



Promoting fair and
effective criminal justice



Women in detention

Putting the UN Bangkok Rules into Practice

Non-Custodial Measures and Sanctions

Absolute discharge: The court takes no further action against an offender, but the offender's discharge may appear on her criminal record.

Caution: Warning given following admission of guilt as an alternative to prosecution. May form part of a person's criminal record although not a conviction. A conditional caution has reparative and/or rehabilitative conditions attached.

Community service order: A sentence served in the community during which offenders work unpaid and under supervision of benefit to the local community.

Compensation: A sanction or measure that involves requiring an offender to compensate the victim.

Conditional discharge: A discharge of an offender without sentence on condition that he/she does not re-offend within a specified period of time. If an offence is committed in that time then the offender may also be sentenced for the offence for which a conditional discharge was given.

Conditional release: The early release of a prisoner who is then subject to continued monitoring as well as compliance with certain terms and conditions for a specified period under threat that he or she will be recalled to prison if the conditions are not complied with. This can be discretionary, after a certain period of the sentence has been served, or it can be mandatory when it takes place automatically after a minimum period or a fixed proportion of the sentence has been served.

Correctional work: A type of sentence used in some Eastern European and Central Asian countries. The offender continues to work in her existing place of employment, but is obliged to pay a certain percentage of her salary to the state.

Curfew order: A curfew order is similar to house arrest. People must stay indoors, usually at their home, for the curfew period.

Discharge: The offender is found guilty of the offence, and the conviction appears on his or her criminal record, but either no further action is taken at all (absolute discharge), or no further action is taken as long as the offender does not offend again in a certain period of time (conditional discharge).

Diversion: An administrative procedure allowing certain offenders to bypass the formal criminal justice system in order to avoid further prosecution and conviction by participating

in, for example, mediation processes or a treatment programme, or by compensating the victim.

Drug treatment and testing: A sentence for people with drug dependencies, who receive treatment for their drug use and may have to give regular urine tests to make sure they are not using drugs.

Electronic monitoring: An offender or person on bail has an electronic tag worn on the ankle or wrist which notifies monitoring services if the offender is absent during the curfew hours.

Fine: A sentence of the court which involves the offender paying money to the court as punishment for their crime.

Mediation: A way of resolving conflicts or differences of interests between the offender and the victim. This service may be provided by probation services or civil society or victim support organisations.

Offending behaviour programme: A programme of work undertaken with an offender which is designed to tackle the reasons or behaviour which led to her offending; for example, substance-related offending, domestic abuse programmes, sex offender treatment programmes.

Restorative justice: Processes that give victims the chance to tell offenders the impact of their crime, to get answers to their questions and to receive an apology, and give offenders the chance to understand the impact of their actions and to do something to repair the harm. Restorative justice may take place as an alternative to prosecution for less serious crimes, when an offender has pleaded guilty in court but before sentence, after sentence, in prison or in the community. The [UN Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes in Criminal Matters \(2002\)](#) provide guidance for the development and operation of restorative justice programmes.

Suspended sentence: A custodial sentence which will not take effect unless there is a subsequent offence within a specified period.