



# Science in the City

Building Participatory Urban Learning Community Hubs  
through Research and Activation





# PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS: WHY THEY MATTER

Every day,  
**100**  
civilians  
- including  
women and  
children -  
are killed  
in armed  
conflicts  
despite  
protections  
under  
international  
law

# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Conflict, insecurity, weak institutions and limited access to justice remain a great threat to sustainable development.

The number of [people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million](#) in 2018, the highest level recorded by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) in almost 70 years.

In 2019, the United Nations tracked [357 killings and 30 enforced disappearances](#) of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists in 47 countries.

And the births of around [one in four children](#) under age 5 worldwide are never officially recorded, depriving them of a proof of legal identity crucial for the protection of their rights and for access to justice and social services.

## What's the goal here?

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

## Why?

People everywhere need to be free of fear from all forms of violence and feel safe as they go about their lives whatever their ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation.

Conflict, insecurity, weak institutions and limited access to justice remain threats to sustainable development. In 2019, the number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 79.5 million, the highest level ever recorded. One in four children continues to be deprived of legal identity through lack of birth registration, often limiting their ability to exercise rights in other areas. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to amplify and exploit fragilities across the globe.



## What needs to be done to address this?

Governments, civil society and communities must work together to implement lasting solutions to reduce violence, deliver justice, combat corruption and ensure inclusive participation at all times.

Freedom to express views, in private and in public, must be guaranteed. From 2015 to 2019, the United Nations recorded at least 1,940 killings and 106 enforced disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists across 81 countries, with over half of killings occurring in Latin America and the Caribbean. Laws and policies must be applied without any form of discrimination. Disputes need to be resolved through functioning and justice systems.

National and local institutions must be accountable and need to be in place to deliver basic services to communities equitably and without the need for bribes.



## How does this goal apply to me, wherever I live?

Crimes that threaten the foundation of peaceful societies, including homicides, human trafficking and other organized crimes, as well as discriminatory laws or practices, affect all countries. Even the world's greatest democracies face major challenges in addressing corruption, crime and human rights violations for everyone at home.

## What would be the cost of not taking action now?

Armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, affecting economic growth and often resulting in long-standing grievances among communities.

Violence affects children's health, development and well-being, and their ability to thrive. It causes trauma and weakens social inclusion.

Lack of access to justice means that conflicts remain unresolved and people cannot obtain protection and redress. Institutions that do not function according to legitimate laws are prone to arbitrariness and abuse of power, and less capable of delivering public services to everyone.

To exclude and to discriminate not only violates human rights, but also causes resentment and animosity, and could give rise to violence.



## What can we do?

Exercise your right to hold your elected officials to account. Exercise your right to freedom of information and share your opinion with your elected representatives.

Promote inclusion and respect towards people of different ethnic origins, religions, gender, sexual orientations or different opinions. Together, we can help to improve conditions for a life of dignity for all.





**MEN  
MAKE UP AROUND**

**80%**

**OF HOMICIDE  
VICTIMS  
OVERALL**



**BUT WOMEN  
CONSTITUTE**

**64%**

**OF HOMICIDE  
VICTIMS  
OF INTIMATE PARTNER/  
FAMILY-RELATED HOMICIDE**



**OF DETECTED VICTIMS OF  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING ARE  
WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**MOST OF WHOM  
ARE TRAFFICKED  
FOR SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION**





**UN RECORDED AND VERIFIED**



**397 ADDITIONAL  
KILLINGS**

**OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS,  
JOURNALISTS AND TRADE  
UNIONISTS ACROSS 41 COUNTRIES  
(JAN.–OCT. 2018)**



**91 JOURNALISTS AND  
BLOGGERS WERE  
AMONG THE VICTIMS**



**BIRTH  
REGISTRATION**



**ONLY THREE  
QUARTERS  
OF CHILDREN  
UNDER AGE 5  
GLOBALLY**



**LESS THAN HALF  
OF CHILDREN  
UNDER AGE 5 IN  
SUB-SAHARAN  
AFRICA**

## Facts & Figures

- Among the [institutions most affected by corruption](#) are the judiciary and police.
- Corruption, bribery, theft and tax evasion [cost some US \\$1.26 trillion for developing countries](#) per year; this amount of money could be used to lift those who are living on less than \$1.25 a day above \$1.25 for at least six years
- [Birth registration](#) has occurred for 73 per cent of children under 5, but only 46per cent of Sub-Saharan Africa have had their births registered.
- [Approximately 28.5 million primary school age](#) who are out of school live in conflict-affected areas.
- [The rule of law and development](#) have a significant interrelation and are mutually reinforcing, making it essential for sustainable development at the national and international level.
- The proportion of prisoners held in detention without sentencing has remained almost constant in the last decade, at [31per cent of all prisoners](#).



## Facts & Figures

### Violence against children

- The number of [people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million](#) in 2018, the highest level recorded by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) in almost 70 years.
- In 2019, the United Nations tracked [357 killings and 30 enforced disappearances](#) of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists in 47 countries.
- [Violence against children](#) affects more than 1 billion children around the world and costs societies up to US\$ 7 trillion a year.
- [50 per cent of the world's children](#) experience violence every year.
- Every 7 minutes, somewhere in the world, [a child is killed by violence](#)
- [1 in 10 children](#) is sexually abused before the age of 18.
- [9 in 10 children](#) live in countries where corporal punishment is not fully prohibited, leaving 732 million children without legal protection.
- [1 in 3 internet users worldwide is a child](#) and 800 million of them use social media. Any child can become a victim of online violence.
- Child online sexual abuse reports to NCMEC has grown from 1 million in 2014 to 45 million in 2018.
- [246 million children worldwide affected by school-related violence each year.](#)
- 1 in 3 students has been bullied by their peers at school in the last month, and at least 1 in 10 children have experienced cyberbullying.



## Goal 10 Targets

- 16.1** Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.3** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.4** By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- 16.5** Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- 16.6** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.8** Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- 16.9** By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- 16.10** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- 16.A** Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.B** Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

## Links

- [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#)
- [Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)
- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- [UN Department of Political Affairs](#)
- [UN Development Programme](#)
- [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#)
- [UNICEF #EndViolence](#)
- [#SafetoLearn](#)
- [United Nations Peacekeeping](#)
- [UN Counter Terrorism Committee](#)
- [High Time to End Violence against Children](#)
- [UN action for cooperation against trafficking in persons \(UN-ACT\)](#)
- [UN office of the special representative of the secretary-general on violence against children](#)
- [UN Mine Action service](#)
- [The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children](#)





To find out more about Goal #10 and the other Sustainable Development Goals, visit:

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment>

