



“Your Story Can Change the Path - Be Part of the Change!”

Youth campaign - Participants’ Brief

Youth violence and crime affect communities across the world. Meaningful prevention requires listening to young people, understanding the realities they face, and supporting pathways away from violence, crime and re-offending.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime invites young people to share their voices through creative expression. Through this campaign, we want to understand youth violence and crime through the perspectives, experiences, hopes and ideas of young people themselves.

Your contribution can help challenge stereotypes, promote understanding, and inspire more effective approaches to the prevention of youth violence and crime and the social support, rehabilitation and social reintegration of young offenders.

I. Who can participate

Young persons aged **18 to 29**, from all regions of the world, are encouraged to contribute.

This campaign is open to the general youth population and **actively welcomes** young people who have experienced youth crime and violence, whether through direct involvement as offenders or as members of affected communities.

This includes:

- Young persons who observe, experience, or otherwise impacted by youth violence and crime in their communities and daily lives.
- Young persons in conflict with the law, including those residing in state institutions or incarceration facilities, as well as those who have engaged in crime or violence in the past or have been convicted of offences, and who wish to share their experiences, insights, or pathways toward positive change.



II. What should your submission be about

The purpose of this campaign is to collect and share young people's experiences and perspectives, amplify their voices, and remind policymakers of the vital role that personal stories play in shaping effective responses to strengthen youth violence and crime prevention.

Guiding questions

This campaign invites young people to share their lived experiences, ideas, and hopes related to youth violence and crime, prevention, and positive change. Use the prompts below to inspire your artwork, story, poem, illustration, photo, or collage. Share what feels true to you.

My experience and reality

- *How has youth violence or crime affected me, people close to me, or my community?*
- *What do young people like me face that others often don't see or understand?*
- *What do I believe pushes some young people toward violence or crime?*
- *How do girls and young women experience violence and crime in my community, and what makes their experiences different?*

Being involved, affected, or impacted

- *If I have been involved in the justice system, what led me there?*
- *What challenges did I face before, during, or after being in conflict with the law?*
- *What support helped me, or would have helped me, change direction or avoid re-offending?*

Stigma, identity & belonging

- *Have I ever felt labelled, judged, or defined by my mistakes as a young person? How did that affect me?*
- *What helps young people feel respected, included, and valued?*
- *How do I see myself beyond stereotypes or records?*

Prevention, support & hope

- *What really helps young people stay away from violence or crime in my community?*
- *What kinds of opportunities, support, or services do young people need before things go wrong?*
- *What role have safe spaces, supportive adults, peers, or programmes played in my life in keeping me away from crime and violence?*



- *What makes a place, activity, or programme feel safe, supportive, interesting and meaningful for young people?*
- *When home or school doesn't feel safe, who has been there for me, or who should be there for young people?*
- *How have art, sport, music, or creativity helped me grow, cope, heal, or move forward?*
- *What message would I share with decision-makers about what young people need to build positive futures?*

III. How to take part in the campaign

In order to be considered for the campaign, submissions should:

- Reflect personal experiences related to youth violence and crime prevention, either directly or indirectly.
- Take creative forms rooted in written and visual mediums such as paintings, photography, video, poetry, music, short stories, essays or other illustrations.
- Be suitable for print or digital formats.
- In your submission, please include a short biography and an explanation of your art piece and its link to youth violence and crime prevention (both max. 1000 characters).
- Your submission may be in any of the official UN languages namely Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish.

For more information on the campaign, including the full terms and conditions, please visit <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/justice-and-prison-reform/globalyouth-campaign-2026.html>

IV. How your story may be shared

Selected contributions may be included in:

- A digital publication showcasing creative youth perspectives from around the world;
- A youth art exhibition on youth violence and crime prevention at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) in October 2026, and at the upcoming sessions of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ);
- A UNODC advocacy campaign calling for stronger, more inclusive and youth-centred approaches to the prevention of youth violence and crime;
- Future UNODC publications or awareness activities on youth crime prevention.

Through these platforms, your voice can help shape better prevention policies by reminding policymakers, practitioners, and communities of the need to invest in



prevention, and that effective prevention must be evidence-based, community- and youth-focused, and grounded in real experiences.

V. Deadline and submission

Submissions should be sent in digital format by **31 July 2026**.

Accepted formats include: **.jpg, .jpeg, .png, .pdf, .gif, .mp4 or .mov**.

Please submit your contribution only through the official submission link provided by UNODC.