



JUVENILE DELINQUENCY:

PROSECUTION

PROTECTION

PREVENTION

TWO PERSPECTIVES

Prosecution

The Canadian Model

- **Recognition of the special needs & vulnerabilities of young people**
- **Emphasis on protection of the public & the rights of young people**
- **Non-judicial procedures should be considered when dealing with young people**
- **Multidisciplinary approach to crime prevention**
- **Principle that protection of society is best served by the rehabilitation of young people**

The Balance:

Least Restrictive Approach in Punishment:

- **Alternative Measures**
- **Probation (with conditions and probation)**
- **Open Custody- living in facility but not secure**
- **Closed Custody- secure detention**

Alternative Measures

(Non-Judicial Proceeding)

- **First Offender (usually) for non-violent criminal conduct (usually)**
- **Acceptance of responsibility by young person**
- **Punishment is in the form of community service, letter of apology or other measures**
- **Application To Court by Attorney General Designate or by Young Person**
- **Assigned a youth court worker to monitor & assist court and young person**
- **Charges Withdrawn**

Bill C-37 (1995)

- **Amendment to Young Offender Act for serious crimes**
- **16 and 17- year-olds charged with murder, attempted murder, manslaughter or aggravated sexual assault are presumptively dealt with in adult court**
- **Young person must make an application to the Youth Court and satisfy the Court that the goals of rehabilitation and public protection can be met in order to be tried in Youth Court**

Protection

- **Appropriate legislation recognizing the rights of the child & incorporating international instruments into domestic laws**
- **Enforcement of Legislation**
- **Multidisciplinary Approach (social services, law enforcement, judicial system, education system, and NGO's)**
- **Trained Professionals to deal with juveniles and underlying issues**

Prevention

Factors Contributing to Delinquency

- i. Social Exclusion**
- ii. Migration**
- iii. Racism**
- iv. Gender Inequality**
- v. Violence (societal and domestic)**
- vi. Breakdown of Family**
- vii. Lack of positive Role Models**
- viii. Media (Television, Internet)**

Abuse and Delinquency

Abuse: Physical, Sexual, Psychological; Neglect & abandonment; Inter-familial and External

- **All forms of abuse increase likelihood of delinquency**
- **Abuse = isolation & exclusion = runaways and/or gangs
=drugs, prostitution, property offences & violence**

Holistic Approach

NGO: The Smile of the Child

- **Accreditation of NGO's by government to ensure quality control (both private and publicly funded)**
- **MOU with Ministry of Health & Welfare regarding roles and responsibilities**
- **Legal recognition of important role of NGO's in preventing delinquency through their services**
- **Act as a watchdog and partner to government**

SOS 1056

- **Importance of children having access to speak to someone 24/7**
- **Over 500,000 calls annually from potential victims and aggressors**
- **Intervention at school level to protect vulnerable children from victimization and delinquency**
- **Intermediary role between teachers and children**
- **Intermediary role between parents and children**

What They Say About Us

UN Economic & Social Council

Good Practices (March 27, 2006)

“The Special Rapporteur commends the work of the NGO, the Smile of the Child, active in a wide range of activities on child protection. The Smile of the Child set up a hotline (1056) to help children in difficult situations. The hotline receives around 2,000 to 2,500 calls per day. Another area of activity is the provision of medical care for children in poor areas through an equipped van and specially equipped ambulances. The Special Rapporteur learned with concern that the emergency care services for children are poor in Greece. The services provided by the Smile of the Child try to fill a gap that should exist in a country with sufficient economic and social means.”

Training and Seminars

- **Sensitizing law enforcement and educators and children regarding factors contributing to delinquency and how to effectively deal with them**
- **Visits by social workers and psychologists to schools 5 days a week**
- **Gender sensitivity training**
- **Training on racial tolerance and integration of different cultures**

Supporting the Family

- **Assistance to socially excluded families to provide for children (clothes, food, books, furniture, toys)**
- **Support and Counseling to socially excluded youth**
- **Providing positive role models for children**
- **Assistance to families in accessing governmental agencies including health care and education**
- **Providing extra-curricular activities to children**

Preventative Medicine

- **Medical and Dental Mobile Unit providing information and medical/dental assistance in rural and impoverished areas.**
- **Educating parents and children on the importance of good health (physical, psychological & emotional)**
- **Free medical services to immigrant and impoverished families**