

**United Nations Simulation Conference 2022** 

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



**Background Guide** 

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sr.No.	Торіс	Page
1.	Letter from the Chairs	2
2.	Introduction to the Committee: a. About b. Structure and Functions c. Nature of Resolutions	3
3.	<ul> <li>Agenda 1- "Identifying and Eliminating Corruption with an emphasis on economic crimes amidst the pandemic":</li> <li>a. Introduction to the Topic</li> <li>b. Definition of Key Words</li> <li>c. History of the Agenda</li> <li>d. Main Issues of Concerns</li> <li>e. Bibliography</li> </ul>	5
4.	Agenda 2- "The question of criminal justice and prison reform": a. Introduction to the Topic b. Definition of Key Words c. History of the Agenda d. Main Issues of Concerns e. Key Parties f. Bibliography	13

# **Letter from Chairs**

To the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Greetings delegates, we welcome you to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and sincerely hope this background guide helps you with your impending mountain of research.

Whether or not you actually read this document, we'd like you to know that the Chairs of the UNODC would welcome you in with open arms.

Whether you're here to add an extra row to your MUN CV or to debate or to expand your social circle, we hope you have a fun, enriching experience at the UNODC of the United Nations Simulation Conference. We hope that you take away lots of important MUN skills and enrich yourselves with information regarding the art of the proxy war.

While all committees at this conference prompt delegates to understand their country's policy, the UNODC adds another level of realism and diplomacy that requires delegates to refine their negotiating skills. To all the delegates who have committed themselves to this conference, we sincerely hope that we meet all your expectations and help you thrive at the art of repertoire. Wishing you all the best for the upcoming conference.

Warm Regards, The Chairs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Mannat Arora, Muhammed Yaseen & Anantha Krishnan

# United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Successful simulations of United Nations meetings, whether at the local, national or international level, require a great deal of preparation.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime website offers resources that can be accessed prior to and during a Model United Nations conference.

These resources are valuable for the organizers of these conferences and are especially useful when preparing study guides and reviewing position papers. They are also relevant for delegates representing the different Member States and for the teachers who are responsible for training the Model United Nations delegates.

UNODC's mission is to contribute to global peace and security, human rights and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism. This Strategy for the next five years will equip UNODC to deliver effectively, efficiently and with accountability, elevating our support to Member States to build just, inclusive and resilient societies that leave no one behind.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world. The resulting health, humanitarian and economic crises are seriously putting at risk the lives and livelihoods of people everywhere. It has exacerbated problems of fragility, crime and terrorism and exposed inequalities.

This also jeopardizes the multilateral consensus reflected in the vision of wellbeing for all that is contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

Improved prevention, treatment and care

- Effective criminal justice responses to trafficking
- Greater access to controlled medication for those in need
- Sustainable alternatives to illicit drug cultivation
- Strengthened international law enforcement cooperation
- Better understanding and monitoring of illicit drug markets

## **ORGANIZED CRIME**

- Effective legal frameworks to combat transnational organized crime
- Improved investigation and prosecution of criminal cases, and assistance to victims
- Better responses to cybercrime
- Greater and more timely analysis and monitoring of trends

**CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC CRIME** 

-Strengthened legal, policy and institutional frameworks to counter corruption - Increased cooperation among and between institutions at the local, national and international level to prevent and counter corruption

- Fast track implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) review mechanisms recommendations

### TERRORISM

-Effective and accountable criminal justice responses to terrorism

- Increased international cooperation related to terrorism and its financing

- Application of human rights compliant measures to prevent terrorism and protect its victims

- Better programmes to prevent and counter violent extremism which can lead to terrorism

## **CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

- Strengthened access to justice for all, particularly the most vulnerable

- Effective, community and knowledge-based crime prevention
- Better prevention of violence and increased access to gender responsive justice
- Strengthened prevention of and responses to violence against children
- Reforms to ensure safe and humane custody of prisoners

Flexible and wide-ranging partnerships are critical for ensuring that we can continue to deliver assistance to counter the social and health effects of drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism when and where needed; to build national and local ownership and sustainability and maximize impact.

This Strategy is premised on political and financial partnerships, transparency and continuous engagement.

