

Juvenile Justice Systems.

Exchange produced in different workspaces with Member States: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador , Guatemala , Jamaica, Mexico, Suriname and Uruguay. The following lessons and recommendations are:

- It is social conditions that lead to children's vulnerability and, therefore, if they are to be effective, State policies should focus on improving the conditions that give rise to that vulnerability. Public policies in this area should be underpinned by a system of rights that recognizes the dignity of all children as rights holders, regardless of their condition or situation.
- The social and structural violence is the leading cause of criminal behaviors in adolescents and therefore integration policies must necessarily point to promote opportunities for access to social and cultural assets of the community and avoiding falling into the illusion of countering criminal violence with repressive violence.
- There is consensus regarding the need to counteract the tendency to make juveniles overly responsible for insecurity and criminal activities. Information should be based on evidence in order to check these tendencies.
- The States in the region have made progress in incorporating international standards in their regulatory frameworks, thus making the establishment of specialized juvenile justice systems feasible. These systems should include dejudicialization measures and the application of non-custodial penalties, requiring a higher level of implementation.
- In this context, it is necessary to establish monitoring systems for juvenile detention centers in view of the fact that it is there that child rights may be most frequently violated.
- Together with transparency and improving care standards, the application of alternative measures should also be promoted, so that deprivation of liberty effectively becomes a measure of last resort, used for the shortest period possible.

- There are measuring systems in the region that make it possible to monitor recidivism and assess the efficiency of measures applied. These experiences should be shared so that they can be applied in other States, according to criteria that enable the comparison of indicators.
- There are a number of experiences in the region involving non-custodial measures; among them, enrolment in schools and inclusion in the workforce. These systems require that the organization receiving these adolescents should not adopt a passive role, but become involved in the integration process, addressing conflict resolution and discriminatory behavior in order to promote collective growth based on analysis.