in preventing and responding to forced marriage across Europe, and provided expert input to the Parliament of Finland on legislative efforts to criminalize forced marriage as a form of trafficking. Furthermore, a major regional study examined the barriers faced by exploited migrant workers in the Baltic Sea region in accessing remedies, with findings pointing to the need for more effective enforcement mechanisms. In partnership with representatives from the Finnish labour sector, **HEUNI** also produced practical guidelines for addressing exploitation in the construction industry.

UNAFEI organized its 184th international training course, held in Tokyo from 9 to 29 May 2024, which focused on counter-trafficking responses. The **AIC**, continuing its work on modern slavery, published a report introducing a new statistical monitoring programme and conducted an evaluation of the national action plan to combat modern slavery in Australia. The **SII**, through its Liaison Magistrate Initiative, held a multi-stakeholder workshop in collaboration with the UNODC, addressing the smuggling of migrants, maritime crime, and trafficking in persons across West Africa and Europe. The workshop promoted practical judicial cooperation, including discussions on asset recovery, the dismantling of criminal networks, and other cross-border responses.

Organized crime

The **AIC** produced research analyzing the cost of serious and organized crime in Australia, the motivations for joining outlaw motorcycle gangs, and the relationships between money-laundering and organized criminal activity. A statistical study also explored predictors of high-harm offending among gang members. The **ISS**, in cooperation with INTERPOL and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, continued its efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of responses to organized crime in Africa.

Terrorism and violent extremism

UNAFRI convened a virtual conference on 20 February 2024 that addressed the prosecution of terrorism offences and the illegal possession and trafficking of firearms in East and Southern Africa. The event focused on jurisdictional challenges, procedural safeguards under international law, and strategies for post-conviction rehabilitation. The **SII** hosted three regional workshops on the "judicialization of intelligence" and counter-terrorism. These workshops brought together judicial, intelligence, and investigative professionals from West Africa and the Horn of Africa, aiming to improve inter-agency coordination and integrate human rights considerations into counter-terrorism practices.



SII's Multi-Stakeholder Technical Cooperation Workshop for Europe and West African Countries

The **ISS** supported regional dialogue on violent extremism by working with stakeholders such as the African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre and the West Africa Capacity-Building Working Group of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, and by providing technical support to South African law enforcement in efforts to counter terrorist financing. The **AIC** conducted research that contributed to publications on risk assessment tools for identifying violent extremists, motivations for participation in anti-authority protests, and the role of grievances and conspiracy theories in radicalization. In a related effort to address gang-related violence, the **ICPC** developed a data collection plan for identifying best practices in helping young people disengage from street gangs. The initiative also included an analysis of crime and victimization among 18- to 25-year-olds in Greater Montreal, published in partnership with the Urban Safety Lab and funded by the Ministry of Public Security of Quebec.

Drug trafficking

To address drug trafficking, **NAUSS** hosted 30 scientific events in 2024, including specialized workshops on financial crimes in the digital era and the use of artificial intelligence in law enforcement. In the area of anti-drug and anti-trafficking activities, NAUSS organized a regional workshop on synthetic drug trafficking from 10 to 13 April 2024 in Riyadh, which focused on the latest smuggling methods and countermeasures. This was followed by a workshop on cross-border drug smuggling in Amman from 5 to 7 May 2024, organized in cooperation with INTERPOL and the UNODC. A seminar on emerging opioid threats was held in Dubai from 15 to 17 June 2024, followed by an advanced forensic training on drug detection in Cairo from 8 to 10 July 2024. Throughout 2024, NAUSS also led a public awareness campaign on drug abuse prevention, launched in Riyadh and implemented in collaboration with regional governments, with a focus on youth and vulnerable populations.

Crime against cultural property

ISPAC continued its cooperation with the UNESCO Chair on Business Integrity and Crime Prevention in the Art and Antiquities Market, held by its Director, Professor Stefano Manacorda, at the University of Campania. In 2024, the Council co-organized three events: a national conference in Milan on the criminal protection of cultural heritage and corporate liability (5 February), an international forum on regulation and self-regulation in the art market (30 September), and a conference on the legal framework for recovering cultural goods, held in Naples on 15 November.

Artificial intelligence and emerging technologies

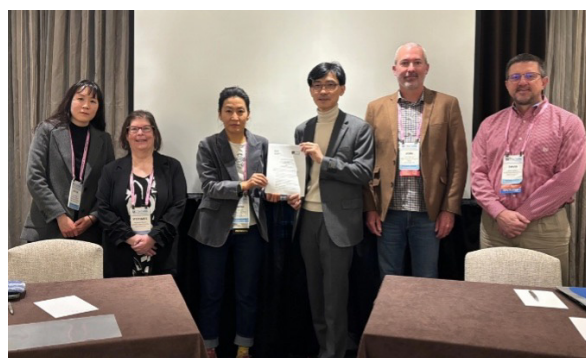
PNI institutes continued to explore the impact of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies on crime and criminal justice. **NAUSS** included sessions on AI in law enforcement and financial crime detection as part of its 2024 scientific events. The **ICPC** developed a concept note on AI and crime, including a glossary of AI-related terms and types of crime, with a focus on the Quebec context. On 16 November 2024, the **KICJ** held a joint roundtable with the NIJ on “Criminal Justice in the Digital Age: The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Crime Prediction and Prevention.” This was followed by the 11th KICJ International Forum on 3 December 2024 under the theme “Digital Age: Legal Tech Applications in Investigative and Judicial

Processes.” The forum served as a platform for sharing national experiences on AI and big data in the justice sector, and examined the use of Legal Tech in investigation and trial processes, with comparative case studies presented by international participants. The forum also discussed Korea's Legal Tech strategy for improving access to justice and protecting rights through digital innovation.



The 11th KICJ International Forum, under the theme “Digital Age: Legal Tech Applications in Investigative and Judicial Processes” 3 December 2024

The **KICJ** attended the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) in Denver, Colorado, from 12 to 15 March 2025. Held under the theme “The Future of Criminal Justice and Criminology,” the conference featured KICJ’s research presentations and co-hosted sessions with global partners. The delegation also participated in a session titled “The United States and the United Nations Program on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,” exchanging views on the UN’s global initiatives and presenting KICJ’s own contributions.



The KICJ attended the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS)

THE LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE FIFTEENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (RPM)

The Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) for the Fifteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in San José, Costa Rica, from 5 to 6 February 2025. It was organized by the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and hosted by the Republic of Costa Rica with the support of ILANUD.

Member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, including countries from Latin America, the Caribbean, North America, and Europe attended the regional preparatory meeting. Observers from Luxembourg, the Russian Federation, the United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam also participated. Representatives from the UNODC, the UNDP, along with institutes from the PNI, such as ILANUD and the ICCLR & CJP were also present. Additionally, several non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, focusing on human rights, criminal justice, gender and efforts to counter organized crime, were represented as observers.

The RPM was chaired and facilitated by the Minister of Justice of Costa Rica, the Director of the Criminal Law Policy Section of the Department of Justice of Canada, and by the Director of ILANUD.

Within the framework of this RPM, ILANUD presented a conference room paper that summarized the discussions held at the Regional Consultative Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean to advance the implementation of the Bangkok Rules, held in San José,

Costa Rica, from 25 to 27 November 2024.

In addition, ILANUD organized a side event on “Advances and challenges in implementing alternative measures to imprisonment for women: Contributions of the Bangkok Rules to the rational use of criminal law”. The event featured speakers from the UNODC, the TIJ, a civil society leader with lived experience of incarceration, and an official from the Ministry of Justice of Costa Rica.

ILANUD also took part in the side event titled “Recent Developments in Advancing Access to Justice in the LAC Region”, together with representatives from the UNODC, Brazil, and Canada.

Prior to the RPM, on 3 February 2025, UNODC’s Civil Society Unit, in partnership with the NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, convened a coordination meeting with 25 civil society organizations (CSOs) representing 16 nations across Latin America and the Caribbean. This initiative was carried out with the support of ILANUD, which also served as facilitator of the working session. The activity was meant to provide these organizations with the knowledge to actively contribute to the RPM scheduled for the following days. During this day-long event, participants were briefed on the agenda, working protocols, and timelines of the RPM. It also provided a timely opportunity to discuss the key findings of the Global Society Survey, with a specific focus on the Latin American and the Caribbean region.

The relevance of the meeting was highlighted by the participation of key stakeholders such as Ms. Hanna Wajda, Counsellor and Chargé d’affaires of the Canadian Embassy in Costa Rica, Mr. Gerson Nozwa from the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Ms. Mirella Dummar, Chief of the UNODC Civil Society Unit, and Mr. Douglas Durán, Director of ILANUD.

In their opening remarks, the keynote speakers expressed a shared commitment to empowering CSOs. They underscored the important contributions of these organizations, highlighting how their field experience and expertise enrich the discussions on key issues such as access to justice, crime prevention, anti-corruption, organized crime, cybersecurity, and trafficking in persons.



THE AIC 2025 CONFERENCE: REDUCING ONLINE HARMS

The AIC 2025 Conference, held in Canberra on 11-12 March 2025, brought together leading researchers, policymakers, law enforcement officials, and advocates to address the escalating landscape of online harms. Organized by the Australian Institute of Criminology

(AIC), the event focused on evidence-based strategies to understand, prevent, and respond to cybercrime, online abuse, and technology-facilitated exploitation.

The conference opened with a keynote by **Professor Rutger Leukfeldt** (Leiden University), who explored pathways into cybercrime and online interventions. Prof. Leukfeldt highlighted how early digital engagement, such as gaming and social media, can lead individuals into cybercriminal activities, and shared insights from online interventions aimed at deterring would-be offenders. Day Two's keynote presented by Professor Ethel Quayle (University of Edinburgh) analyzed the complexities of offenders, victims, and the digital environment in the context of technology-facilitated sexual crimes against children.

Key themes that emerged across the sessions included:

Cybercrime and online fraud

Several sessions addressed the prevalence and patterns of online scams and cybercrime in Australia. Researchers presented data from national cybercrime surveys and the World Cybercrime Index, showing persistent victimization and limited help-seeking behaviour. Notably, Australia ranks highly in victimization but is not a major producer of cybercrime, although certain threats—such as recruitment fraud—are rising.

Online sexual exploitation and child safety

Presentations examined several issues including sexual extortion (sextortion), image-based abuse, and harmful sexual behaviours among youth, with researchers stressing the need for targeted prevention strategies and improved support for victims.

Radicalization and online hate

The growing influence of fringe online communities was examined through survey data and qualitative research. Presenters discussed how exposure to conspiratorial and radical content correlates with support for ideological violence. Also discussed were AI-based methods for mapping online hate, linking spikes in digital hostility with real-world violence.

Misogyny and gendered online harms

Misogynistic ideologies propagated through the “manosphere” were a significant concern. Researchers explored pathways into and out of incel communities, the role of online misogyny in influencing school environments, and the impact on boys and young men. Educational responses were discussed, with an emphasis on overcoming institutional and ideological barriers.

Human trafficking and online platforms

A newer area of concern discussed was the online facilitation of human trafficking and modern slavery. Presenters shared findings on deceptive recruitment via dating apps and the exploitation of trafficked women in Southeast Asia’s cyber-scam centres.