We shall hold ourselves accountable to achieving the goals and aspirations and undertake to communicate our results, successes and setbacks in a transparent manner to all our stakeholders.

We will expand the reach of our resource mobilization and our partnership efforts and provide better financial and substantive reporting.

We will conduct evaluations in all areas of work and use evaluation and oversight results to produce actionable recommendations.

We recognize communications as a key strategic driver of UNODC fulfilling its mandate and as such we will increase investments in communications capacities throughout.

#### **UNODC Strategic Vision Africa 2030**

UNODC's Strategic Vision for Africa 2030 outlines our mission to provide more safety to Africa's people, government and institutions from drugs, crime, corruption, terrorism and illicit financial flows. Our Vision 2030 seeks to strengthen crime prevention, enhance justice, address organized crime, ensure a balanced response to drugs, improve the rule of law and bolster resilience. Building on decades of partnership and engagement with African countries, we will work within our unique mandate towards these goals with a focus on whole-of-society approaches and inclusion of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations.

Africa has made considerable gains towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations of the Agenda 2063 of the African Union: The Africa We Want. Yet progress in several areas is not advancing at the scale nor speed required.

Around the globe and in Africa, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to reverse progress, hitting those most vulnerable hardest, and risking them being left behind further. Africa can leverage its many opportunities to help strengthen resilience to its challenges: the increasing youth demographic can come together in collective action for a sustainable future; Africa's commitment towards digital transformation and technology is bold and can drive fast-paced growth and foster inclusion; Africa's single market, wealth of natural resources and biodiversity offer advantages for the development of trade, industry, employment and tourism; urbanization widens opportunities for economic growth, human security, social development and cohesion.

# "Identifying and Eliminating Corruption with an emphasis on economic crimes and amidst the pandemic"

Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life and allows organized crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish.

Economic crime, also known as financial crime, refers to illegal acts committed by an individual or a group of individuals to obtain a financial or professional advantage. The principal motive in such crimes is economic gain.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is a landmark, international anti-corruption treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly in October 2003. It provides key tools to foster accountability, integrity, and transparency in times of crisis, in and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among other areas, UNODC's specialized subject-matter experts in the implementation of UNCAC provide technical assistance in areas- Development, and implementation of national and sector-specific anti-corruption strategies and action plans, and facilitation of public participation in government decision-making processes.

While recognizing the need for urgent action to prevent economic and social collapse, the lack of sufficient accountability and oversight mechanisms in the allocation and distribution of economic stimulus packages increases the risk that corruption and fraud will weaken the impact of the measures being taken and result in a shortfall of desperately needed aid reaching the intended beneficiaries, impacting the least powerful among the population.

The extensive availability of technological aid in financial resource management during times of crisis has allowed the world to better manage large quantities of financial resources in an efficient, transparent, and safe manner. In the context of the COVID-19 crisis, using innovative technological solutions has the additional benefit of reducing potentially dangerous physical contact.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 5

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 5

# **Definition of keywords**

- 1. **Corruption:** dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery.
- 2. **Integrity:** Integrity is the practice of being honest and showing a consistent and uncompromising adherence to strong moral and ethical principles and values.
- 3. **Proceeds of crime:** Any property derived from or obtained, directly or indirectly, through the commission of an offence
- 4. **Controlled delivery**: The technique of allowing illicit or suspect consignments to pass out of, through or into the territory of one or more States, with the knowledge and under the supervision of their competent authorities, with a view to the investigation of an offence and the identification of persons involved in the commission of the offence.

# **Main Issues of Concern**

#### 1. Corruption risks in health responses, including therapeutics and vaccines

Under normal conditions, corruption and fraud causes estimated losses of more than USD 455 billion out of the USD 7.3 trillion spent annually on health care worldwide. Thus, under the pressure of the pandemic, the losses are higher. Long supply chains along with the chronic lack of resources have resulted in a shortage of essential medical equipment and supplies. A 2019 study of 195 countries on biological threats by the Global Health Security Index, a joint project of the Nuclear Threat Initiative and the John Hopkins Center for Health Security, found that 77 percent of countries did not demonstrate the ability to collect ongoing or real-time laboratory data. 89 per cent did not demonstrate a system for dispensing medical measures to counter the effect of biological threats during a public health emergency. 131 countries were in the very bottom tier, showing a lack of foundational health system capacity for pandemic response in general, with all other factors remaining unchanged.

