

FORWARD

Ensuring that the rule of law applies equally to all segments of society—in particular with respect to vulnerable groups such as women offenders and children in conflict with the law—is a continuing challenge experienced throughout the world. On the basis of this recognition, Workshop 1 on the “Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders” was convened on 13 April 2015 in Doha, Qatar within the framework of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI), a member of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI), was responsible for the administration of this workshop as an official component of the Congress, and played the leading role in its organization and preparation. The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), as one of the PNI institutes, offered to take an active role in organizing Panel I on the treatment of women offenders. Additionally, UNAFEI offered to publish the report of the workshop.

The workshop aimed to describe the unique needs of women and children impacted by the criminal justice system, assess the status of implementation of relevant United Nations standards and norms, and develop effective strategies to ensure women offenders and children in conflict with the law receive fair and equal treatment that addresses their unique needs. The workshop, consisting of a panel on women offenders and a panel on children in conflict with the law, offered an opportunity for government representatives, experts and practitioners to exchange information on strategies and best practices for addressing the unique needs of women and children. The conclusions of the panel discussions, as summarized by the moderator, appear at the end of the Workshop Report, which is published herein.

The present publication is a compilation of the summary of all the presentations and discussions of the Workshop, and all the reference papers made available to the workshop. It is our great pleasure to publish this comprehensive report of the workshop to further disseminate its outcomes globally.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the moderator and all of the presenters and pannellists of the workshop—the 18 prominent experts from all over the world without whose strenuous contributions the workshop would not have been such an outstanding success. Furthermore, I would like to thank the UNODC and RWI for their leadership in organizing the workshop, and to all the individuals whose unselfish efforts behind the scenes contributed significantly to the realization of both the workshop and this publication.

Finally, I am convinced that this publication is essential reading material for all those who are interested in offender treatment and reintegration, including criminal justice practitioners, policy makers, and academics. I am also confident that it will serve as a valuable reference source for international, as well as local, training activities.

March 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "YAMASHITA, Terutoshi." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

YAMASHITA Terutoshi
Director of UNAFEI