Law enforcement and policy responses

Law enforcement’s role in combating cybercrime was discussed throughout the conference. Innovations in biometric technologies, online prevention messaging, and behavioural insights were presented, with a strong call for collaborative, multi-agency approaches.

The AIC 2025 Conference showcased the multidimensional nature of online harm, emphasizing a need for integrated research, policy, education, and technological interventions to effectively reduce harm in the digital age.

Special thanks to PNI member Dr. Peter German for his well-received presentation **Sextortion: The case of Amanda Todd**.



BASEL STUDY

Come study with us!

Corruption and financial crime undermine societies, from stalling economic growth to eroding public trust. Understanding their dynamics and how to fight them effectively is vital for professionals from any sector and corner of the world. The Basel Institute on Governance has launched two postgraduate programmes designed to boost the knowledge, skills and careers of professionals who care about countering corruption and financial crime:

- Mastering Today's Anti-Corruption Challenges (starting September 2025)
- Combating Financial Crime Through Asset Recovery (starting February 2026)

The six-month advanced qualifications are offered in conjunction with the University of Basel. They are led by experts from our team, the University of Basel and our global network, combining advanced research, real-world insights and practical examples.

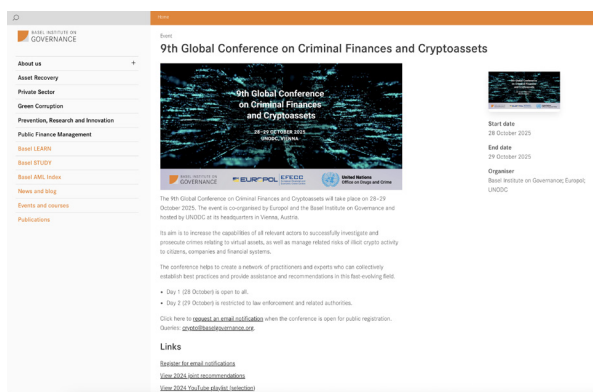
THE 9TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON CRIMINAL FINANCES AND CRYPTOASSETS

The 9th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptoassets will take place on 28-29 October 2025. The event is co-organized by Europol and the Basel Institute on Governance and hosted by the UNODC at its headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

Its aim is to increase the capabilities of all relevant actors to successfully investigate and prosecute crimes relating to virtual assets, as well as manage related risks of illicit crypto activity to citizens, companies and financial systems. The conference helps to create a network of practitioners and experts who can collectively establish best practices and provide assistance and recommendations in this fast-evolving field.

Day 1 (28 October) is open to stakeholders from any sector.

Day 2 (29 October) is restricted to law enforcement and related authorities.



The screenshot shows the website of the Basel Institute on Governance. The main heading is "9th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptoassets". Below the heading, there is a date "28-29 OCTOBER 2025" and the location "UNODC VIENNA". The page includes a description of the conference's aim to increase capabilities for investigating and prosecuting crimes related to virtual assets. It also lists the organizers: Basel Institute on Governance, Europol, and UNODC. A sidebar on the left contains navigation links such as "About us", "Asset Recovery", "Private Sector", "Green Corruption", "Prevention, Research and Innovation", "Public Finance Management", "Basel LEARN", "Basel STUDY", "Basel AML Index", "News and blog", "Events and courses", and "Publications".



The banner features a dark background with a glowing, abstract pattern. The text "9th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptoassets" is prominently displayed in white. Below the title, the dates "28-29 OCTOBER 2025" and the location "UNODC VIENNA" are listed. At the bottom, the logos of the organizing institutions are shown: the Basel Institute on Governance, Europol, ECEC (European Financial and Economic Crime Centre), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

LEADERSHIP UPDATES

UPDATES

THE BASEL INSTITUTE ON GOVERNANCE



ELIZABETH ANDERSEN
Executive Director

Elizabeth “Betsy” Andersen is the Executive Director of the Basel Institute on Governance, where she leads the Institute’s strategic direction and oversees its global efforts to counter corruption, strengthen governance and promote integrity in the public and private sectors. She assumed the role in March 2025, following a distinguished career at the intersection of law, justice, governance and international development.

Before joining the Institute, Betsy served as Executive Director of the World Justice Project, a non-profit organization working internationally to advance the rule of law.

Betsy has a rich legal background spanning academia and practice. Among other roles, she has served as Associate Executive Director of the American Bar Association and Director of its Rule of Law Initiative. She has also served as Executive Director of both the American Society of International Law and Human Rights Watch’s Europe and Central Asia Division.

She is a frequent speaker and widely published author on topics relating to international human rights, transitional justice and rule of law development, and she has served as an adjunct professor at the American University Washington College of Law.

Betsy brings extensive experience working with and serving on the advisory committees and boards of non-profit organisations and associations, including the International Law Institute (U.S.), the CEELI Institute (Czech Republic), Misongi (Cameroon) and the ASIL Women in International Law Interest Group (U.S.). She is a member of the American Law Institute and the Council on Foreign Relations and currently serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees of Williams College.

For her contributions to advancing the rule of law and international justice, Betsy has been honoured with numerous awards. These include a Williams College Bicentennial Medal, the American Society of International Law Prominent Woman in International Law Award, and the American Bar Association Section of International Law World Order Under Law Award.

THAILAND INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE (TIJ)



PROF. DR. KITTIPONG KITTAYARAK

Chairman of the TIJ Board of Directors

Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak was appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) in January 2025. He previously served as Executive Director of TIJ, leading efforts to localize international standards and norms in Thailand and across the Southeast Asia region. Earlier, he served a six-year term as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of Thailand, where he championed reforms to align the justice system more closely with international practices. Under his leadership, multidisciplinary policies were introduced for the first time, including the shift toward treating drug abuse as a health issue and the incorporation of restorative justice practices into Thai criminal justice procedures. He also played a key role in restructuring the Ministry to create a more cohesive and coordinated institution. Dr. Kittayarak has also been engaged in Thailand's national efforts toward peace and reconciliation, serving on the Truth for Reconciliation Commission and the National Reconciliation Committee. He also contributed to the drafting of Thailand's landmark 1997 Constitution, known as the "people's constitution."

Dr. Kittayarak has lectured extensively on advanced criminal law, criminal procedure, human rights, and the criminal justice process at Chulalongkorn University, Thammasat University, and Ramkhamhaeng University, and serves as a lecturer and member of the committee of the Thai Bar Association. He continues to contribute to the advancement of the educational landscape in Thailand through his roles as Chancellor of King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Bangkok University. In addition to his academic contributions, Dr. Kittayarak also serves on the boards of several foundations and organizations active in justice reform, healthcare, humanitarian assistance, anti-corruption, and financial governance.

THE PNI AT THE 34th SESSION OF THE CCPCJ

THE PNI WORKSHOP

“Addressing new, emerging, and evolving forms of crime, including crimes that affect the environment, smuggling of commercial goods, and trafficking in cultural property and other crimes targeting cultural heritage”

Monday, 19 May 2025, 15:00 – 18:00

Crimes that affect the environment, smuggling of commercial goods, and crimes targeting cultural heritage constitute the core themes of the 2025 session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Vienna on 19-23 May 2025. These include a variety of criminal phenomena the emergence and evolution of which cause global concern, including but not limited to:

- Illegal wildlife trade
- Illegal logging and deforestation
- Pollution-related crimes
- Illegal fishing and marine pollution
- Carbon credit fraud
- Illegal waste dumping
- Water resource exploitation
- Counterfeit goods smuggling
- Pharmaceutical smuggling
- Illicit tobacco and alcohol trade
- Illicit trade through online platforms
- Fraudulent import/export schemes
- Evasion of customs duties
- Money laundering through trade
- Illicit trade of antiquities and artifacts
- Theft of cultural heritage
- Destruction of cultural monuments
- Cyber-enabled art fraud
- Digital forgery of cultural assets
- Etc.

This PNI workshop will bring together leading experts from the PNI network to explore the complex challenges that lie at the heart of these global issues, including trends, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This will be done by examining three new, emerging, and evolving forms of crime through the lens of cross-cutting issues that are common to all the abovementioned forms of crime. The workshop will be structured into three sessions, one for each of the identified cross-cutting issues, to ensure focused discussions while adhering to the three-hour time allocation.

WORKSHOP FORMAT

The workshop, taking place at the Vienna International Centre from 15:00 to 18:00, will be held in person to ensure direct engagement between participants and attendees. Furthermore, the session will also be streamed online to ensure broader accessibility for those unable to attend in person, thereby fostering a more inclusive and comprehensive discussion. The working language of the event will be English.

Opening remarks and closing statements will be delivered by representatives from the Siracusa International Institute (SII), and the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS), in their role as workshop coordinators, in addition to UNODC representatives. A representative of either the SII or NAUSS will be in charge of timekeeping and coordinating the event. Each of the three sessions will be chaired by a moderator and will feature a panel of two to three speakers.

To foster interactivity and stimulate initial discussions, the moderator will ask a series of questions in relation to the key theme of the session to the panel. The questions, which will be sent in advance to the speakers, aim to allow them to present the insights gained from their own work in a dynamic and interactive way. After the speakers' interventions, the moderator will broaden the discussion by opening the floor to the audience.

SESSIONS OVERVIEW

Session 1:

Enablers of Emerging Forms of Crime: Money Laundering and Corruption

The first session will delve into the intersection between emerging crimes and the lawful economy. Corruption and money laundering play a key role in enabling crimes that affect the environment, the smuggling of commercial goods, and the trafficking of cultural property. Indeed, the typical driver behind those three emerging forms of crime is profit, which requires that the proceeds they generate be laundered and reinserted into the lawful economy. Similarly, these crimes cannot be committed on a large scale without some degree of corruption. This may involve, for example, the complacency of staff from law enforcement, customs, or political and administrative institutions. This session will provide a platform for experts to examine emerging corruption and money-laundering threats and trends in connection to emerging crimes, as well as innovative approaches and initiatives to counteract these phenomena, which threaten to dissolve the very fabric of societies and allows the proliferation of criminal enterprises.

Session 2:

The Impact of AI on Emerging Forms of Crime

The second session will focus on the impact of artificial intelligence on emerging and evolving forms of crime. AI is set to have a massive influence on the evolution of society as a whole, and crime is likely to follow along the same path. As both organized criminal groups and criminal justice systems look to harness the power of AI, this session of the workshop will allow experts to discuss new trends in the field, including the use of AI to commit crimes that affect the environment and climate change; the smuggling of commercial goods; and crimes against cultural heritage; but also ways in which this technology can be leveraged to detect and investigate those offences to bring perpetrators to justice.

Session 3:

Regional Cooperation in Combating Environmental Crimes, Smuggling, and Trafficking in Cultural Goods

The final session will explore the importance of regional cooperation in addressing the interconnected challenges of environmental crimes, smuggling, and trafficking in cultural goods. Given the transnational nature of these crimes, effective responses require

collaboration between countries, international organizations, and local authorities. This session will highlight successful examples of regional frameworks and initiatives that have fostered cooperation in tackling these illicit activities, as well as gaps and opportunities for future regional cooperation. Experts will discuss the role of regional intelligence sharing, coordinated law enforcement efforts, and joint capacity-building initiatives. The session will also emphasize the importance of harmonizing legal frameworks to promote stronger, more consistent enforcement mechanisms.

