



SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

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



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An Overview

We are living in a world that is increasingly divided. Some regions enjoy sustained levels of peace, security and prosperity, while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence with millions impacted by homicide, violence against children, human trafficking, sexual violence, poor access to justice and corrupt organisations.

Every individual has the right to be legally recognised and protected. 73% of births globally are registered, but this level is as low as 46% in some areas of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Justice must be provided for all yet the proportion of prisoners held in detention without sentencing has remained almost constant in the last decade, at 31% of all prisoners.

Corruption, bribery, theft and tax evasion cost around 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. Among the institutions most affected by corruption are the judiciary and police.

50% of the world's children experience violence every year. Every 5 minutes, somewhere in the world, a child is killed by violence. 1 in 10 children is sexually abused before the age of 18, and 732 million children do not have legal protection. 246 million children worldwide are affected by school-related violence each year and 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. Child online sexual abuse reports to NCMEC grew from 1 million in 2014 to 45 million in 2018.

The objective of SDG 16 is to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict, corruption and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is crucial to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

SDG 16 Keywords

This list is comprised of the Scopus queries generated by Elsevier in order to identify research that supports SDG 16, as part of the assessment undertaken by the global THE Impact League.

actual innocence	false confession	armed conflict	civil conflict
war and conflict	war and democracy	war and Geneva Convention	war and treaty / peace
peacekeeping	corruption and institution	corruption and public official	corruption and government
corruption and bribery	corruption and conflict	crime / criminal	democratic deficit
democratisation and institutional	democratisation and conflict	democratisation and society / politics	democratisation and financial aid
ethnic conflict	exoneration	genocide / homicide / murder	human trafficking
justice system	arbitrary justice	refugees	terrorism
violence	torture	effective rule of law	arms flow
transparent institution	good governance	legal identity for all	freedom of information
human rights institution	human rights activists	fundamental freedom	violent conflict
peaceful society	effective institution	accountable institution	inclusive institution
child abuse	arbitrary detention	unsentenced detention	judicial system
criminal tribunal	inclusive society	responsive institution	fair society

legal remedy	independence of judiciary	separation of powers	extremism
war crime	peaceful society	organized crime	illicit transfer
illicit money	arms trafficking	cybercrime	insurgence
democratic institution	political instability	responsive / inclusive / participatory / representative decision-making	Aarhus Convention
press freedom	freedom of speech		

SDG 16 Targets & Indicators

Consider if your research could support a specific target in order to maximise impact.

TARGETS		INDICATORS	
16.1	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age
		16.1.2	Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause
		16.1.3	Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months
		16.1.4	Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live
16.2	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	16.2.1	Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month
		16.2.2	Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation
		16.2.3	Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18
16.3	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms
		16.3.2	Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population
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	16.4.1	Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)
		16.4.2	Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instrument
16.5	Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	16.5.1	Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

		16.5.2	Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months
16.6	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	16.6.1	Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)
		16.6.2	Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services
16.7	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	16.7.1	Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions
		16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group
16.8	Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance	16.8.1	Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations
16.9	By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age
16.10	Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	16.10.1	Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months
		16.10.2	Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information
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.A.1	Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles
16.B	Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development	16.B.1	Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

Useful 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](#)