#### 2. Increased corruption risks for women and girls as a result of COVID-19

Corruption affects men and women differently in the context of the epidemic. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the global job loss for women in 2020 stands at 5.0 percent, compared to 3.9 percent for males. One example of the repercussions of corruption in the healthcare industry is women who, because they were unable to pay the bribes demanded or necessary, were denied access to maternity health care, resulting in a variety of postnatal difficulties and fatalities. Corruption in disbursement systems manifests itself in a variety of ways, including theft and misappropriation, preferential treatment for known counterparts, and unreported or overpayments. Such clientelist behavior happens in and caters to well-established, single-sex employees (predominantly male). As women constitute the majority of people working in the informal sector, accounting for up to 92% of women in low-income countries, their exclusion from recovery efforts may contribute to additional feminization of poverty through loss of livelihood.

#### 3. Increased corruption risks emanating from the closure of educational institutions and loss of economic opportunities

Around the world, young people continue to identify corruption as the leading cause impeding their opportunities and their country's development. Most educational institutions were forced to close their physical doors in response to COVID-19, rendering a staggering 1.6 billion children and young people out of school. The COVID-19 crisis has also affected youth by dramatically reducing economic and employment opportunities, access to education and social protection. In 2019, the International Labour Organization (ILO) reported that at 13.6 per cent, the unemployment rate was the highest among youth than among any other group (with around 267 million young people unemployed); in May 2020, it reported that more than one out of six young people were out of work due to the crisis.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 7

# <u>Guidelines on Prevention of Corruption during the</u> <u>Covid-19 Pandemic</u>

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime lays down 10 ways to combat covid related corruption.

- 1. Enhance the integrity and accountability of public sector
- 2. Public sector decisions and policies on Covid-19 related relief measures should be transparent and available to the public.
- 3. Ensure accountability and transparency in decision making
- 4. Avoid conflict of interest in decision making
- 5. Ensure clear and transparent procedures for the distribution of relief measures for private sector
- 6. Reduce opportunities for bribery in administration
- 7. Keep the records on all the procedures and procurement
- 8. Protect the most vulnerable health sector
- 9. Strengthen whistleblower protection
- 10. Strengthen the monitoring, audit and oversight mechanisms

# **Past Resolutions**

The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Convention's far-reaching approach and the mandatory character of many of its provisions make it a unique tool for developing a comprehensive response to a global problem.

To ensure proper implementation of transitional justice policies and techniques, the framework of transitional justice must encompass the primary principles of the abovementioned. Truth Seeking, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-repetition

## **Key Parties**

**USA:** Corruption in U.S. healthcare is a reality. The coronavirus crisis comes at a time when U.S. citizens are already wary that the pharmaceutical industry may not have patients' best interests at heart. Pharmaceutical supply chains are also very susceptible to corruption. A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association estimated that \$98 billion were lost to fraud and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid in 2011 alone. With new federal disbursements expected to top \$1 trillion, oversight and accountability would be a challenge even in the best of times. On March 17, the city Council of the District of Colombia unanimously approved a provision in their emergency response plan that would allow the D.C. city government to delay responding to records requests. The day before that, the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced that it has stopped accepting Freedom of Information/Privacy Act (FOIPA) requests and sending out electronic responses; only FOIPA requests sent by standard mail would be accepted.

**Russia**: Corruption has vexed Russia for centuries and the labyrinthine Soviet bureaucracy and constant shortages created a culture of kickbacks to get around the USSR's ubiquitous shortages of consumer goods. Corruption and human rights abuses remain the norm across the country. Amendments to Russia's "foreign agent law" have extended its use to target journalists and activists investigating government corruption. The government also used the COVID-19 pandemic to further tighten control and ban protests. As of May 2021, Russia reportedly had produced only 33 million doses out of 800 million it had promised. As Transparency International notes in an excellent, comprehensive report on the corruption impact of COVID 19, Getting Ahead of the Curve, both China and Russia do not include anti-corruption clauses in their trade and aid deals.