SIDE EVENTS

Monday, 19 May 2025, 16:30 - 17:30, Room M6

“Renewing Our Promise: Strengthening Support for Women in Corrections”

***The event is organized by the TIJ
(with co-sponsorship from the UNODC, ILANUD,
and Penal Reform International)***

2025 marks a key moment for women's rights and the advancement of gender-responsive justice. It commemorates the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders, commonly known as the Bangkok Rules. The anniversary also coincides with Beijing +30, the global review of progress since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) in 1995, which set a comprehensive agenda for advancing women's rights. Both the Bangkok Rules and the BPfA share a common goal of addressing systemic inequalities and ensuring that justice systems work for women.

Historically, women prisoners have been among the most marginalized groups, with their gender-specific needs largely overlooked. The adoption of the Bangkok Rules in 2010 transformed this narrative by establishing a groundbreaking framework for protecting the rights of women prisoners and offenders. This milestone provides an opportunity for the global criminal justice community to reflect on progress, address persistent challenges, and reaffirm commitments to improving the treatment and rights of women in correctional systems.

Beyond supporting incarcerated women, it is also important to highlight the critical role of women in leadership positions within corrections. Female correctional officers and prison staff often play a crucial role in creating safe, rehabilitative environments. Strengthening support structures, training, and career pathways for women working in the justice system is essential to ensuring both institutional effectiveness and the well-being of incarcerated individuals.

Thus, this side event provides a unique moment to draw lessons from the Bangkok Rules to inform national and international strategies, further embedding gender-responsive approaches in criminal justice systems and aligning these efforts with broader commitments to advancing women's rights.

Tuesday, 20 May 2025, 11:30 – 12:30, Room MOE 79

“Responding to youth criminality linked to transnational organized crime in the Nordic and Baltic regions”

**Organized by HEUNI
(in cooperation with the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, GI-TOC)**

There is a growing concern across the Nordic and Baltic regions regarding youth criminality linked to organized crime, both national and transnational. Young people are increasingly being recruited by organized crime groups and becoming involved in criminal ecosystems, particularly within transnationally organized illicit drug markets. They are recruited to work within the criminal economy and to carry out violent acts, including across borders. Criminals exploit young people in particularly vulnerable situations and recruit them actively through social media.

The criminal justice systems must face these challenges, taking into consideration both aspects related to the developmental phase and context of the youth who are recruited as well as the modus operandi of the criminal groups recruiting them. The transnational links of these gangs and other organized criminal groups are complex and pose problems for criminal justice systems to respond effectively. This event will contribute to a better understanding of the issues through the presentations by HEUNI on preventive and responsive measures related to youth crime and GI-TOC on their recent research on the phenomenon.



For online participants, please register at:
<https://link.webropol.com/s/side-event-2025>

Tuesday, 20 May 2025, 13:00 – 14:00, Room M7

“International Responses to Transnational Drug-Related Crimes on Digital Platforms”

**Organized by the KICJ
(with co-sponsorship from UNAFEI, UNODC, UNICRI and the TIJ)**

The increasing use of digital platforms in illegal drug activities has posed significant challenges to global law enforcement and criminal justice systems. As drug traffickers exploit technologies such as social media, encrypted messaging apps, and dark web marketplaces, international cooperation has become essential to effectively address these evolving transnational threats.

This side event aims to bring together experts, policymakers, and law enforcement professionals to explore practical approaches and strategies for combating transnational drug-related crimes facilitated by digital platforms. It will also highlight the critical role of international cooperation in promoting justice and security in the digital age.

The event is part of the preparations for the Workshop to be held at the 2026 UN Crime Congress on the topic “Turning the Digital Age into an Opportunity: Promoting the Responsible Use of Technologies in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,” co-organized by the KICJ and UNICRI.

**Wednesday, 21 May 2025, 11:30 – 12:30,
Room MOE 100**

**“Advancing Urban Crime and
Violence Prevention Through
Local Safety Planning”**

Organized by the ICPC

The event will highlight **strategies for local safety and security planning**, drawing on experiences from both the Global North and South with a focus on urban security governance policies and practices, multi-stakeholder and equity-based approaches, addressing emerging safety challenges, implementing evidence-based strategies, and innovation in technical support and training.

As urbanization continues to rise, with city populations projected to increase from three billion to five billion by 2050, we recognize the critical need for comprehensive urban security governance at the local level. While cities present opportunities for safety and prosperity, they also pose challenges related to violence and insecurity. In alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16 (reducing crime and violence) and SDG 11 (creating safe, inclusive, and resilient cities), the ICPC is organizing a side event at the 34th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It will be framed within the context of previous United Nations resolutions, commitments, and guidelines related to crime prevention, criminal justice, and sustainable development.

Wednesday, 21 May 2025, 16:30 – 17:30, Room M6

**“Fostering Resilience among Women, Children
and Youths in the Criminal Justice Context”**

***Organized by UNAFEI
(with co-sponsorship from the UNODC,
HEUNI and the TIJ)***

“Building resilient societies” is an emerging concept of sustainability that has not been explored in depth in the context of crime prevention and criminal justice. The resilience framework is a process that includes the identification of multidimensional risk and responding to these risks through a multistakeholder approach. A core principle for the implementation of resilience strategies is to focus on the most vulnerable and at-risk

populations, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recognizes that crime is an every-day risk that can amount to a crisis with wide-ranging and persistent impacts on society. This side event, hosted by UNAFEI, will consider how crime prevention and criminal justice policies can foster resilience among women, children and youths – as victims and offenders – in support of a broader whole-of-society approach to resilience.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

INSIGHTS ON THE KYOTO DECLARATION AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION:

An interview with UNAFEI director
Yamauchi Yoshimitsu

Since its adoption at the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Kyoto in 2021, the Kyoto Declaration has provided a guiding framework for the international community to advance crime prevention and criminal justice. As preparations are underway for the next declaration to be adopted at the upcoming Congress in Abu Dhabi in 2026, this moment presents a timely opportunity to reflect on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, as well as the progress and achievements it has inspired.

The PNI Newsletter is honoured to feature an interview with Mr. Yamauchi Yoshimitsu, Director of UNAFEI, who played an instrumental role in both the negotiation and implementation of the Kyoto Declaration. As the Executive Director of the Kyoto Congress Preparation Committee and now as head of UNAFEI, Mr. Yamauchi has been closely involved in shaping and advancing the Declaration's priorities. In this interview, he shares his insights on the rationale behind the Declaration's structure and substance, lessons learned from organizing the Kyoto Congress, and his reflections on the path forward as the global community looks ahead to the Abu Dhabi Congress.



Thank you for taking the time to share your insights on the Kyoto Crime Congress and the Kyoto Declaration. Going back to 2020 and the run up to the Kyoto Congress, you were the Assistant Vice-Minister of Justice of Japan. Can you tell us about your role in the preparations for the Kyoto Congress and the negotiation of the Kyoto Declaration?

I was the executive director of the Kyoto congress preparation committee and was in charge of all aspects of the logistical preparations. I also represented Japan in the negotiation of the Kyoto Declaration.

Although it seems like it was a long time ago, the Kyoto Congress was held during the Covid-19 pandemic. What challenges did you have to overcome, and what lessons can be learned from that experience, especially in terms of Congress preparations and the negotiation of the declaration?

As you know, the Kyoto Congress was initially scheduled to take place in April 2020, the same year as the Tokyo Olympic Games. But just as the Olympics were postponed, the Kyoto Congress was also postponed because of Covid-19. Eventually, we held it in March 2021 in a hybrid format and had to restrict the number of in-person participants to five per country. However, even under this restriction, 13 countries sent Minister-level representatives. In the end, a total of 152 countries and 5,600 people participated in the Kyoto Congress, which is the largest number of participants for a Crime Congress.

There were a lot of preparations that went into holding a hybrid format meeting, and one of the lessons learned might be that hybrid participation is feasible, can expand overall participation and should be incorporated into future congresses. In any case, there are many people in the UNODC who have experienced the Kyoto Congress, so we can count on their expertise when preparing for the next Crime Congress.

However, if you want to make a Congress successful, I think you have to promote it, especially if you want high level participation. I recall that Japan did a lot of promotion to have people participate in Kyoto. We attended all the regional preparatory meetings to encourage participation. We had side events in New York and Vienna and advertised what nice things they could expect in Kyoto. I even negotiated with the UNSG's office for his participation. I also had committees set up in Kyoto to bring together all the relevant local entities, so that they could support on every level and liven things up. We put an ad in the Japanese papers and had the media cover the event. We also had every section of the Ministry of Justice come up with side events to ensure an active meeting. So, if you want countries and people to participate in your Congress, you have to think of a way to promote it and also plan for the contents to be attractive.

As for the negotiation of the declaration, preparation and an inclusive process were the keys to success. As I mentioned, Japan participated in all five regional preparatory meetings. Each region had its unique focus, and we tried to understand them and took note of them. Before drafting any draft declaration, we convened an informal expert meeting in Kyoto, which I

chaired, to try to lay out the items that were of mutual interest to all regions, along with the unique, region-specific elements that were presented in the various regional meetings.

Also in each preparatory meeting, we discussed not just the elements of the declaration but also the structure of the declaration. In order to secure the direction that was floated in these meetings, Japan submitted a draft resolution concerning the preparations for the Kyoto Congress at the Crime Commission in 2019, which stated that what we should create is a "structured, short and concise draft declaration with a robust overarching political message addressing the main topics to be discussed at the Congress." Throughout the negotiations, we tried to stick to this idea of a well-structured, short and concise declaration. I think that may have been the key to success in the negotiation of the Kyoto Declaration.

Looking back at the negotiations that led to the Kyoto Declaration, what were some of Japan's goals for the declaration, in terms of both form and substance?

As for the form of the declaration, we didn't want a wish list or a "Christmas tree" type of a declaration. Therefore, at the informal expert meeting in September 2019, we presented the idea of structuring the declaration in two parts. The first part would be the political message and the second part would consist of action-oriented paragraphs, in line with the call in the resolution for a "structured, short and concise draft declaration with a robust overarching political message." I think we were able to achieve this. However, in the first draft, it had only nine paragraphs for the political message and 33 additional paragraphs. At the end of the negotiation, the contents more than doubled and we ended up having 20 paragraphs for the political message and 97 additional paragraphs, which was a bit longer than our preference.

Substantively, we were happy with the results. Japan's priority issues to be included in the declaration were 1) capacity-building of practitioners, 2) public-private partnership and reducing reoffending, 3) the rule of law and the culture of lawfulness. All these elements ended up in the final declaration.

Japan seems to have been quite active in its efforts to follow up on the Kyoto Declaration. Can you talk about some of the actions Japan has taken to follow up on the commitments made in Kyoto?

Japan has been pursuing three initiatives as the legacy of the Kyoto Congress to promote the global implementation of the Kyoto Declaration. One was empowering the youth in the field of criminal justice. The second was reducing reoffending throughout the world. The third was enhancing international cooperation of practitioners.

First, in cooperation with the UNODC, Japan has been convening the Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness every year. The Forum served as a place where the youth worldwide can deepen their understanding of contemporary issues in the field of law and justice, share diverse perspectives and backgrounds, and foster networks and friendships while bringing their voices to the United Nations.

Second, Japan has been leading the formulation of the Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending, which was finalized very recently. Japan strongly believes that the Model Strategies will contribute to the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration and to the enhancement of recidivism prevention measures in countries around the world.

