



THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

in a Counterterrorism Context

The Juvenile Justice Initiative is one of eight core initiatives that the IJJ is implementing:

Addressing Homegrown Terrorism Global Central Authorities Returning FTFs
Judicial Capacity-Building Juvenile Justice Parliamentarians
Prison Management Investigations

The IJJ is a non-profit intergovernmental organization dedicated to combatting terrorism through capacity-building training in justice and the rule of law. More than 4000 criminal justice practitioners have participated in IJJ workshops in Malta and abroad.

Children are affected by terrorism in several capacities: as victims, witnesses and/or offenders. The increasing involvement of minors in terrorism-related activity is a key international concern.

Counterterrorism legislation and related emergency measures often give insufficient consideration to the fact that increasing numbers of suspected or alleged “terrorists” are under the age of 18.

The IJJ Juvenile Justice in a Counterterrorism Context Initiative examines criminal justice frameworks in the terrorism context in regards to the vulnerability of children and juveniles and thereby seeks to integrate into that framework national and international standards of juvenile justice. The IJJ is developing a set of Practitioners’ Notes tailored to different criminal justice sectors – judges, prosecutors, investigators and defense attorneys. These Notes will be compiled into a single resource document and available on the IJJ’s website in early 2019.

Key Foci:

- ▶ **Addressing** the reality of children as witnesses, offenders, and victims of terrorism
- ▶ **Acknowledging** that the culpability of juveniles in terrorist acts is a growing phenomenon
- ▶ **Ensuring** that counterterrorism legislation considers the best interests of the child and promotes operationalizing of the GCTF’s *Neuchâtel Memorandum*
- ▶ **Emphasizing** that counterterrorism laws and procedures impact children differently, depending on age, gender, and level of maturity

Next Steps

- ▶ November 2018, Bangkok, Thailand: Southeast Asia Regional Workshop.
- ▶ January-March 2019: Finalize and publish *IJJ Practitioner Notes*.
- ▶ March/April 2019: Begin regional workshops focused on implementing *IJJ Practitioner Notes* by region/sector.



Implementation of IJ training on the GCTF Neuchâtel Memorandum on Good Practices for Juvenile Justice in a Counterterrorism Context

January 2017 marked the beginning of the IJ's effort to disseminate and implement the GCTF's *Neuchâtel Memorandum*. Following an initial strategy meeting, the IJ organized a series of regional workshops focused on raising the awareness of the five sections of the Neuchâtel Memorandum: Status of Children, Prevention, Justice, Rehabilitation and Program Evaluation. Tailored to the needs of the regions, the IJ hosted workshops in the Sahel (October 2017), MENA (February 2018), East Africa (May 2018), and Western Balkans (July 2018). A fifth workshop is scheduled for countries in the Southeast Asia region in November 2018.

These workshops brought together over 100 practitioners from different sectors of the justice system from over 20 countries and experts from a number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to raise awareness of the good practices in the *Neuchâtel Memorandum* and to discuss ways to reinforce their implementation in national procedures and practices.

To facilitate the examination of states' juvenile justice frameworks in the context of international standards, the IJ developed a Toolkit which tracks the *Neuchâtel Memorandum* good practices. Country team members, including judges, prosecutors, investigators, corrections officials and defense attorneys worked through hypothetical fact-based scenarios from the *IJ Toolkit*. The IJ captured the results of the discussions and will use the results to shape *IJ Practitioners' Notes* being developed for future training purposes, due for publication in early 2019.



GCTF

GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM

In 2015-2016, with the support of the Governments of Switzerland and the United States, and under the auspices of the GCTF Criminal Justice and Rule of Law Working Group, the IJ served as a leader in the development of the *Neuchâtel Memorandum on Good Practices for Juvenile Justice in a Counterterrorism Context*, in consultation with experts from relevant UN and international organizations. Through a pair of IJ-organized expert meetings the *Neuchâtel Memorandum* was developed as part of the GCTF's *Initiative to Address the Life Cycle of Radicalization to Violence*. The GCTF Ministers adopted the *Neuchâtel Memorandum* in September 2016.

The IJ Juvenile Justice Initiative also supports actions specified in UNSCR 2396 (2017), which calls on states to consider particular support for radicalized juveniles in accordance with applicable international law.



For more information on the Juvenile Justice Initiative or to support the IJ financially, please contact:
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