**India**: The coronavirus is not the only plague impacting India as Transparency International India called government corruption a second pandemic. Corruption in India has limited the country's ability to respond to the deadly COVID-19 crisis. Corruption, along with a lack of good governance, has undermined the delivery of essential health care services that would protect the poor and disadvantaged. And yet India's supreme auditing institution has so far failed to complete a legal audit concerning these conditions. The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is an independent constitutional body that serves as India's supreme auditing institution. Although India's parliament appointed the Public Account Committee (PAC) to review government expenditures, it cannot authorize its own audits. Only the CAG has the authority to conduct special audits. The considerable public interest in the allocation of resources required to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic should have triggered prompt attention by India's CAG. If not for its evasion of duty, non-partisan audit reports from an independent office could have helped restore the faith of millions of citizens in India and helped to save lives.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 9

## **Bibliography**

https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-statistics/crime-areas/economic-crime https://www.usip.org/publications/2020/12/combatting-corruption-amid-pandemic https://www.theglobalist.com/coronavirus-pandemic-covid19-corruption-transparency-internati onal-populism-china-russia/ https://www.unodc.org/documents/brussels/UN\_Convention\_Against\_Corruption.pdf https://www.cmi.no/publications/file/3769-uncac-in-a-nutshell.pdf https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/03/20/corruption-vulnerabilities-in-u.s.-response-to-coro navirus-pub-81336 https://carnegieendowment.org/files/Kier\_and\_Stronski\_Russia\_Vaccine\_Diplomacy.pdf https://www.transparency.org/en/press/2021-corruption-perceptions-index-press-release-regi onal-eastern-europe-central-asia https://www.voanews.com/a/europe\_new-reports-highlight-russias-deep-seated-culture-corru ption/6183207.html

# "The question of criminal justice and prison reform"

In most countries of the world, detention and imprisonment are the main measures imposed on individuals who are suspected of having breached the criminal law or have indeed been convicted of a criminal offence. The overuse of prisons leads to a series of mutually reinforcing challenges in responding appropriately to the social reintegration needs of offenders, whilst also violating the rights of those who are innocent.

International standards highlight the importance of supporting measures to support the rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners into the community. Further to the adoption of the Doha Declaration at the conclusion of the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, UNODC developed several guidance tools and supported Member States in developing a more rehabilitative approach to prison management. Benefits not only for the individuals concerned, but also for public safety more broadly.

UNODC acts as the custodian of the international standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including those specifically designed for the management of prison facilities and the treatment of prisoners, in particular the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).

Criminal justice and prison systems face unprecedented challenges that are amplified by the COVID-19 global pandemic. In a system primarily designed for men, gender-responsive approaches are crucial to ensure no one is left behind. Sustained action is needed to address the disproportionate increase in the imprisonment of women, and the lack of gender-specific health care and social reintegration programmes in prisons.

Non-custodial measures focus on rehabilitation rather than retribution, which takes into account a person's pathways to prison, their basic needs, their relationships, community ties, and additionally helps strengthen local communities by re-directing investment from prisons. Evidence suggests that investing in community-based solutions tackles external needs like housing, childcare, and education as well as internal change through treatment, and therapy, producing the strongest possible outcomes for pro-social behavior.

# **Definition of Key Terms**

- 1. Detention: Detention is the process whereby a state or private citizen lawfully holds a person by removing their freedom or liberty at that time. This can be due to (pending) criminal charges preferred against the individual pursuant to a prosecution or to protect a person or property.
- 2. Rehabilitation: The process of re-educating and retraining those who commit crime. It generally involves psychological approaches which target the cognitive distortions associated with specific kinds of crime committed by particular offenders but may also involve more general education such as literacy skills and work training. The goal is to re-integrate offenders back into society.
- **3. Retribution:** Punishment imposed for repayment or revenge for the wrong committed. The purpose of retribution is actively to injure criminal offenders, ideally in proportion with their injuries to society, and so expiate them of guilt.
- **4. Imprisonment:** The act of restraining the personal liberty of an individual; confinement in a prison. Imprisonment is carried out generally as a penalty imposed by a court.
- **5.** Criminal offence: An act or behavior prohibited by criminal law and therefore punishable by law is called a criminal offence.