Third, Japan also held the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific, or “Crim-AP”, together with the UNODC, every year since the Kyoto Congress. The fourth meeting will be convened this June. This Forum has served as a platform for information sharing among criminal justice practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region. We brought together experts on offender treatment and rehabilitation in the Asia Pacific region to facilitate regional cooperation and to foster trust among practitioners. We also brought together experts from the central authorities from not only the Asia-Pacific region but also the USA and Canada to discuss issues relating to mutual legal assistance. I chaired the first and the third meetings of the Crim-AP MLA group, which is planning to create a handbook compiling the information shared in the three meetings.

We are now one year away from the Abu Dhabi Crime Congress. Do you have any advice you'd like to share with the Congress organizers based on your experience organizing the Kyoto Congress?

As the host country of the previous Congress, Japan wholeheartedly supports the United Arab Emirates in the forthcoming Congress.

For any meeting to succeed, it needs to be well organized, and to have a well-organized meeting, it takes preparation. So, my advice to the organizers is to be well prepared. One thing I'm certain of is that in order to have a delegation to come and actively participate in the Crime Congress, you need to really promote it. Let countries know what they can expect if they were to participate in the Crime Congress. In Kyoto, although it did not materialize because of Covid-19, we had a rich programme lined up to fulfil all the needs and curiosities of the overseas participants. I hope Abu Dhabi will do the same.

Which key issues from the Kyoto Declaration do you think would require further attention and follow-up in the forthcoming Abu Dhabi Declaration?

I think that the consistency and continuity of our initiatives across Congresses is important. So, I hope our focus on reducing reoffending, the whole-of-society approach, the rule of law, youth participation and international cooperation will carry on. And as the host country of the previous congress, we hope that, at the next Congress, we can take stock of other follow-up actions of the Kyoto Congress that have taken place around the world, observe what we have achieved over the past five years, explore what we have yet to do and reflect such stocktaking in the discussions in Abu Dhabi.

In your view, have there been any significant changes in the crime prevention and criminal justice landscape over the past five years, and if so, how might they influence the shaping of the Abu Dhabi Declaration compared to the Kyoto Declaration?

I think the basic landscape we see in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice hasn't changed that dramatically since 2021. There is still overcrowding in prisons; there are still high levels of reoffending; there is still organized crime and increasing levels of cybercrime.

However, the political landscape has changed dramatically with the situation in Gaza and Ukraine and the new government in the United States. There is a much wider divide in the international forum, and this will inevitably affect the shaping of the Abu Dhabi Declaration. Also, one big change is the conclusion of the UN Cybercrime Convention and that it is now open for signature. So how the Member States approach this new Convention will also influence the shaping of the upcoming declaration. Speaking of cybercrime, I think the issue of virtual assets including cryptocurrency and the exploitation of digital platforms for criminal activities is gaining more attention compared to five years ago. I imagine that such current issues will also be quite relevant in the negotiations.

Now you are the Director of UNAFEI. What role do you see for the PNI in supporting the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration and the forthcoming Abu Dhabi Declaration?

At the Kyoto Congress, UNAFEI organized the Workshop on Reducing Reoffending. The Chair's summary of this Workshop recommended developing model strategies to reduce reoffending and paved the way for what eventually became the United Nations Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending (the Kyoto Model Strategies). The Model Strategies are now waiting to be adopted at the upcoming session of the CCPCJ. Now that this work is done, the next step is its dissemination and implementation, and I hope that the Abu Dhabi Declaration will endorse this as well. As the PNI member which has been engaged with the new Model Strategies from the start, UNAFEI will actively promote its dissemination, and we will be holding international training seminars as early as next January and beyond to offer training and provide technical assistance. I ask other PNIs for their cooperation and support in our endeavours.

THE 15TH UN CRIME CONGRESS

An opportunity to recognize and support the role of civil society

in effective crime prevention and criminal justice, and to face up to the realities of contemporary organized crime



IAN TENNANT

Director of Multilateral Engagement at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC), and Chair of the Board of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Civil society participation:

The next UN Crime Congress takes place amid uncertain and unstable times, but it represents an opportunity for the international community to update and upgrade its approach to tackling organized crime, and to ensure meaningful civil society participation in more effective crime prevention and criminal justice policies. Civil society and the PNIs have a vital role to play in supporting these efforts, at the Congress and beyond.

In 1991, UN General Assembly Resolution 46/152 confirmed the role of the long-standing UN Congress on

the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders (the Crime Congress) as a consultative body of the UN crime programme, to provide 'a forum for the exchange of views between States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines.'¹ The mandate and practice of the Congress is quite unique, in terms of its status as a multistakeholder meeting. It is not just another intergovernmental meeting. For example, diverse civil society organizations and individual experts have been active participants at UN Crime Congresses.

Indeed, whether in plenary, workshops, ancillary events or other events in the margins, the role of civil society has long been a distinguishing feature of Crime Congresses since the outset. In preparation for the 15th Congress, to take place in Abu Dhabi in 2026, the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has focused efforts on promoting participation in the regional preparatory meetings – with more than 20 NGOs attending the Americas meeting in Costa Rica. For every meeting, the numbers of civil society participants have been far higher than in the preparatory process for the last Congress, and we look forward to seeing that interest and attendance reflected at the Congress itself.

In preparing for the regional meetings, the Alliance carried out, in cooperation with the UNODC Civil Society Unit (CSU), a survey of civil society priorities for the Congress, to which more than 300 NGOs around the world responded. The Alliance and CSU's analysis of the responses to the survey has raised a broad range of relevant insights and recommendations, calling for enhanced international cooperation, more diverse and independent data and research, including the voices of victims and survivors, addressing corruption, ensuring a gender perspective, ensuring access to justice, and full respect for rights and freedoms – all of which are of course underpinned by a strong and active civil society and the rule of law. The details have been presented at regional preparatory meetings and will be presented again at the 34th CCPCJ in May.

Recognizing the role of civil society:

Congress outcome documents have long referenced the central role of civil society in crime prevention and criminal justice, but that role seems to have gradually been downgraded, and markedly so in the Kyoto Declaration of the 14th Crime Congress in 2021. For example:

- In Milan in 1985, the Crime Congress agreed that “non-governmental organizations should continue to be effectively involved in the work of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice”.²
- In Vienna in 2000, the Crime Congress agreed that “effective action for crime prevention and criminal justice requires the involvement, as partners and actors, of Governments, national, regional, interregional and international institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and various segments of civil society...”³

However, the Kyoto Declaration from 2021 represents an enhanced focus on state responses. It conceptualizes law enforcement and criminal justice as the ‘central components of the rule of law’, and affirms the ‘primary role and responsibility’ of states and governments to implement responses. The role of civil society is consequently sidelined and mentioned only in reference to the establishment of partnerships with the state, ‘as appropriate’.

The challenge for us in civil society, in partnership with the PNIs, is to make the case for upgrading the language to once again reflect the vital and diverse roles that civil society plays as key players in crime prevention and criminal justice. And we will count on the support of the PNIs in ensuring civil society participation in the workshop panels at the Congress.

The Alliance will discuss in more detail the ways civil society participation at the Congress can be strengthened at two side events at the CCPCJ, entitled:

Strengthening Civil Society Engagement at the 15th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Location: Room M3, M Building, 22 May 2025,
15:00 - 16:00

Organized by the Alliance of NGOs on
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

¹ United Nations, General Assembly Resolution 46/152: Creation of an effective crime prevention and criminal justice programme, UN, 18 December 1991, <https://undocs.org/A/Res/46/152>.

² https://www.unodc.org/documents/congress/Previous_Congresses/7th_Congress_1985/031_ACONF.121.22.Rev.1_Report_Seventh_United_Nations_Congress_on_the_Prevention_of_Crime_and_the_Treatment_of_Offenders.pdf

³ https://www.unodc.org/documents/congress/Previous_Congresses/10th_Congress_2000/030_ACONF.187.15_Report_of_the_Tenth_United_Nations_Congress_on_the_Prevention_of_Crime_and_the_Treatment_of_Offenders.pdf

And:

The Road to the 15th UN Crime Congress: Civil Society Engagement in Shaping Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses

Location: Room M7, 22 May 2025, 10:00- 11:00
Organized by the UNODC Civil Society Unit

Addressing the evolutions and harms of transnational organized crime, and enhancing international engagement

The role of civil society is also fundamental to a realistic understanding of the dynamics and harms of organized crime. Organized crime has changed beyond recognition since the adoption of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) in 2000, and even in the period since the last Crime Congress, in 2021. According to what I see through my work as part of GI-TOC, some key evolutions can be outlined as follows — all of which should be addressed seriously by the Congress, and we hope will be addressed in the workshops organized by the PNIs:

- **Technology** The way that criminals use technology has changed beyond recognition. Industrial scam centres located in regions such as the Mekong or West Africa, demonstrate how criminal groups can easily use AI and other advanced technologies to reach across continents to successfully target victims. Whether romance scams, fake job offers, or fake communications from family and friends, it has never been easier for criminal groups to exploit across borders and hide behind encrypted technology when doing so.
- **Climate change & environment** Extractive industries and scarcity markets, driven in part by climate change, draw criminal interests. For example, the Amazon has become a strategic location for a series of illicit economies, including gold mining, drug cultivation and distribution, and the trafficking of local timber and wildlife. These illicit economies are increasingly connected to each other at the hands of highly violent transnational criminal groups, leading to a 76% rise in violent deaths.
- **Conflict** Protracted political, economic and humanitarian crises prove fertile to crime. Haiti's conflict is a hybrid situation between corrupt, criminal and violent players who are an integral

part of the same ecosystem. This exemplifies how modern, hybrid conflicts challenge traditional international response mechanisms through the UN Security Council and peacekeeping. Haiti's situation shows how the intersections of transnational flows of drugs and arms supercharge instability, and resource armed violence.

- **Illicit finance** The infrastructure of globalization is vulnerable to abuse, as demonstrated through the proliferation of illicit finance. This is manifested through the misuse of the formal financial system — tax havens, offshore and secrecy jurisdictions as well as failures and loopholes in legislation. There is also widespread misuse of the global trade system — preferential trade programmes, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), the privatization of trade infrastructure. Finally, not enough attention is paid, in anti-illicit finance efforts, to the informal economy — cash payments, artisanal industries, informal money transfer systems, as well as the negative impact of de-risking by financial institutions. Technological advances in encryption and fintech make it increasingly difficult for enforcement.
- **State actors** There have always been state elements that have interacted with and benefitted from organized crime. But in today's increasingly fragmented world, certain states have become increasingly brazen and confident in using transnational organized crime as a method of pursuing security and foreign policy goals.

This growth in organized crime has been facilitated by globalization and digital transformation, combined with geopolitical volatility and a breakdown in the rule of law. Organized crime is expanding and diversifying, and the international community is failing to catch up. There is insufficient data on markets, money flows, actors and networks, but also on the response to organized crime itself — what works and what does not. We also see widespread lack of capacity and political appetite to tackle the problem.

When we look back on the 2021 Congress, the Kyoto declaration's overarching response to organized crime does not venture beyond reaffirming existing commitments and instruments, including the UNTOC. The next Congress needs to go further, and highlight how organized crime has evolved, and avoid an approach of “business as usual” at this Congress.

