

CAN CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND JUSTICE?

**LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR
OUR ROLE IN SDG 16**



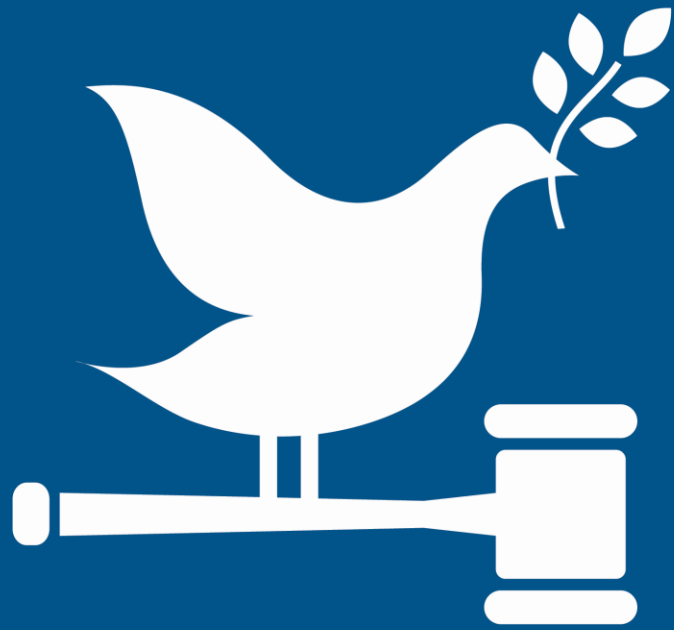
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



16

**PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS**



FIVE FOUNDATIONS

1. Conceptual
2. Empirical
3. Moral
4. Security
5. Public policy

CONCEPTUAL

- Crime as occupation: A quasi-job displacing legal work
- Crime as rational choice
- Lifespan development: Ageing out of crime
- Social learning: Group influence & seeking agency
- Narrative: Identity & values

EMPIRICAL

Literature reviews

Bouffard et al (2000); Harrison & Schehr (2004); Newton et al, (2018); Vernick & Reardon (2001); Visher et al (2005).

Meta analyses

Davis, Bozick, Steele, Saunders, & Miles (2013); Ellison, Szifris, Horan, & Fox (2017); Wilson, Gallagher, & MacKenzie (2000).

- Evidence base is inadequate
- Most studies in USA
- Effects of intervention cannot be isolated
- Career guidance/employment support rarely in isolation from vocational training
- Selection bias likely
- Quality of support often poor/inconsistent

VERY TENTATIVE KEY EVIDENCE CONCLUSIONS

- Engagement in educational & vocational programmes in prison is associated with better employment outcomes
- Getting a job is associated with lower rates of recidivism

No evidence on
preventative effects

MORAL: SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Offenders face many practical barriers to engagement in the labour market
- Involvement with the criminal justice system is strongly associated with socio-economic disadvantage
- 'Deviant behaviour' is strongly associated with structural inequality, even in democratic countries where the justice system is apparently fair
- In oppressive regimes the allocation of adult life roles can be both unfair and exploitative

FORCED LABOUR

Definition according to the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29):

“All work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily.”

27.6 million men, women and children are in forced labour (ILO estimate, 2022)

Russia conscription laws change, leaving some fearful of Ukraine war call-up

🕒 5 August 2023



War in Ukraine



RUSSIAN
MILITARY
CONSCRIPTION
BBC NEWS
AUGUST 2023

GUARDIAN
NEWSPAPER
JUNE 2022

US prison workers produce \$11bn worth of goods and services a year for pittance

New report by American Civil Liberties Union says incarcerated laborers are either poorly compensated or not at all



SECURITY

Civil unrest may become more likely in conditions of:

- High youth unemployment & frustrated ambitions
- Grossly unequal distribution of life chances between social/demographic groups
- Unequal access to careers in police, military & security forces

In combination with other institutions, career services may help:

- Ensure fair access to opportunities
- Promote post-conflict resolution

THE
GUARDIAN
NEWSPAPER
6TH AUGUST
2024

No jobs, no trust: young Africans' economic struggles fuel protests

Young people have taken to streets in Kenya, Uganda and Nigeria amid cost of living crises and lack of jobs



📷 Protesters march towards the Kenyan parliament during nationwide demonstrations on 23 July.

ALJAZEERA
NEWS 18
JULY 2024

Who are the protesters demanding an end to job quotas in Bangladesh?

Experts say lack of jobs for university graduates driving unrest in the South Asian country.



PUBLIC POLICY

- Public policy does not identify a connection between career development, peace and the criminal justice system.
- Reducing crime is not currently a policy goal for career services; but it could be.
- Investment in these services may reduce the enormous social and economic costs of crime and civil unrest.

AN EXAMPLE OF SHARING GOOD PRACTICE

The Nordic Network for Adult Learning (NVL) sought 2 representatives from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland & Iceland, including Geir Syvertsen & Gry Helgerud from Norway.

In 2020 they produced:

- A booklet on career guidance practice in prisons
- A poster for practitioners
- A poster for inmates

Key references

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THANK YOU

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