



JUSTRAC

JUSTICE SECTOR TRAINING, RESEARCH
& COORDINATION PROGRAM

Exploring Approaches to Alternatives to Incarceration Abroad

A Justice Sector Training, Research and Coordination Symposium

Convened by the Rule of Law Collaborative at the University of South Carolina and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State and in coordination with the United States Institute of Peace

January 16, 2019

Each year, more than 10 million people are imprisoned around the world. The revolving door of incarceration drains resources from already-overtaxed criminal justice systems and, in particular, corrections institutions. In addition, prisons often foster increased criminality and—in some settings—may serve as incubators for violent extremist groups and other criminal organizations. This symposium will bring together both domestic and international justice sector professionals, along with non-governmental organization representatives, to examine alternatives to incarceration (ATI). The symposium will examine the potential of ATI to curb pretrial detention and recidivism rates, achieving improved rehabilitative and treatment outcomes. The symposium also will consider whether ATI can maintain or reduce government investment in the criminal justice sector by halting increases in investment for purely punitive mechanisms for criminal offenders.

Location

United States Institute of Peace
2301 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20037

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Agenda

08:30 **Registration**

09:00 **Opening Remarks**

09:15 **Alternatives to Incarceration Explained**

This opening session will offer symposium participants a concise introduction to alternatives to incarceration (ATI). Emphasis will be placed on how the range of ATI interventions offer solutions to complex challenges in fragile states and other development settings. This opening session will also connect ATI programs at both the domestic and international levels and set the stage for the day's sessions.

09:45 **Panel I: Overcoming Obstacles to Implementing Alternatives to Incarceration**

Reducing rates of imprisonment begins with an in-depth understanding of the political, structural, and legal obstacles to implementing effective alternatives to incarceration. This session will consider some of these obstacles and the ways they have been overcome or avoided. In addition to addressing political will (or the absence thereof), this session will examine the necessary legislative reforms for justice sector officials to explore alternatives to incarceration. Particular attention will be paid to specialized courts within formal judiciaries, statutory limits on pretrial detention, reforming rigid sentencing schemes characterized by high minimum penalties.

11:00 **Coffee and Networking Break**

11:15 **Panel II: Examining Alternatives to Incarceration at Each Stage of the Criminal Justice Process**

In the United States, ATI has been an effective tool in many communities as a mechanism to reduce incarceration at each stage of the criminal justice process. This session will explore efforts to incorporate ATI through programs in other regions of the world. Particular attention will be paid to diversionary programs, plea agreement arrangements, innovative approaches to bail proceedings, approaches to non-custodial sentences, and the widening possibilities for conditional and early release.

12:45 **Lunch and Keynote Address**

14:00 **Panel III: Targeting Appropriate Populations for Incarceration Alternatives**

Prisons are often inappropriate or poorly suited for certain types of individuals who have been detained. This session will examine criminal treatment approaches aimed at addressing vulnerable groups around the world. Particular attention will be paid to drug-dependent individuals, the mentally ill, women, and juveniles.

15:30

Panel IV: Ensuring Success: Beyond the Criminal Justice Sector

Successful and sustainable ATI programming must take account of a variety of issues beyond the scope of traditional criminal justice sectors. This session will examine how successful ATI programs tackle common social issues including inequality and poverty. Specifically, this session will discuss preventative programs, social services, and community involvement to effectuate treatment, diversion, and social and economic reintegration programs.

16:45

Closing Remarks