



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 in coordination with the United States Institute of Peace

April 9, 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

Nearest Metro: Foggy Bottom – GWU
Contact: Hamid Khan
Email: rolc@sc.edu
Phone: 803-777-9359



Agenda

08:30 **Registration**

09:00 **Opening Remarks**

Joel Samuels, *Director, Rule of Law Collaborative, University of South Carolina*

09:15 **Alternatives to Incarceration Explained**

Pamela Rodriguez, *President, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities*

This opening session will offer symposium participants a concise introduction to alternatives to incarceration (ATI) and the impact that can be made by improving the relationship between the justice and health systems to provide a positive impact on reducing the number of nonviolent offenders with behavioral health issues in the justice system by diverting them to community services. Emphasis will be placed on how 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**

Moderator: Antonio Lomba, *Unit Chief, Institutional Strengthening Unit, Alternatives to Incarceration Coordinator, Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Organization of American States*

Fred Patrick, *Director of the Center on Sentencing and Corrections, Vera Institute of Justice*

Michele Worobiec, *Chief Counsel, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities*

George M Keiser, *Chief Executive Officer, Keiser and Associates, LLC, former Chief of Community Corrections, National Institute of Corrections*

Reducing rates of imprisonment begins with an in-depth understanding of the political, structural, and legal obstacles to implementing effective ATI. 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 ATI. Particular attention will be paid to specialized courts within formal judiciaries, statutory limits on pretrial detention, and 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

Moderator: Hayne Yoon, *Director of Government Affairs, Vera Institute of Justice*

Janeen Buck Willison, *Senior Research Fellow, Justice Policy Center, The Urban Institute*

Angela Hawken, *Director of the Litmus Program & Professor of Public Policy, Marron Institute of Urban Management, New York University*

Jee Aei (Jamie) Lee, *Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Justice Section, Division for Operations, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

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 through screening and assessment. 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, approaches to non-custodial sentences, and the widening possibilities for conditional and early release.

12:45

Lunch and Keynote Address

Introduction: Hamid Khan, *Deputy Director, Rule of Law Collaborative, University of South Carolina*

James A. Walsh, *Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State*

14:00

Panel III: Examining Appropriate Populations for Incarceration Alternatives

Moderator: Kerry Neal, *Senior Child Protection Advisor, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)*

Aaron Arnold, *Director of Technical Assistance, Center for Court Innovation*

Fiona Mangan, *Director of Justice + Security in Transitions and Visiting Fellow, Rule of Law Collaborative, University of South Carolina*

Jumaina Siddiqui, *Senior Program Officer for the Asia Center, U.S. Institute of Peace*

Incarceration is often poorly suited for certain vulnerable populations or those with special clinical needs. This session will examine both why incarceration is often a poor choice such populations and what incarceration alternatives are available to such vulnerable groups in various settings. Particular attention will be paid to women, juveniles, the mentally ill, and individuals with substance-use disorders.

15:30

Panel IV: Ensuring Success: Beyond the Criminal Justice Sector

Moderator: Greg Gisvold, *Senior Fellow, Rule of Law Collaborative, University of South Carolina*

Richard Cherwinski, *Senior Corrections Advisor, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and Partnership, U.S. Department of State*

Mariano Montenegro, *Former Director of the Chilean National Service for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Consumption (SENDA)*

Hyun-Ju “Erin” Park, *Special Assistant, District of Columbia Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency*

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