It should do this by calling for a reinvigoration of the implementation of the UNTOC. So far, only two

country reviews have been completed of this key international instrument, which itself is now almost a quarter of a century old. And its review mechanism faces heavy restrictions on outside participation, depriving the international system of the data and analysis from civil society that is so vitally needed. More recently, a new instrument on cybercrime has been adopted by the UN, and states are starting the process to consider negotiating an additional protocol to the UNTOC on some environmental crimes. Both of these new instruments will require a different approach in order to achieve more impact. The model of the UNTOC review mechanism has not worked — in terms of resources, pace and output.

The Congress is perfectly placed to put forward a critical assessment of the implementation of the UNTOC — to call for enhanced action and international cooperation, to open up the process to scrutiny and civil society participation, and to direct the cybercrime convention and the potential new UNTOC protocol towards alternative and more innovative models of review.

At the same time — in the implementation of international instruments, and UN standards and norms, the Congress needs to ensure more focus is placed on how to reduce harm and improve the lives and livelihoods of people — in line with the Congress's objective to protect people and planet. Imperatively, this means strengthening community resilience, protecting victims, and upholding human rights. To be effective, interventions and policies discussed at the Congress need to be based on understanding local contexts — through the participation of civil society.

After the Congress, implementation on the ground is unlikely to succeed without the consent or support of local leaders, businesses and political groups. Hence, it is vital to include affected communities and activists advocating for their rights and interests in policy development processes. But those who stand up to organized crime in their communities face risks. They deserve support and protection — through recognition in the declaration, and through action on the ground.

Finally, as states begin the preparatory process for the 15th Congress in the UAE, the international community needs to do more to consolidate and reboot approaches with the expertise and insights of civil society providing inspiration, including on how UNTOC and other instruments can be better leveraged and improved upon in the difficult periods ahead, and how to protect the people who are standing up to organized crime in an increasingly complex and challenging time.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING SPOTLIGHT

PNI
KNOWLEDGE
SHARING

BRIDGING THE GAP: HOW BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE CAN STRENGTHEN ANTI-CORRUPTION AND CRIME PREVENTION

Claudia Baez Camargo, Director, Prevention, Research and Innovation, Basel Institute on Governance

One of the key mandates of the PNI is to disseminate and enhance knowledge on crime prevention and criminal justice. This mission is carried out actively around the world by individual PNIs through various channels, including research, publications, and capacity-building activities. A notable example of such efforts was the creation of the Justice Knowledge Centre by Gary Hill—one of the first web-based platforms dedicated to sharing information and resources on crime prevention and criminal justice. Inspired by the spirit of such legacies and by the continuing efforts of PNIs around the world, the PNI Newsletter carries forward this knowledge-sharing mission by dedicating a section in each issue to a specific topic of relevance.

For the first edition of this new section, we are pleased to feature a contribution by Claudia Baez Camargo, Director of Prevention, Research and Innovation at the Basel Institute on Governance. Her article, “Bridging the gap: How behavioural science can strengthen anti-corruption and crime prevention”, offers valuable insights. By shedding light on key behavioural drivers and practical approaches, the article provides a strong foundation for those seeking to better understand how human behaviour can be positively influenced to promote integrity and reduce crime.

At the end of the day, it's not formal policies and regulations that prevent crime or make criminal justice systems work better — it's people. And people's behaviour is shaped not just by formal rules but by informal practices and deeply embedded social norms.

That's why understanding what drives behaviour, and how we can shift it, is essential for achieving the goals of crime prevention and criminal justice. Behavioural science offers valuable insights here. It helps us identify practical, people-centred ways to encourage integrity, accountability and participation — both individually and collectively.

This article explores how behavioural science-based approaches can contribute to preventing crime and corruption. It reviews relevant international texts and shares early findings from the Basel Institute's promising work in Tanzania and in relation to environmental crime. While our primary focus at the Basel Institute is on anti-corruption, the insights are relevant across the broader field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

POLICIES OFTEN MISS THE HUMAN DIMENSION

Too often, policies aimed at preventing corruption and crime look good on paper. They follow international best practices, tick all the boxes and appear technically sound. But in practice, they often fall short of delivering the desired results. This pattern is familiar across all the regions in which we work.

One reason is that many such efforts overlook the people expected to put the policies into action. Specifically, not enough attention is paid to the incentives and contextual factors that shape their behaviour. Strong formal anti-corruption or crime prevention systems matter, but they aren't sufficient

on their own. Progress depends on how individuals within these systems behave — whether or not they choose to collaborate, share information or report misconduct. And that cooperation is often blocked by low levels of trust or limited experience with collaboration.

Another issue is the widespread reliance on awareness-raising campaigns. While well-intentioned, these often assume that more knowledge will lead to better choices. Yet we know from behavioural research and experience that this doesn't hold up, particularly when it comes to corruption. People usually understand that corruption is wrong. But they may still choose not to report or resist it due to a range of behavioural and social factors: the belief that “everyone does it,” fear of retaliation, risk aversion or personal biases.

Add to that bureaucratic “sludge” — unnecessary paperwork and other frictions that make doing the right thing harder — and even the best-designed policies can lose their bite.

The upshot? If we want crime prevention and justice reforms to work in the real world, we need to go beyond rules and awareness. We need to understand the behavioural drivers behind corruption and crime. And we need to use that understanding in order to design smarter, more human-centred interventions that nudge people toward integrity and collaboration.

INTERNATIONAL GUIDANCE ON BEHAVIOURAL APPROACHES

International treaties and standards in areas such as anti-corruption, crime prevention and broader development often focus on formal structures and high-level frameworks. That's understandable: the realm of human behaviour is complex, unpredictable and deeply influenced by varying political, cultural and geographic contexts. As a result, behavioural dimensions are rarely given the attention they deserve.

Some guidance documents, however, do take a behavioural lens — though this remains the exception rather than the rule. Notably, the World Bank's 2015 [World Development Report: Mind, Society, and Behavior](#) made a strong case for integrating behavioural insights into development work. While it didn't focus specifically on crime or corruption, it offered valuable, practical advice on designing interventions that reflect how people actually think and behave, rather than how we assume they should.

Since then, behavioural science has gained traction in public policy. Many governments have established specialized teams to apply behavioural insights to policy challenges — from tax compliance to public health. Recognizing this shift, the OECD released its [Good Practice Principles for Ethical Behavioural Science in Public Policy](#) in 2022, offering guidance on using behavioural tools in an ethical and effective manner.

Yet despite these promising developments, behavioural approaches remain underused in anti-corruption and crime prevention efforts. This is a missed opportunity, since behavioural science offers a powerful lens for understanding and addressing the real-world challenges that undermine formal systems and laws.

PROMISING RESEARCH

Two areas in particular — healthcare and environmental protection — illustrate how tailored interventions grounded in behavioural insights can help achieve corruption or crime prevention goals. Both arise from research led by the Basel Institute.

PREVENTING CORRUPTION IN HEALTHCARE

One of the few real-world behavioural change interventions in the anti-corruption space took place in a Tanzanian hospital. The aim of the [pilot project](#) was to curb bribery in the form of “gift giving” — i.e. small gifts to healthcare workers to generate a relationship of reciprocity and secure better or faster treatment. While framed as gestures of appreciation, such practices can create expectations and reinforce corrupt dynamics over time.

The intervention used a mix of behavioural tools: simple environmental cues such as posters and desk signs reminded users that there should be no expectations about the giving of “gifts,” while respected staff members acted as “champions,” spreading the messages through their peer networks. In just eight weeks, the pilot recorded a 14–44 percent decrease in patients' intentions to offer gifts, as well as more negative attitudes toward the practice and reduced beliefs in its acceptability.

The accompanying working paper, [Developing Anti-corruption Interventions Addressing Social Norms](#), offers practical guidance for practitioners. It outlines how to identify when a behaviour change approach is appropriate, develop a theory of change and design interventions that are context-sensitive and measurable.

This pilot adds to the growing evidence on why some behavioural approaches can be effective in preventing corruption while others fall short (see more). To give a taster, some of the strategies include:

- Using environmental cues tailored to the setting
- Providing timely resources that support integrity under pressure
- Building trust among stakeholders to foster cooperative social norms
- Elevating role models and champions of integrity

TACKLING ENVIRONMENTAL CORRUPTION AND CRIME

The adaptability of behavioural science makes it a strong tool also in the fight against environmental corruption and crime. These offences often flourish in settings where red tape, weak enforcement and collusive practices are the norm. Behavioural interventions can be tailored to disrupt these patterns.

Under the Targeting Natural Resource Corruption (TNRC) project, led by the World Wildlife Federation, we produced a series of [practical guides](#) that translate behavioural insights into conservation and anti-corruption strategies. Topics include how to reduce corruption driven by excessive bureaucracy or “sludge”, how to reduce risks of collusion in community-managed forests and how to design interventions that resonate with frontline wildlife defenders such as rangers.

OTHER RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

At the Basel Institute, we are deeply committed to advancing the use of behavioural science in anti-corruption and broader crime prevention efforts. Our aim is not just to test promising ideas, but to rigorously examine what works, what doesn't and — crucially — why. By sharing these insights, we hope to support practitioners around the world in adapting evidence-based behaviour change approaches to their own contexts.

In this regard, an additional valuable contribution to the field is our [research report](#) synthesising lessons from a range of anti-corruption behaviour change interventions. It explores the reasons behind both successes and failures and extracts practical recommendations.

In a nutshell, we believe that effective anti-corruption and crime prevention systems should be rooted not only in solid laws and institutions, but also in the behavioural realities of those expected to implement them. Bridging the gap between formal policy and real-world practice requires a systematic focus on social norms, decision-making dynamics and local incentives.

Our Prevention, Research and Innovation team leads this work. We support anti-corruption practitioners, development agencies and other donors across three main areas:

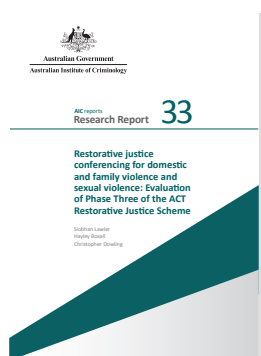
- **Research:** Conducting academically grounded studies to understand the behavioural drivers of corruption and identify promising points for intervention
- **Advisory support:** Helping donors and international partners integrate behavioural insights into their anti-corruption and development programming
- **Practical guidance and mentoring:** Working directly with implementers to design, test and refine behaviourally informed strategies that are tailored, measurable and feasible in the context

By embedding behavioural science into anti-corruption and wider crime prevention efforts, we can help ensure that policies are not just well designed on paper but embraced and enacted in practice — closing the gap between intention and impact.

INFORMATION ON RECENT PNI PUBLICATIONS

PNI
KNOWLEDGE
SHARING

THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY (AIC)



RESEARCH REPORT

Restorative justice conferencing for domestic and family violence and sexual violence: Evaluation of Phase Three of the ACT Restorative Justice Scheme

This evaluation of the ACT's Restorative Justice Scheme (Phase Three) for domestic,

family, and sexual violence assessed processes, outcomes, and barriers. Drawing on interviews, surveys, and administrative data, the study found the programme is working effectively, with high satisfaction reported by participants and stakeholders. Victim-survivors met diverse justice needs, even with varying offender involvement. However, the evaluation identified areas where referral processes could be improved.