# **Main Issues of Concern**

There are 5 main areas of concern.

## **1. Pre-trial detention**

Pre-trial detention refers to the 'pre-trial' detention of individuals by the state before trial. A very prevalent issue is the fact that the pre-trial population of prisoners in some countries is much larger than convicted prisons. This is due to the overuse of the pre-trial detention system by many states, especially the developing states. Pre-trial detainees are often treated worse than convicted prisoners. This contradicts the 'innocent till proven guilty' principle. Pre-trial detention is the period most open to abuse in the criminal justice process. Recognizing the particular vulnerability of pre-trial detainees, international human rights instruments provide for a large number of very specific safeguards to ensure that the rights of detainees are not abused, that they are not ill-treated and their access to justice not hindered In addition, the lack of resources for prisons in many low-income countries means that people in detention do not have access to legal advice and assistance, with the result being that they may overstay on remand, and/or not receive a fair trial, further adding to the congestion of prisons. Therefore, improving access to justice, supporting legal and paralegal aid programmes, improving information management and cooperation between courts and prisons, to speed up the processing of cases, as well as assisting with the development of safeguards for pre-trial detainees, such as independent monitoring and inspection mechanisms, comprise important elements of UNODC's work in the field of penal reform.

## 2. Prison management;

Preserving human rights of prisoners must be the guiding principle while coming up with legislations, both national and international, to manage prisons. Authorities have 3 main responsibilities:

- 1. Prisoners are treated in agreement with law
- 2. Human rights are not compromised

3. Realize that the imprisonment period is supposed to prepare convicts for civilian life after release.

Prison management in many countries are outdated as, in some countries, the prison department is under the authority of police or military institutions and managers and staff have received no specific training regarding prison management. Staff morale is usually low and effective leadership to drive prison reform is lacking. Information collection and management systems are also very inadequate (or non-existent) in many prison systems worldwide, hindering the development of sound policies and strategies based on reliable, factual data. UNODC can provide much assistance in reforming national legislation, developing training programmes for prison managers to improve their leadership role and staff to apply international standards and norms in their daily practice,

and by contributing to the institutional capacity building of prison administrations.

## 3. Alternative measures and sanctions;

Overcrowding is a key concern in almost all prison systems worldwide, while punitive criminal policies, as well as a shortage of social protection services in the community, continue to contribute to the rapid growth of the prison population in many countries. As mentioned earlier, overcrowding is the root cause of many human rights violations in prisons. Solutions to overcrowding need to be explored and implemented in almost all countries in which UNODC is operational.

While overcrowding can be temporarily decreased by building new prisons, practice shows that trying to overcome the harmful effects of prison overcrowding through the construction of new prisons does not provide a sustainable solution. In addition, building new prisons and maintaining them is expensive, putting pressure on valuable resources. Instead, numerous international instruments recommend a rationalization in sentencing policy, including the wider use of alternatives to prison, aiming to reduce the number of people being isolated from society for long periods.

Alternatives to prison help cause a positive effect on society. Countries must consider feasible alternatives such as correctional facilities, community service and their likes in an attempt to manage the high costs associated with detaining convicts and the necessity of providing justice.

## 4. Social reintegration.

One of the principal objectives of the United Nations in the area of prison reform is to contribute to the successful reintegration of prisoners into society following their release. Social reintegration initiatives should start as early as possible within the criminal justice process in order to have maximum effect. This means that diversion from the criminal justice process (especially of vulnerable groups) to appropriate treatment programmes, non-custodial sanctions, instead of isolation from society and purposeful activities and programmes in prisons, can all be considered as elements of a comprehensive "social reintegration" policy. Interventions to support former prisoners following release from prison, continuum of care in the community for those in need, will all be more effective if the period in prison is used to prepare a prisoner for re-entry to society. This policy requires close coordination between criminal justice institutions and social protection and health services in the community and probation services where they exist. UNODC can offer key support and advice in this area, including supporting the development of social reintegration programmes in prisons and in assisting with the planning and implementation of continuum of care and support in the community.

