

Change the World Webinar 2: Police and Policing in a System of Safety 20 January 2021



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COVID-19 has seen states across the world implement **laws and regulations to curtail movement** and gatherings to limit the spread of the virus.

- The trend has been to: Impose blanket **limitations on rights**;
- Adopt a **security approach** to a public health challenge,
- Rely on criminal law to penalise infringements.

This approach has resulted in the **violations of a range of human rights**. Those who are unable to comply with limitations – particularly for reasons of poverty or social marginalisation – are particularly vulnerable.

Globally, people have voiced anger at repressive policing practices, with renewed calls to de-fund the police in favour of social development. This crisis offers an opportunity to re-think the role and mandate of the police, in the context of systemic urban safety.

This webinar explores opportunities to reframe policing in the context of systemic safety, as a transversal set of mandates.

Law Enforcement cannot alone achieve safety; many risk factors that drive unsafety have no link to the mandates or capabilities of law enforcement and cannot be resolved by arrest, detention and deterrence. COVID-19 and its coercive strategies have spotlighted and exacerbated pre-existing limitations on policing itself.

Key issues for discussion:

- The importance of partnership for policing and what this means in practice
- Building the right design into being prepared.

Key themes:

- Human Rights as a framework for prevention; critical redress mechanisms, and protective measures.
- The importance of policing and police-public health partnerships in complex issues with health, criminal justice and social justice impacts,
- Implications of these responses.

Case study:

- Protest against policing in Nigeria: 20 October 2020 massacre of protesters at the Lekki Toll Plaza.

Reflections:

- Policing and SDGs 2030.
- Policing, police accountability, crime prevention, and peace building.
- Circumstances in which it's appropriate for police to enforce public health regulations
- Engagement of communities to maximize voluntary compliance.

20 January 2021

4 - 6pm Johannesburg / 7:30 - 9:30pm Delhi

3 - 5pm Vienna / 9 - 11am New York

To register: <https://crimealliance.org/events/view.php?id=64>

Pursuing urban safety objectives towards the Sustainable
Development Goals in times of extreme disruption
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