STATISTICAL REPORT

Deaths in custody in Australia 2023-24

The National Deaths in Custody Programme has monitored the extent and nature of deaths occurring in prison, police custody and youth detention in Australia since 1980. In 2023-24,



there were 104 deaths in custody: 76 in prison custody, 27 in police custody or custody-related operations and one in youth detention. In total, there were 24 Indigenous deaths and 80 non-Indigenous deaths in custody. This report contains detailed information on these deaths and compares the findings with longer term trends.



Estimating the costs of serious and organised crime in Australia, 2022-23

This report estimates the cost of serious and organized crime in Australia in 2022-23 to be between \$30.4b and \$68.7b. This report considers the direct and consequential costs of serious and organized crime in Australia, as well as the costs to government entities, businesses and individuals associated with preventing and responding to serious and organized crime. The current estimate includes the cost of some additional crime types, not previously included, but even accounting for these additions it is clear that serious and organized crime continues to impose a substantial burden on the Australian economy.

Sexual offending in Australia 2022-23

The Australian Sexual Offence Statistical collection was established to monitor sexual offending across the country. The collection brings together data on all types of sexual offending, with a focus on alleged sexual offenders. This report describes the



9,101 alleged sexual offenders proceeded against by police in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory in 2022–23. The offenders were proceeded against for offences involving a total of 8,873 identified victims.



Homicide in Australia 2023-24

The National Homicide Monitoring Programme is Australia's only national data collection on homicide incidents, victims and offenders. This report describes 262 homicide incidents recorded by Australian state and territory police between 1 July 2023 and

30 June 2024. During this 12-month period there were 277 victims of homicide and 278 identified offenders.

TRENDS & ISSUES IN CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Routine online activities and vulnerability to dating app facilitated sexual violence

This study examines factors associated with dating app facilitated sexual violence (DAFSV) among a large, nationally representative sample of dating app or website users (n=9,987). Prolific dating platform users and those who share more information, who chat with people on different platforms or who paid for an online dating service were more likely to report experiencing DAFSV. Findings give much needed context for experiences of DAFSV and provide direction for responses aimed at protecting individuals from harm facilitated by online dating platforms.



Exposure to and sharing of fringe or radical content online

Using a large, national survey of online Australians, we measured unintentional and intentional exposure to fringe or radical content and groups online. Mainstream social media and messaging platforms were the

platforms most frequently used to share fringe or radical content. Being a member of a group promoting fringe or radical content was associated with increased sharing of that content with other internet users. Efforts to restrict access to radical content and groups online, especially on mainstream platforms, may help reduce intentional and unintentional exposure to and sharing of that content.

Developing a harm index for individual victims of cybercrime

In this study we used data from the 2023 Australian Cybercrime Survey to develop a harm index for individual victims of cybercrime. The index comprises scores for 17 common types of cybercrime.



These scores were based on a 34-item measure of cybercrime harm encompassing practical, health, social, financial and legal impacts. Overall, just 10.9 percent of victims accounted for 57.7 percent of the harm to all victims who completed the survey.

Repeat victims who experienced multiple types of cybercrime are disproportionately impacted and should be prioritized for intervention.



Safety and accountability: Stakeholder referrals to restorative justice for domestic, family and sexual violence

Stakeholders in restorative justice (RJ) referring agencies perform the critical role of assessing the suitability of cases for entry into these programmes.

This article draws on interviews with 47 stakeholders in an RJ programme for domestic, family and sexual violence in the Australian Capital Territory to better understand stakeholder decision-making about referrals.

Findings show stakeholders' decisions around which matters to refer to the RJ centre on assessments of victim-survivors' safety and offender accountability. Many stakeholders are risk averse, which may

inadvertently reduce opportunities for victim-survivors to benefit and achieve their justice goals.



The overlap between viewing child sexual abuse material and fringe or radical content online

Based on a survey of 13,302 Australians, the study explores online viewing of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and fringe or radical content. While 40.6% viewed radical content, 4.5% viewed CSAM. Most CSAM viewers also accessed radical content. Those who viewed both were typically younger males with higher rates of mental illness and justice system contact, and used different online platforms than those who viewed only one type of content.

Supporting incarcerated mothers: A mixed methods evaluation of the New South Wales Co-Located Caseworker Program

The New South Wales Co-Located Caseworker Program places child protection caseworkers in correctional centres to support incarcerated mothers with children in the child protection system. A mixed-methods evaluation, including data analysis and 48 interviews, found the programme beneficial and well designed. However, improvements are needed in coordinating case planning between agencies and expanding programmes that help women in custody meet child protection goals.



The impacts of sexual extortion on minors: A systematic review

This study reviewed 12 research papers on the impacts of sexual extortion on minors, a growing global issue involving threats to share intimate material. Victims under 18 face a range of short- and long-term effects, including psychological harm, social and environmental



challenges, financial burdens, ongoing victimization, and potential justice system involvement. The findings highlight the need for targeted prevention strategies and stronger support for affected children.

Artificial intelligence and child sexual abuse: A rapid evidence assessment

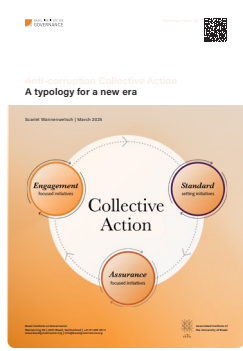
This study reviewed 33 empirical studies from 2010 to 2024 on the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in preventing and disrupting child sexual abuse (CSA). All research focused on AI's use in detecting offenders or abusive material; none explored how AI may be used in CSA offending. The study outlines current knowledge and identifies key research gaps to guide future work in this critical area.



Sexual extortion of Australian adolescents: Results from a national survey

This study examined sexual extortion among 1,953 Australian adolescents, finding that 11.3% had experienced it, often more than once and frequently before age 16. Two in five victims were targeted with digitally altered material, and most had only met the perpetrator online. Gender differences were noted. The findings highlight the urgent need for prevention efforts across social media platforms and broader cross-sector collaboration.

BASEL INSTITUTE ON GOVERNANCE



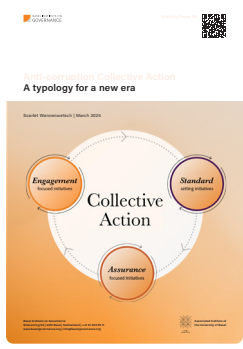
Working Paper 56: Anti-corruption Collective Action: A typology for a new era

This paper captures the specific characteristics of anti-corruption Collective Action, now an established best practice to prevent corruption and strengthen business integrity. It translates them into a clear

typology of initiatives focused on engagement, standard-setting and/or assurance. It also provides a helpful visualization of the typology and of the larger Collective Action ecosystem.

Working Paper 55: Compensating the victims of foreign bribery: UK legislation, practice and recommended reforms

This paper by Sam Hickey explores the UK's efforts to tackle foreign bribery through negotiated settlements with companies. It recommends ways to improve the use of penalties to compensate the victims of corruption.



Financial investigations in a cash economy

Despite the increasing use of digital payment methods, cash is still king in many economies — including criminal economies. It remains the most used payment method in many economies, and its use in cash economies is often the most challenging for investigators. This Quick Guide explains the specific challenges involved in conducting financial investigations in a cash economy. It outlines how

Quick Guide 40: Financial investigations in a cash economy

Despite the increasing use of digital payment methods, cash is still king in many economies — including criminal economies. This short guide explains the specific challenges involved in conducting financial investigations in a cash economy. It outlines how

law enforcement can use traditional investigative methods to successfully uncover the financial affairs of a suspect.

Quick Guide 39: Business integrity and ethics

This short paper covers five areas in which mature and well-constructed ethics and compliance systems can benefit businesses, even in the face of an uncertain regulatory and enforcement framework.



Business integrity and ethics

The changing landscape of anti-corruption regulation and enforcement has triggered important questions around the role of ethics and compliance in business strategies and in the recovery of a viable, ethical, and profitable business. This Quick Guide covers five broad areas in which mature and well-constructed ethics and compliance systems can benefit businesses, even in the face of an uncertain regulatory and enforcement framework. It is based on a research project by the Basel Institute on Governance and is intended to be used as an instrument for business and anti-corruption community.



Border corruption

Border corruption — an illegal exchange between border officials and private actors — is a complex phenomenon with serious impacts on safety, health and security. This short overview explains what it is and why stopping it isn't as easy as just stepping up enforcement.

Quick Guide 38: Border corruption

Border corruption — an illegal exchange between border officials and private actors — is a complex phenomenon with serious impacts on safety, health and security. This short overview explains what it is and why stopping it isn't as easy as just stepping up enforcement.

Quick Guide 37: Strategic corruption

This short paper offers a concise overview of how states use corruption to gain power and influence over other states, and even as a geopolitical tool. We highlight the usefulness of “strategic corruption” as a concept, but urge caution in using it to guide foreign policy decisions or anti-corruption approaches.



Strategic corruption

This Quick Guide is the second in a two-part series on the complex power dynamics at play in strategic corruption and the complex power dynamics at play in strategic corruption. It is based on a research project by the Basel Institute on Governance and is intended to be used as an instrument for business and anti-corruption community.

Corruption as a tool for geopolitical influence. Conventional definitions of corruption focus on the abuse of entrusted power for private gain, with the emphasis on monetary gains through bribery or embezzlement. But governments, researchers and anti-corruption practitioners are increasingly paying attention to the role of corruption as a tool for geopolitical influence — including geopolitical power.



Quick Guide 36: Corruption and security

This is a short introduction to how corruption threatens national and international security, both directly and indirectly. Can viewing it through the lens of power offer deeper insights? And what might we achieve by framing corruption as a security concern?

Quick Guide 35

This is a short explainer of sexual corruption, sometimes called sextortion: what it is, its prevalence and why it persists. It takes a brief look at strategies to combat sexual corruption, with a focus on challenging the underlying social norms that help to sustain it.



Policy Brief 14: Targeting unexplained wealth: Implications of the EU's 2024 Directive on asset recovery

This paper offers guidance on how European Union member states can comply with Article 16 of the 2024 EU asset recovery directive, which obliges them to introduce legislative measures

enabling the confiscation of unexplained wealth. The paper is available in English and French.

THE KOREAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY AND JUSTICE (KICJ)

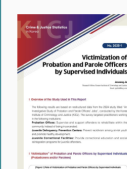


International Journal of Criminal Justice (IJCJ)

The *International Journal of Criminal Justice* (IJCJ), published by the KICJ, is a biannual, peer-reviewed English-language journal that provides a platform for comprehensive analysis and evidence-based research on crime trends and criminal justice policy. In December

2024, the KICJ published Volume 6, Issue 2, featuring five articles, including two special articles from presenters at the KICJ International Forum. The journal is available via the official KICJ English website.

(The journal will no longer accept external manuscript submissions. Going forward, the IJCJ will focus on publishing high-quality research reports conducted by the KICJ. This shift is intended to strengthen the dissemination of policy-relevant research and contribute to the development of evidence-based criminal justice policies. The KICJ looks forward to your continued interest and collaboration in other academic and research initiatives).



[CJSK] Victimization of Probation and...

