

Background Paper

Committee: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Topic 2: Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation Programs - Initiatives to Prevent Crime and Reintegration of Offenders into Society

Chairs: Juan Jose Ramire de la Parra and David Cano Espinoza



Modern criminal justice systems must include both crime prevention and offender rehabilitation.

While rehabilitation programs seek to decrease recurrence through reintegration attempts, effective preventative techniques concentrate on important issues, including poverty, lack of education, and social exclusion. UNODC claims that nations that make rehabilitation investments have reduced relapse rates and increased public safety. By ensuring that criminal justice systems prioritize rehabilitation and reintegration in addition to punishment, this way these policies protect human rights.

Mexico is in favor of crime prevention tactics that emphasize community involvement, education, and social development. The government has put in place several national initiatives to lessen young engagement in crime after realizing the link between criminal activity and social vulnerability. The goal of the 2014-established "Programa Nacional para la Prevención Social de la Violencia y la Delincuencia" is to increase possibilities for communities that are at risk. In its penal system, Mexico places a high priority on rehabilitation. In order to prepare prisoners for jobs after their release, the National Penitentiary System offers educational and vocational training programs. Over the past ten years, Mexico has expanded prison educational enrollment

programs with an emphasis on literacy, technical skills, and mental health services, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

Mexico works with international organizations to enhance its models of crime prevention and rehabilitation, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and UNODC. Through collaborations with NGOs and civic society, programs promoting youth development, addiction treatment, and reintegration services have grown. A vital aspect of Mexico's rehabilitation strategy is after release assistance. For ex-offenders, the "Instituto de Reinserción Social" in Mexico City provides housing support, psychological treatment, and job assistance. Mexico also takes part in regional exchanges of best practices for reintegration strategies.

Mexico suggests the following solutions to strengthen crime prevention and offender reintegration:

- Community-Based Prevention Programs: Support initiatives that strengthen families, schools, and local organizations to reduce crime risk factors.
- Youth Education and Employment Opportunities: Expand vocational programs and scholarships for at-risk youth to prevent criminal involvement.
- Standardized Rehabilitation Programs: Encourage member states to adopt evidence-based rehabilitation practices within detention centers.
- Post-Release Reintegration Support: Promote systems that provide continued support for housing, employment, and counseling after release.
- International Cooperation: Increase collaboration between member states to study successful rehabilitation frameworks and develop shared best practices.

Works Cited

Instituto de Reinserción Social, <https://reinsercionsocial.cdmx.gob.mx/>. Accessed 11 November 2025.

Portal Gob MX, <https://www.gob.mx/index.xhtml>. Accessed 11 November 2025.

Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), <https://www.inegi.org.mx/default.html>. Accessed 11 November 2025.

“Handbook on the Crime Prevention Guidelines: Making them work.” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*,
https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Handbook_on_Crime_Prevention_Guidelines_-_Making_them_work.pdf. Accessed 11 November 2025.