## 5. Healthcare

Equivalence of healthcare and the right to health is a principle that applies to all prisoners, who are entitled to receive the same quality of medical care that is available in the community. However, this right is rarely realized in prisons, where usually healthcare services are extremely inadequate. Prison health services are almost always severely under-funded and understaffed and sometimes non-existent. Most of the time under the responsibility of the authority in charge of the prisons administration, prison health services work in complete isolation from national health authorities, including national HIV and national TB programmes. Specific women's health needs are rarely addressed.

The right to health includes not only the access to preventive, curative, reproductive, palliative and supportive health care but also the access to the underlying determinants of health, which include: safe drinking water and adequate sanitation; safe food; adequate nutrition and housing; safe health and dental services; healthy working and environmental conditions; health-related education and information and gender equality.

Technical assistance provided by UNODC in this area is based on the premise that penal reform and health in prisons are interrelated, and that an integrated strategy needs to be adopted in addressing the enormous challenge of HIV/AIDS and other transmissible diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) in prison settings. Improved prison management and prison conditions are fundamental to developing a sustainable health strategy in prisons. In addition, prison health is an integral part of public health, and improving prison health is crucial for the success of public health policies.

## Key Parties

**Mexico:** Under article 19 of the Constitution, the Mexican legal system obliges judges to impose pre-trial detention on all persons accused of specific crimes, which has led to multiple violations of their fundamental human rights, such as the presumption of innocence, due process and equality before the law. Overturning automatic pre-trial detention not only is a key step to addressing the problem of arbitrary deprivation of liberty in Mexico, it will also help to reduce overpopulation in the penitentiary system. The Working Group, since 2018, through its opinions and communications, has insisted to Mexico that it must urgently resolve this structural problem, repeatedly offering the necessary technical assistance to the Government.

Latvia: The Latvian prison system is the legacy of the Soviet prison system, and consequently many problems such as poor conditions, large dormitories, overcrowding of cells, strong internal prisoner hierarchies, and still - disrespect of human rights remain. Several prisons are located in buildings older than 115 years and have large dormitories accommodating up to 30 prisoners. Although prisoner employment and educational opportunities have increased, remand prisoners and the great majority of sentenced prisoners in the low regime level are usually locked up in their cells for up to 23 hours per day. Access to health care in some prisons remains a concern as health-care teams in most of the prisons are under-resourced. Despite the decrease in the number of prisoners and reduction in occupancy rates in prison cells, inter-prisoner violence remains a problem, which is the result of insufficient staff presence in prisoner accommodation areas, the existence of informal prisoner hierarchies and the lack of purposeful activities for most inmates.

**India:** One of the most serious issues affecting Indian prisons is that two-thirds of prisoners are being held pre-trial, a figure which has not changed since 2000. Indian prisons are overcrowded with 420,000 prisoners held in a system designed for 367,000, giving a national

occupancy rate of 114%. Conditions in prisons are described by the US Department of State as 'frequently life threatening'. Recent initiatives have aimed to tackle the problems in India's prisons and wider justice system. In February 2016 the Supreme Court issued a ruling outlining a number of reforms to be made to improve prison conditions, noting that while the issues facing the prison system had been raised frequently over the previous 35 years, little improvement had been made

**United States of America:** While the federal imprisonment rate for Black women has declined over the last decade, the incarceration rate for Black women was still almost double the rate for white women in 2019. The U.S. spends \$81 billion a year on mass incarceration. Those dollars go to staffing the criminal justice system and meeting the basic needs of the more than 2 million Americans who are incarcerated. Government funding for parole and other reentry services is minimal in comparison to the amount spent to incarcerate people, and organizations struggle to apply and reapply for the funds. Reentry organizations, most of which are nonprofits, run on small budgets. Some progressive states are starting to channel money into reentry programs that directly address needs, like government-funded housing. But most states still rely on their parole systems as the primary means to help people return from prison. Prospects for further progressive reform to criminal justice policy, and a continued downward trajectory in the US prison population, look highly uncertain at the time.

# **Bibliography**

https://www.prisonstudies.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/global\_imprisonment\_w eb2c.pdf

https://2009-2017.state.gov/documents/organization/210160.pdf

http://www.prisonobservatory.org/upload/Prisons in Europe. 2019 report.pdf

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/prison-reform-and-alternatives-toimprisonment.html