April 2025

Crime & Justice Statistics

The KICJ is pleased to announce the release of Crime & Justice Statistics, a publication designed for the public in Korea and beyond. It provides concise summaries of key crime and justice issues through statistical analysis of domestic and international

trends. The data are collected and analysed from KICJ reports, government-commissioned studies, and official statistics from international organizations such as the United Nations. The publication aims to make data-driven insights on crime and justice more accessible to the public, helping them better understand current issues. It is available via the official KICJ English website.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (ISPAC)



The open questions on international criminal justice from an Italian perspective

S. Manacorda – C. Meloni (eds.),
Le questioni aperte della
giustizia penale internazionale
nella prospettiva interna
(The open questions on
international criminal justice
from an Italian perspective),
Giuffrè, Milan, 2024: [https://](https://shop.giuffre.it/024224014-le-questioni-aperte-della-giustizia-penale-internazionale-nella-prospettiva-interna?srltid=AfmBOopcX_upXUC-CR2BmcYI21qaTQHFMa0SCXkszBXkOG_7ilS7rhO)

shop.giuffre.it/024224014-le-questioni-aperte-della-giustizia-penale-internazionale-nella-prospettiva-interna?srltid=AfmBOopcX_upXUC-CR2BmcYI21qaTQHFMa0SCXkszBXkOG_7ilS7rhO

THE SII IN FOCUS

A CLOSER LOOK
AT INDIVIDUAL PNIs

INTERVIEW WITH MR. JEAN-FRANÇOIS THONY

President of the Siracusa
International Institute for Criminal Justice
and Human Rights



WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AT THE SII AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED HERE?

I have had the honour of serving as the President of the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights since my election by the members of the Association Internationale de Droit Pénal (AIDP) in 2015, a milestone that marks a decade this year. Prior to this position, I gained valuable insight into the Institute's operations over the course of 30 years as a board member, working under the distinguished leadership of Chérif Bassiouni.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WORK AT SII AND WHAT IS THE MIX OF ROLES?

At present, the Siracusa International Institute employs a team of nine professionals and administrative staff, but the Institute also relies on a broad network of consultants and experts to support the work of the core staff. The Institute is managed on a daily basis by the General Director, Filippo Musca, who has served the Institute for over a decade in various capacities, and the French prosecutor, Céline Viguière, who was recently appointed as Deputy-Director General. The team also includes two legal officers and a legal expert, each possessing specialized expertise in areas such as money laundering, organized crime, environmental crime, international criminal law, and artificial intelligence. Additionally, the Institute is supported by one intern, two office managers in distinct roles, and an accountant. The size of our workforce is adaptable and can increase—potentially doubling—based on the scope and demands of ongoing projects.

WHO ARE SII'S KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND HOW DO YOU INTERACT WITH THEM?

The Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights operates under a leadership

structure designed to ensure effective governance and strategic direction. At the helm are a President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary General, all working under the guidance of an independent Board of Directors. This 21-member Board brings together a diverse range of professionals, including judges, officials from the International Criminal Court (ICC) and EUROPOL, representatives from the European Commission and diplomatic services, academics, and local and regional public officials. Members are appointed based on proposals from the Association Internationale de Droit Pénal (AIDP), the outgoing President, and the Board's own members.

Supporting this leadership is an Advisory Board of up to seven members. This group plays a crucial role in strengthening relationships with international, supranational, and national organizations, providing strategic guidance and expert recommendations. Its members include a judge of the International Criminal Court, anti-money laundering specialists, academics, ambassadors, international lawyers, and senior officials from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The Institute's academic direction is shaped by its Academic Board, composed of up to nine members appointed by the Board of Directors. This Board is responsible for defining the Institute's academic objectives and ensuring they align with its mission and strategic priorities. Similarly, the Regional Scientific Committee coordinates conferences, seminars, projects, and research in Sicily, focusing on promoting the rule of law and advancing the understanding and application of criminal law at local and national levels.

This collaborative structure enables the Siracusa International Institute to effectively pursue its mission, bringing together a broad range of expertise to address pressing challenges in criminal justice and human rights.

WHAT DREW YOU TO YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

Over the past 30 years, my career has been driven by a deep commitment to international affairs, the French judicial system, and the fight against transnational organized crime. I initially served as a judge in the French legal system before transitioning to roles as an international civil servant at the United Nations as an anti-money laundering specialist and at the International Monetary Fund where I led the Financial Integrity Group. I then returned to the French judicial system as the Director of the Ecole Nationale de la

Magistrature (ENM) and as the Prosecutor General for Alsace and then Bretagne, furthering my dedication to international criminal justice and the rule of law. The Siracusa International Institute's mission aligns with my core values, making the decision to serve as its President a natural and fulfilling continuation of my lifelong dedication to justice, the rule of law, and the fight against organized crime.

WHAT DOES A REGULAR DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

Despite the fact that I retired from Justice to take care of the Institute, my days certainly do not look like the days of a retiree! Early retirement has afforded me the flexibility to dedicate significant time and energy to the Siracusa International Institute, while also pursuing other professional interests. From my home in France, I work remotely, staying in close and continuous communication with the Institute's director, deputy director, and staff to provide strategic guidance and support. Though I am not engaged full-time due to other commitments, I devote around 70% of my time to the Institute, with a particular focus on fundraising—a responsibility that often involves extensive travel. My efforts are concentrated on advancing impactful initiatives, such as the REACT project on atrocity crimes, human rights and international justice and the GMEC initiative on environmental crime.

WHAT RESEARCH/TEACHING AREAS WILL BE KEY FOR YOU / THE SII OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS?

Over the next 12 months, the Siracusa International Institute's research and training efforts will focus on addressing challenges facing the international community today. Environmental crime will be a key area of emphasis, recognizing its impact on ecosystems, communities, and economies. Our work will explore effective legal frameworks, investigative techniques, and international cooperation mechanisms to combat crimes such as illegal wildlife trafficking, pollution, and deforestation. The GMEC initiative, for example, is a flagship project dedicated to strengthening the global response to environmental crime in the Mediterranean region.

Another critical focus will be on the role of artificial intelligence in the justice sector. As AI technologies rapidly evolve, it is essential to understand both the opportunities and risks they present, particularly in the context of criminal justice and the rule of law. The Institute aims to provide training on how AI can

enhance legal processes, improve efficiency, and safeguard human rights, while also examining the ethical and regulatory challenges associated with its use.

Training on atrocity crimes will remain a cornerstone of our work, reinforcing the importance of accountability for serious international crimes, including genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. We will continue to develop specialized programmes for prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officials, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to handle complex cases and ensure justice for victims.

Corruption, as a pervasive threat to good governance, economic stability, and the rule of law, will also be a key focus. The Institute plans to expand its training and research on anti-corruption measures, emphasizing prevention, investigation, and prosecution. By fostering international cooperation and sharing best practices, we aim to strengthen global efforts to combat corruption in both the public and private sectors.

WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING RESEARCH YOU / THE SII HAVE UNDERTAKEN RECENTLY?

We've been diving into the legal challenges of confiscating criminal assets gained. It's a critical area of focus because going after criminal profits—hitting them where it hurts financially—is one of the most effective ways to disrupt organized crime, corruption, and money laundering networks. The research looks at how to strengthen asset recovery laws while balancing due process and protecting fundamental rights. It's about making sure crime doesn't pay.

WHAT WOULD YOUR "ELEVATOR PITCH" BE TO PROMOTE THE WORK OF THE SII?

The Siracusa International Institute is located in the heart of the Mediterranean, a crossroads of cultures and ideas, where the sun of Sicily brightens even the most brilliant minds. Building on a legacy of an institution where parts of the Rome Statute were drafted, we bring together top experts to tackle global challenges in criminal justice and human rights. Our focus is on practical solutions to strengthen justice systems and protect rights around the world.

ARE THERE ANY MAJOR EVENTS INVOLVING THE SII IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS?

The Siracusa International Institute hopes to launch the Greater Mediterranean Environmental Crime Programme (GMEC), aiming to enhance regional cooperation on environmental crimes in the Mediterranean region. We will also host the annual International Criminal Law Specialization Course, continue developing the REACT platform to strengthen justice systems, and advance the AI Trust project exploring AI's impact on human rights.

WHAT NEW OR EMERGING AREAS OF RESEARCH ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXPLORING?

We're exploring the role of AI in justice, with a particular focus on how it can enhance legal processes and decision-making. We are actively seeking EU Commission grants in collaboration with other major institutions and training schools to advance this area. Additionally, the GMEC project is mapping environmental crime in the Mediterranean, identifying active criminal organizations and the types of environmental crimes they engage in.

WHAT NEW AREAS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXPLORING?

We are particularly interested in exploring topics related to seizure and confiscation of criminal profits. The focus is on hindering criminals from benefiting from their illicit gains and strengthening legal frameworks to prevent them from exploiting criminal profits. This is the future of the fight against transnational organized crime, but legal approaches to facilitate the burden of proof as to the property of criminal assets must be designed in a way that does not hamper fundamental rights.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A NEW RESEARCHER/EDUCATOR KEEN TO WORK FOR THE SII?

While a background in international criminal law is valuable, the most important qualities are adaptability, intellectual curiosity, and a readiness to engage with complex and evolving issues—ranging from organized crime and environmental crime to the ethical challenges of AI. Many of our researchers have previously worked for or later joined leading institutions such as the ICC, the UN, and other international organizations. The Institute

provides an environment where you can deepen your expertise, collaborate with top experts, and contribute to projects that drive real change.

This role demands dedication, a genuine interest in justice and human rights, and a willingness to explore new fields. Those who succeed here are passionate about making a difference and committed to advancing the rule of law globally. More importantly, it requires a deep sense of responsibility and dedication to the Institute's mission—upholding the rule of law, protecting human rights, and advancing justice on a global scale.

At the same time, the Siracusa International Institute recognizes that it is, in the end, just an “institute”. For many researchers and educators, their time with us is a step in a broader career dedicated to justice and human rights. We see this as a strength—an opportunity for those who join us to experience different facets of international criminal law, refine their expertise, and contribute meaningfully before moving on to continue their impact elsewhere. We are proud to offer this environment where ambitious professionals can engage deeply with critical issues and carry these experiences into their future endeavours.

HOW DOES THE COVID-19 IMPACT THE WORK OF YOUR ORGANIZATION? AND THE RESPONSE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION IN ADDRESSING CHALLENGES POSED BY THE COVID-19?

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the Siracusa International Institute, particularly on our financial situation, as we rely heavily on revenue generated from our activities. The disruption caused by the pandemic was severe, and its effects are still being felt today as we continue to recover.

Despite these challenges, the Institute remained resilient, adapting quickly by transitioning many of our programmes and training sessions online, using digital platforms to continue delivering high-quality training and capacity-building initiatives, ensuring our mission to promote justice and human rights remained uncompromised. Moving forward, we are focused on rebuilding and diversifying our activities to strengthen our financial stability.

APART FROM THE CHALLENGES, HAVE ANY OPPORTUNITIES ARISEN FROM THE COVID-19 SITUATION?

Absolutely. The Covid-19 pandemic pushed us to innovate and adapt, leading to the development of new teaching methods, online programmes, and virtual learning platforms. We integrated new technical tools, which allowed us to organize virtual meetings and training sessions more flexibly, reaching participants from around the world who might not have been able to join in person.

However, while these digital tools have expanded our reach and accessibility, we firmly believe that human interaction remains invaluable. Face-to-face encounters foster a better flow of ideas, creating an environment where different perspectives can be easily exchanged and debated. It also helps cultivate a sense of esprit de corps, strengthening the collaborative spirit among participants. Moving forward, we aim to blend the benefits of virtual tools with the unique advantages of in-person engagement.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES/OPPORTUNITIES OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE PNI?

Being a member of the PNI provides valuable opportunities to network with fellow institutions working in similar areas. This creates a platform for developing synergies, sharing insights, and collaborating on key issues. It allows us to exchange views on diverse topics, ensuring that efforts are complementary and avoiding duplication of work. The collaborative environment helps strengthen our collective impact and fosters more effective, unified approaches to addressing shared challenges.

ARE YOU WORKING WITH OTHER PNI PARTNERS AT THE MOMENT?

Yes, we are actively collaborating with a number of partners, including the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Our partnership with NAUSS has been ongoing, and most recently, in November 2024, we worked together on crisis and crowd management in an intensive training session, in collaboration with the Italian Carabinieri.

Looking ahead, we are planning an event in May 2025, within the framework of the PNI, in partnership with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal

Justice (CCPCJ) and NAUSS. The event will focus on addressing emerging and evolving forms of crime, including environmental crimes, the smuggling of commercial goods, trafficking in cultural property, and other crimes targeting cultural heritage.

In addition, the SII has collaborated with the Basel Institute on Governance (International Centre for Asset Recovery) and ISPAC, together with the European Commission, the International Human Rights Law Institute (IHRLI), the Association Internationale de Droit Pénal (AIDP), and the Irish Centre of Human Rights (ICHR). In 2009, we jointly co-hosted a European Regional and International Conference in The Hague, the Netherlands, supported by the EuropeAid Office of the European Commission and the T.M.C. Asser Instituut. The conference focused on the crucial theme of Fighting Impunity and Promoting International Justice.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGING PARTS OF YOUR JOB?

One of the biggest challenges is facilitating dialogue between countries with differing or conflicting views on key issues. Getting states with opposing political agendas to collaborate and find common ground can be particularly difficult. However, this challenge also offers some of the greatest satisfaction—achieving consensus on complex matters is deeply rewarding. The Institute has a strong track record in this regard, especially given its origins as a bridging effort between the West and Arab states under my predecessor, Chérif Bassiouni. His legacy remains at the heart of everything we do, and I will always hold his guidance and vision dear. Despite political hurdles, the Institute's reputation for neutrality allows us to continue our work, even when national agendas may differ. This reputation enables us to make meaningful progress and achieve tangible outcomes in global justice and human rights.

MEET THE STAFF

CONVERSATIONS WITH MS. MARCELLA CHAN & MS. JEONGMIN SONG

The *Meet the Staff* section of the PNI Newsletter aims to spotlight the diverse talent, perspectives, and commitments that power the Programme Network Institutes around the world. In this issue, we introduce two dedicated professionals who are playing an active role in strengthening international cooperation and advancing justice reform.

Ms. Marcella Chan is the Director of Programs at the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR) in Vancouver, Canada. With a background in international law and human rights, Ms. Chan leads strategic initiatives and capacity-building projects focused on a wide range of pressing justice issues to advance ICCLR's mission. Her work reflects a thoughtful, long-term commitment to promoting rights and evidence-based reform, strengthening justice systems both in Canada and globally.

In this same spirit of dedication, Ms. Jeongmin Song serves as a Programme Officer at the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice (KICJ), where she supports international collaborations, coordinates global partnerships, and contributes to Korea's participation in key UN crime prevention forums. With a background in international development and a keen interest in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, she brings a global perspective to the PNI's shared mission of promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions.

Through their efforts, both Ms. Chan and Ms. Song exemplify the spirit of the PNI: fostering meaningful dialogue, advancing research and policy, and building bridges across countries, sectors, and systems. This article offers a closer look at their work and the ways in which young professionals are shaping the future of crime prevention and criminal justice.

MS. MARCELLA CHAN



Since joining the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR) in 2018, Ms. Chan has taken on a wide range of responsibilities that reflect both the Centre's interdisciplinary approach and the evolving nature of justice reform work. Now serving as Director of Programs, she contributes significantly to ICCLR's international engagements, research-based initiatives, and day-to-day operations.

Ms. Chan's role spans multiple functions—ranging from internal coordination and strategic planning to supporting research and technical assistance projects. A typical day might involve preparing content for upcoming capacity-building workshops, liaising with domestic and international partners, reviewing draft reports, and developing and executing thematic workstreams across the Centre's diverse justice themes. She is often engaged in collaborative discussions to shape proposals or adapt ongoing activities in line with partner feedback and shifting policy priorities.

ICCLR's project work covers a wide range of criminal justice issues, including access to justice, restorative justice, anti-corruption, gender-based violence, corrections, and violence against children. Ms. Chan plays a key role in coordinating programme activities across these areas of focus, ensuring that ICCLR's contributions remain evidence-informed and policy-relevant. She works closely with researchers, legal professionals, and public officials in Canada and abroad to foster knowledge exchange and strengthen institutional capacity.

Among the initiatives she has contributed to is the development of a legislative guide on supply chain transparency and due diligence to prevent child and forced labour. Designed to support Canadian and international policymakers, the guide offers a structured overview of legal options grounded in global standards, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Ms. Chan was involved in shaping the guide's legal framing and drawing insights from international comparative experiences.

She is also part of the core team organizing an international conference on asset forfeiture under the Vancouver Anti-Corruption Institute (VACI). Scheduled to take place in Vancouver and chaired by the Right Honourable Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada, the event will bring together policymakers and practitioners to explore civil and criminal forfeiture mechanisms, unexplained wealth orders, and related policy tools. Ms. Chan supports the planning and content curation for this high-level dialogue.

In another area, Ms. Chan is overseeing the workstreams of a systems-change initiative aimed at integrating children's interests into criminal proceedings involving parents. At present, the project team is working towards mainstreaming Child Impact Statements to be considered in sentencing decisions. In a recent case before the Supreme Court of British Columbia, the Child Impact Statement (based on a template designed by the ICCLR project team) was submitted and considered for the first time—a promising step toward more child-sensitive legal processes.

Ms. Chan's professional journey reflects a strong commitment to justice reform rooted in both principles and practicality. Her work supports ICCLR's broader mission of promoting the rule of law, good governance, and human rights—and reflects the value of building bridges between research and implementation, across systems and jurisdictions.

MS. JEONGMIN SONG



Ms. Jeongmin Song joined the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice (KICJ) in 2023 as a Programme Officer and quickly became an integral part of the Institute's International Cooperation Team. Drawing on her academic and professional background in international development, she supports the design, coordination, and communication of KICJ's international partnerships and projects.

On a daily basis, Ms. Song navigates a dynamic workload. Her responsibilities range from coordinating with UN entities and Programme Network Institutes, drafting agendas and briefings for upcoming events, to preparing background research that informs joint project planning. She plays a key supporting role in ensuring the quality and consistency of KICJ's international engagements, whether through in-person meetings or virtual collaborations across time zones.

Ms. Song is actively involved in KICJ's participation in high-level global events, including the annual sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and preparations for the 15th UN Crime Congress. Her work includes facilitating internal planning across teams, ensuring the timely development of presentations and event materials, and serving as a point of contact with external partners and co-hosts.

One of her most memorable experiences since joining KICJ was attending the 33rd session of the CCPCJ in Vienna, where she met many colleagues from the PNI

network for the first time. This opportunity gave her a new appreciation for the importance of personal rapport and cultural understanding in advancing multilateral cooperation.

Currently, Ms. Song is part of the coordination team for KICJ's side event at the 34th session of the CCPCJ, which will focus on international responses to transnational drug-related crimes on digital platforms. She is also contributing to the planning process for KICJ's involvement in the 15th UN Crime Congress, including its participation in a workshop and exhibition. These roles allow her to engage closely with colleagues from institutions such as the TIJ, the ICCLR, HEUNI, and UNAFEI.

With a Master's thesis that explored Myanmar's counter-narcotics policies through a political economy lens, Ms. Song brings a nuanced understanding of justice in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. She has a particular interest in the intersection of public policy, governance structures, and sustainable development. This background informs her current work and supports KICJ's efforts to produce research and programming that is globally relevant and locally grounded.

Her role at KICJ allows her to contribute substantively to the Institute's international work while continuing to grow as a young professional in the justice field. Through her coordination efforts and policy engagement, Ms. Song exemplifies the emerging generation of practitioners shaping international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice.

REFLECTIONS ON CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND MOTIVATION

For both Ms. Chan and Ms. Song, being part of the PNI network offers a valuable space for collaboration, learning, and shared purpose. The opportunity to work alongside colleagues from around the world—each bringing different perspectives and areas of expertise—has been a meaningful part of their professional journey.

Ms. Chan describes the PNI as a “welcoming place for ideas, collaboration and exchanges,” and highlights the richness of experience shared through its biannual coordination meetings. Through partnerships with institutes such as the TIJ and ILANUD, the ICCLR has been able to expand its work on access to justice,

anti-corruption, and gender-based violence. These relationships have allowed for cross-regional collaboration on initiatives such as pre-trial imprisonment of women and research on violence against children.

For Ms. Song, being part of the PNI has offered a unique chance to connect Korea's research community with global partners. Since joining the KICJ, she has supported cooperation with multiple institutes and facilitated invitations to colleagues from the AIC, HEUNI, the ICCLR, and others for joint events and exchanges. She sees the network as a platform for impactful dialogue and international cooperation.

Of course, working across borders also brings its challenges. Ms. Song notes that managing international projects often involves navigating time zone differences, language barriers, and varying institutional cultures. Yet she sees these not as obstacles, but as opportunities for growth and deeper understanding. Ms. Chan, too, reflects on the often non-linear nature of justice reform—where progress can be slow and complex. Quoting a colleague, she remarks that the work can feel like “building sandcastles while waiting for the next ocean wave,” a reminder of both the persistence and patience the field requires.

What motivates them, despite the challenges, is the belief in the possibility of meaningful change. For Ms. Song, justice is a universal value—something that transcends borders and drives her commitment to fostering cooperation. For Ms. Chan, it is the opportunity to shape comprehensive rights and principles-based justice reform, grounded in evidence, to create enduring impact.

Together, their reflections show that while the path toward justice may be long and at times uncertain, it is made more purposeful through collaboration, shared learning, and a sense of common mission.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor in Chief

Kittipoom Neamhom

Resident Expert, Policy Coordination,
Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ)

Editors

Josh Ounsted

Head of Thematic Area, Access to Justice,
Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI)

Dr. Matti Joutsen

Special Advisor of the TIJ and former Director
of the European Institute for Crime Prevention
and Control, affiliated with the United Nations
(HEUNI)

Dr. Peter German

President & Acting Executive Director,
International Centre for Criminal Law Reform
and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR)

Munanura Andrew Karokora

Deputy Director General,
United Nations African Institute for
the Prevention of Crime and the
Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI)

Samantha Jackson

Library and Information Services Manager,
Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)

Thomas L. Schmid

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

UPDATES FROM
PNI MEMBERS
UPDATES ON
UN CRIME PROGRAMME
ACTIVITIES

CONTACT US
pninewsletter
@tijthailand.org

